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# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

7.00-8.00 pm online meeting via Zoom

## MINUTES

### PRESENT

CHAIRMAN: Wim Klaucke                      CLERK: Jo Pugh

The meeting was also attended by: Barbara Lewis, Amanda Foister, Geoff Bond, Paddy Lyell, James Leach, Wendy Ayre-Tilbury (Parish Councillors)

Sarah Soles, Lotte Earle A'Hern, Susan Byers and two members of the public

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Steve Harrod (OCC Councillor), Jo Robb and Lorraine Hillier (SODC Councillors)

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1. The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were approved.

2. Introduction and Welcome

Wim Klaucke (WK) thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, there was no meeting last year due to Covid-19. WK introduced himself as a member of the Parish Council and Chair of this Annual Parish Meeting. The introduction of fellow Councillors followed.

3. Chairman's Report – (WK)

**Playground:** The annual inspection carried out by ROSPA, highlighted a potential trip hazard where there is wetpour shrinkage – the repair work has been ordered. A Covid-19 Risk Assessment was carried out for the playground re-opening and 'Guidance for use of the play area' was produced and displayed along with Social Distancing and Hand Sanitiser signs. The equipment has been power-washed and painted in 2019.

Thank you to Barry Lambden for his continued help and overseeing of the playground. Since the opening in 1987, the playground has maintained a clean sheet in terms of no reported accidents.

**Footpaths:** The footpaths and bridleways of the parish are walked and monitored by Paul Wisdell of The Chiltern Society. The paths are in good condition and little maintenance work has been required.

**Allotment** - All plots are now occupied. The allotment thrived during lockdown with

tenants having more time on their hands. The Parish Council had two trees removed from plots that were dormant - paid for from allotment funds held by the PC. Many thanks to Rosemary Passmore who continues to do a great job managing the allotment.

**Planning:** The Parish Council have responded to 26 Planning Applications since May 2019.

**Sue Ryder/Joyce Grove:** Planning Permission to develop the Grade II listed Sue Ryder / Joyce Grove site was granted by SODC on 1st April 2021 to convert the main house and stable block into 20 apartments.

Cllr Barbara Lewis has liaised with the SODC Case Officer throughout the past 5 years, in particular to secure access for the public to the grounds. Although there have never been any designated footpaths through the Joyce Grove grounds, the public has earned a 'right of way' having been allowed access 'for over 20 years' - in fact for some 50 years!

Although public access round the northern track has been secured by a condition in the planning approval, there are still some matters to be clarified by SODC:

- The Chiltern Society kindly offered to waymark the new track, but we await guidance as to the timing of this.
- A gate post at the entrance from the A4130 (High Street) was damaged by a film company last October and this entrance is cordoned off for repair pro tem.
- However, before the whole site is cordoned off for development, NPC has asked SODC for confirmation that access along the northern track will be secured.
- In order for this right of way to be protected in perpetuity, NPC has asked if the footpath can now be given a designated number.

A brief summary of some other projects carried out by NPC over the last 24 months followed:

- The Bus Shelter (North) – the bench slat has been replaced and the entire shelter has been made accessible to wheelchair and pushchairs. An SODC Councillor grant was applied for and awarded to help with costs towards this project, the shelter has also been glazed, the woodwork has been stained and treated and a cork noticeboard installed.
- The Bus Shelter (South) has had the sills repaired and has also been glazed – the plan is to stain and treat the woodwork and also install cork noticeboards.
- The site where the puddingstones are located was formally designated as LGS (Local Geological Site) in March 2020
- Turning Circle around The Green – NPC and Nettlebed District Commons Conservators have worked together to install verge marker posts at The Green, to prevent vehicles from cutting into the verge. Unfortunately, they have been knocked down, so a more robust solution is being discussed at the

moment. NPC will apply for an OCC grant to help towards the cost of this project.

- A commemorative plaque was installed for 'Victoria' to replace the temporary sign in July 2020
- The Awareness Board for the Brick Kiln was replaced in March 2020, an OCC Councillor grant was applied for and granted to help towards costs.
- The council noticeboard has been sanded and varnished and has a new back.
- It has finally been agreed that SOHA have responsibility for cutting the hedge between Lion Meadow and Watlington Street.
- At the request of some Lion Meadow residents, NPC liaised with SOHA to increase the parking area in front of homes at Lion Meadow – when put to the vote, the majority of tenants opposed the idea, so parking provision at Lion Meadow will remain as it is.
- Traffic Calming. NPC had a meeting with Highways to discuss traffic calming measures. Once normal levels of traffic resume, surveys will be done to find the most appropriate solution. Meanwhile, 20's Plenty wheelie bin stickers will be distributed to households along Watlington Street and High Street as an attempt to slow traffic down coming through the village.
- NPC have taken on the responsibility to cut the grass around the Bus Shelter (South) and the commemorative tree at The Triangle in April and September
- A poll went out to the residents on NNN and Facebook asking what should be done with the BT Phone Kiosk – as a result the phone box is in the process of being adopted and is likely to be re-purposed as a seed swap / library.
- The current editor of the Community website is stepping down, Mark Alliston, Merchant Makers will be taking over the administration of the website. NPC will pay for hosting and administration of the website for the next 12 months.
- The annual litter pick took place in Sept 2020 and adhered to social distancing and strict Covid-19 guidance, the Parish Council are hoping to hold the litter pick on 22nd May this year (tbc)
- Crocker End Green Common Management Committee are working on a plan for management of the Common.
- Public Transport – The Parish Council continue to support the Comet buses initiative. Claire Harwood and Susan Abbot have done a great job managing this service in a very difficult year.

