

NEWTON POPPLEFORD AND HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

Annual Parish Meeting

held at The Pavilion, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford at 7pm on Monday, 25th April 2022

Present: Cllrs. Bilenkyj, Burhop (Chair), Carpenter, Dalton, Hughes, Lipczynski and Tillotson.

Parish Clerk

Neighbourhood Policing Team Representatives

Hon Footpath Warden

12 members of the public

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm, welcoming Councillors, guests and members of the public. Fire and evacuation procedures were outlined.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Tribble and Walker.

2. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2019, as previously circulated

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr. Lipczynski and seconded by Cllr. Tillotson. Resolved unanimously.

3. Matters Arising from those Minutes

Chair noted that parking at King Alfred Way had been raised as an issue during the Public Forum. He commented that, 3 years on, this was still an issue together with the general lack of parking in the village.

4. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

Cllr. Burhop presented his Annual Report, a copy of which is available on the website or in hard copy from the Clerk.

5. Financial Report

The Chair provided a brief financial overview, reporting a balance at the bank of £104,643 as per the cashbook summary published on the website. Total reserves earmarked for projects such as the repair of the cemetery wall at St Lukes and replacement of the Venn Ottery Village Green footbridge amounted to £102,876 leaving an unallocated surplus at the year-end of £1,766. This sum had been transferred to general reserves. Total income for the year amounted to just under £75k of which £47.5k came from the annual precept. Other income streams include receipts from the cemetery, allotments and grants. Regarding expenditure, the largest cost centres were Parish Maintenance, Staff costs and Administration. During the year, expenditure exceeded income with reserves being used to cover

the shortfall. All Management and Financial Accounts are available via the website or from the Clerk.

6. Report from DCC Councillor, Jessica Bailey

The Chair welcomed Cllr Bailey to the first Annual Parish Meeting since her election as County Councillor. Cllr. Bailey highlighted the collaborative working between herself, EDDC Cllr. Val Ranger and Cllr. Burhop on trying to improve road safety in Newton Poppleford and expressed her determination to make progress. Cllr. Bailey encouraged residents who had not already done so to sign Mrs. Beverley Raw's petition on charge.org and read out a statement from Mrs. Raw who was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr. Bailey expressed her hope that Newton Poppleford would be one of the first communities chosen by DCC for a 20 mph zone.

A full copy of Cllr. Bailey's report is available from the website or from the Clerk. The Chair thanked Cllr. Bailey for her hard work on behalf of the parish.

7. Report from EDDC Councillor, Val Ranger

The Chair then welcomed Cllr. Ranger and invited her to address the meeting. Cllr. Ranger reported that the new 'rainbow' coalition at EDDC was working well and making progress on historic problems like Cranbrook and outdated public facilities. Finances have been challenging in the past year with a reduction in funding but an increase in responsibilities. Planning continues to be a major issue with demand on the AONB overwhelming due to Government housing targets. The new Local Plan is currently being drafted in a very 'public facing' way with one of the aims of the coalition being to ensure the provision of more council housing. Despite financial pressures Cllr. Ranger was very positive about the coming year.

A full copy of Cllr. Ranger's report has been published on the website.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Ranger for continuing to represent Newton Poppleford and Harpford so diligently.

8. Neighbourhood Policing report

PC's Adam Speers and Kelly Edgar were welcomed to the meeting as the neighbourhood policing team covering the parish. PC Speers noted that an uplift in personnel meant that he and his colleague could now be more active in the parish. This would include supporting the ongoing Community Speed Watch programme. PC Speers recommended that residents wishing to access local crime figures could find this information online (go to <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/devon-and-cornwall-police/sidmouth/> and click on the 'crime map' button). The policing team will be producing a newsletter each month a copy of which will be provided to the Parish Clerk.

The Chair thanked PC Speers and Edgar for their attendance.

9. Report on the Community Speed Watch programme

Mrs Gill Cameron-Webb presented a verbal report to the meeting confirming that the Community Speed Watch team of 7 trained volunteers is now operational and commenced roadside sessions on 1st April. Any vehicle travelling at a speed in excess of 35 mph is logged and letters sent to transgressors by the Police.

Mrs Cameron-Webb made an appeal for additional volunteers to come forward to support the programme and the Clerk was requested to add this appeal to the Parish website.

A copy of the full report from the CSW team is available on the Parish website. The Chair thanked Mrs. Cameron-Webb for her efforts in overcoming a number of obstacles to get the Community Speed Watch programme off the ground which is very positive for the village and much appreciated by everyone.

10. Report from Ted Swan, Honorary Parish Footpath Warden

Mr. Swan reported on the increased use of footpaths during the Covid pandemic and the issues that this had caused with some landowners. He noted that the first Definitive Review of Public Rights of Way in the parish for 20 years was currently underway. Mr Swan requested support from regular users in completing User Evidence Forms to enable a number of additional paths to be classified as public rights of way by DCC.

A full copy of the Honorary Footpath Warden's report is available on the website. The Chair formally thanked Mr Swan for his tremendous service to the parish.

11. Report on behalf of the NP Playing Field Foundation

Cllr Dalton gave a verbal report on improvements that had been made at the Pavilion over the past year including replacement windows and doors, the installation of cctv and the purchase of new kitchen equipment. The Saturday morning Community Café was proving a great success and had provided funds to donate a Jubilee tree to the community and to support the village playgroup. Following on from the success of Burns Night it is hoped to hold a dance in the Autumn but, currently, the focus is on the Jubilee celebrations.

The Chair thanked the Management Committee for working incredibly hard to make the Foundation a success.

12. Jubilee Celebrations in the Parish

The Chair outlined the programme of events that would be taking place from 2nd to 5th June.

A copy of the events programme has been placed on the website and the Parish Council Facebook page.

13. Any other business to be considered as determined by the presiding Chair

Cllr. Bilenkyj was asked to give an overview of the work of the Climate Change Group which had been formed in 2019 to help mitigate the effects of global warming. Cllr. Bilenkyj reported on activities that had taken place to create a wildflower meadow, bug hotel and new copse in Webbers Meadow, the planting of bulbs, willow whips and commemorative Jubilee trees in Harpford, Venn Ottery and Newton Poppleford. The Group is now working with a representative of the East Devon AONB on a one-year Nature Recovery Project in the parish.

A full copy of the Climate Change Group Report is available on the parish website. The Chair congratulated all members of the Group for their achievements and thanked them for continued efforts on behalf of the community.