- NPC has been keeping an eye on developments around the Local Plan 2035. The consultation period has ended, but NPC will continue to monitor developments and try to influence anything to advantage the village when we can and keep residents informed.
- At the request of residents, NPC helped residents and the SODC Street Naming and Numbering Officer reach a compromise on the wording of the Chapel Lane sign.

Parish Council Meetings are now held on the first Tuesday, of every month (no meeting in Aug or Dec) and will be back in the Small Hall at the Village Club for the June 2021 meeting. All members of the public are welcome to attend and to make representations during the Public Session.

Notices of the meetings and minutes are posted on the Parish Council website and the Parish Council Noticeboard.

Community information and events are published on the Community Website, an email from Nettlebed News Network (NNN) is sent to residents who have subscribed), most events and activities in the village are posted on the Nettlebed Community Recommendations & What's Going On Facebook page.

The remaining meeting dates for 2021 are May 4<sup>th</sup>, June, 1st July, 6th Sept, 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 2nd.

WK thanked the members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for their work over the last 2 years, Rosemary Passmore for overseeing the allotments, Nan McDonnell and the Churchyard gardeners and Barry Lambden for his continued help with the playground. He also thanked the many people who care about the village and have participated in community events.

Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions or voice any matters of concern to the attention of the Parish Council.

#### 4. Financial Report – Jo Pugh, Parish Clerk

The accounts have been balanced, the Annual Return has been completed and the accounts have been examined by the Internal Auditor who has signed the Annual Return – all matters were satisfactory. They will be submitted to the Parish Council for approval and the required paperwork will be sent to the Government appointed external auditor, Moore. There were no issues with the Internal or External Audit in the previous year (2019/20), all finance docs are posted on the NPC website.

The balance brought into the year was £18,254.01 and the balance carried forward at the end of the year was £30,722.67. Receipts in the year totalled £11,677 (excl Precept) and Payments in the year totalled £17,101 (excl. Staff Costs). The Fixed Assets of the Council represent around £42,943.00.

The second part of the meeting was hosted by Nettlebed Now

## Nettlebed Now

Amanda Foister

### 5. Nettlebed Now introduction – What is the Nettlebed Now Group all about?

Following a poll held by the Parish Council in 2019, a community group was formed to address some of the issues raised. The group's members are people who are interested in improving the village and wanting to achieve things together – everyone is welcome if they would like to contribute and have a desire to make things happen.

Three big things that came out of the poll were outside the remit of the Parish Council. These became the group's objectives:

- Improve connectivity between Businesses and Community Organisations.
- Make Nettlebed Greener
- What more can we do for younger people – particularly older children.

Next steps: people interested in leading any of these three areas to step forward and start working with interested residents to start making changes.

#### **Community Connectivity - Improve connectivity between Businesses and Community Organisations**

*Leader – looking for someone to lead this group - perhaps someone who runs a group in Nettlebed*

#### **Environmental - Make Nettlebed Greener**

*Leader – looking for someone to lead and work alongside other interested residents  
Diana Mills stepped forward as happy to be involved and start the group off. She has already written a Greener Plan of how to get the school carbon neutral (without knowing how to do it).*

*Diana Mills said that the school has an Eco Club and is drawing up a plan – the school could be a good role model for the village.*

*Mrs Susan Byers shared her knowledge about air source heat pumps – a green solution that works very well. It is a very expensive system to install, but once installed it is effective.*

*Mr Tim Eggar commented that from c2030, oil heating will be phased out and from c.2025 oil fired boilers will not be able to be replaced or installed in new builds etc. He went on to say, there are schemes to switch to greener alternatives available on a whole village basis – this would need a high level of commitment from the village and for people to work in a co-operative way. He believes that at some point the government will have to make it easy collectively and is willing to monitor the situation.*

### **Youth - What can we do for younger people**

**Leader** – Amanda Foister. Looking for other interested residents to join this group.

Next Steps:

- i. Ask young people what they would like
- ii. Create an action plan

If anyone would like to be involved in any of the three areas, please contact Amanda Foister.

## The Nettlebed 10k Stinger

Sarah Soles

[www.nettlebedstinger.org.uk](http://www.nettlebedstinger.org.uk)

Sarah reported that it's looking very positive that the event will go ahead as planned, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The hope was to get around 200 runners - there are currently 183 registered, so looking on track achieve at least the target number. The licence is for up to 300. Sarah has contacted Nettlebed Estate for permission to park on the green area behind the Bus Shelter (North). Lotte Earle A'Hern and James Leach advised that parking at The Green would need to be carefully monitored to ensure emergency vehicles have access and minimise damage to the verges, Barbara Lewis advised that The Green has been used for parking in the past, and agreed that plenty of marshals would be needed. Wim Klaucke offered to advise The Ramblers not to start routes from Nettlebed on the event day in the hopes of freeing up some parking spaces. Tim Eagar raised the possibility of using the field opposite the entrance to The Creamery – in early May it could be free of sheep and not yet ploughed. BL said that it had been used for large events at the Church in the past, the Estate would need to be asked. The event has around 100 allocated parking spaces. As per the advice from UK Athletics, the event has strict Covid rules in place. These guidelines will be revised on 17<sup>th</sup> May, however any changes are likely to be minimal. A lot of work has gone into the organisation and hopefully this will be a successful day and become an annual fundraising event. Feedback will be collated following the event.

Volunteers needed on the day: parking marshals and general volunteers. Contact Sarah via the website.

Meeting closed