

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Wylve, Deptford and Fisherton de la Mere

Thursday 27 May 2021 at 7pm in the Wyvern Hall.

Minutes

1. Welcome

MS welcomed everyone and thanked the public for attending

MS listed the new Cllrs

Lucy Cassells (vice chair)

Kathryn Heppinstall

Caroline Lewis

Andrew Clarke

Piers Williams

James Hussey

Mark Shuldham (chair)

He also introduced the new Clerk, Laura Napper who has taken on the job following Jenny Macdougall's retirement this Spring.

MS explained two previous Councillors did not stand for re-election – they were Gad Wiltshire and Peter Annetts. MS thanked them very much for their service to the Parish.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1 May 2019

MS approved and signed off the minutes

3. The Chairman's Annual Report

As you know this is the meeting at which we the Parish Council Report to you on our Stewardship over the past year and reports are submitted for some of the other parts of our community – in fact this year my Report will cover matters over the past two years (as previously explained) as we were prevented from holding a Parish Meeting last year.

Finance

Year to April 2020

Opening balance at bank		8420.96
Income		6554.18
Precept	£5500.00	
Messenger Donation	£400.00	
Vat refund	£654.18	
Expenditure		£7242.77

Closing Balance £7732.37

Year to April 2021

Opening Balance at Bank £7732.37

Income £8317.62

Precept £8000.00 *

Wilts Co CIL £317.62

Expenditure £5359.99

Closing Balance £10690.00

*Your Council decided that the precept should be increased to cover the costs of the traffic control measures installed and due to be installed – kerbway, speed surveys, and all the signage for a new 20 mph limit.

There have been no dramatic or particularly controversial Planning Applications; a small number of Applications for extensions and a regular flow of Applications for tree felling or pruning which are required because much of the Parish is in a Conservation Area.

The major items with which we have been dealing and continue to do so are:

1. Sewage
2. Road repairs and visibility at junctions
3. Speed control/reduced limits
4. Footpaths
5. Playground.

1. Sewage - You are probably all aware of the history of defective pipes leading out of the village such that they fill up with groundwater in times of persistent high rainfall. This reduces their capacity for the sewage, which has over the past few years overflowed into the street – chiefly at the lower end of Church Street. Wessex Water have promised for several years an investment programme to seal the pipes properly but as yet no date has been confirmed. Last year they tankered sewage out of the pipes. This year they pumped it out further down and thence into a ditch which leads into the Wylve. We have been demanding action over this whole matter for 2-3 years and I must thank Piers Williams for his persistence in this matter. After contacting our MP recently the pumping into the ditch ceased, part of the problem is that the Environment Agency which is the enforcement agency for water quality has had its funds from central Govt cut and they have reached an accommodation with the Water Companies over such issues. There is an on-line petition doing the rounds demanding that Central Govt fund the EA properly. I believe that it is worth signing. In the meantime we continue to apply pressure on Wessex Water.

2. Road repairs/visibility – (i) minor potholing is undertaken by our Parish Steward and he is steadily dealing with all that we point out to him.

(ii)The state of the road through Townsend is unresolved – Highways answer that the holes/ruts are not deep enough to trigger action
The exception was when a resident tripped on a raised drainage trap and fell, injuring herself quite badly; they mended that section within 48 hours (from memory)

(iii) the road in Fisherton was scheduled to be resurfaced in this month but has now been deferred, probably until the Autumn;

(iv) Visibility at the north exit of the village has at last been greatly improved although further work is really needed

(v) The junction of the slip road off the A36 is still unsatisfactory and I reckon that a serious crash has only been avoided because a lot of local drivers are aware of its deficiencies. All our requests to change the signing and speed limit have been refused, but we continue to try. We shall also consider the question of the vegetation on the embankment and its effect on the visibility for joining traffic.

(vi) the safety of pedestrians and traffic speed in the village. This is an issue which has taken time and money to improve. It started with a petition signed by about 50 residents some 2-3 years ago; hand-held speed checks were then undertaken. Several meetings followed with Highway Engineers in the village and with Wilts Council Cttees and these first of all produced the pedestrian markings. Subsequent speed surveys and lobbying have won agreement to reduce the limit to 20 mph. After one objection, it has now been confirmed that the new limit signs will be installed. This has cost a considerable sum of money - funded by an increase in the precept but we considered it a good investment for the safety of residents.

(vii) Footpaths – we are fortunate here compared to other villages in the valley in that we have relatively light pressure on the footpaths out of the village and relatively little problem with dog fouling. However the lockdown has certainly increased their use. One positive issue has arisen; we have been prompted to try to persuade the highways (footpaths) dept to change the gates on the path to Fisherton and thus make it buggy and wheelchair friendly. We have only recently taken up this matter and we are awaiting a response from the Footpaths Dept of Wilts Co.

(viii) Playground This is checked regularly by your Parish Council and is kept cut by contract – Mr Moss. The equipment is checked annually by Wickstead – a sort of H & S OFSTED for playground equipment, as a result we have spent approx £2000 in upgrading/repairing some of the play equipment over the past 2 years. I should also like to thank Rodney Carpenter for his work on benches – both for a new one and also for renovating an old one at very little cost to the community purse. I thank him for his generosity.

That accounts briefly for our work over the past 2 years.

I would like to close our Report by recording thanks on your behalf to Jenny MacDougall. She served the Parish Council as Clerk for 17years. Her commitment was unstinting and never flagged despite the present Chairman's inefficiency.

That concludes the Parish Council's Report ...

The Chairman closed the meeting by saying, I am conscious that the Parish Council is only one cog in the successful working of the Parish and its community and I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank on your behalf all those individuals (unnamed) and organisations that have kept things running and have looked after those in the Parish over the past 18 months. The following list is I am sure not complete and if I have missed anyone or any particular effort, I apologise, but they are thanked if not named.

The pub – which as you know took on the business and were then immediately locked down. Amazingly kept going with excellent and inventive service - we hope that they are past the worst

The Shop and PO of course and a very well deserved award received by Chris and his staff Litter Pickers

Tom Cox for running The Neighbourhood Watch and general village communication network Shoppers – all those who have been shopping for isolated households

Unofficial Taxi service

All those involved in running and using the Wyvern Hall and making it available

Members of the PCC who help not only in the Church but in the wider community.

4. Report from The Wyvern Hall Committee – Lucy Cassels

Unfortunately we have had no bookings for over year but karate club is starting on Monday 21st June and we hope to welcome back our other hirers in September.

During the year we have continued to hold zoom meetings and have nearly completed our decorating with a new floor in the kitchen and back hall installed last month. The night storage heaters are due to be replaced later this year.

We are organising a village party on July 4th outside, together with the pub and hope that everyone will come and celebrate a much overdue get together.

On Wednesday 9th June at the AGM in the hall Jane Fishwick and Richard Newell will stand down as Chairman and Treasurer and no longer be on the committee. Lucy Cassels will stand down as secretary but stay on the committee as a representative of the Parish Council.

The remaining committee hope to elect the offices at the AGM.

Question - How were the repairs funded at the Village Hall? Answer - The hall received a £10k Wiltshire Council Grant

5. Report from PCC – Non attendance (written update)

St Mary's Wyllye is part of the Middle Wyllye Parish ~ along with Stockton, Steeple and Little Langford.

2020 was dominated by Covid-19 and the various restrictions and lockdowns. The PCC passed a series of resolutions closing our churches during the lockdowns. The Rector distributed weekly worship and prayer materials by email to support Sunday worship. Zoom Sunday Morning Worship and Sunday Evening Prayer was developed from March 2020. When open, the churches, including St Mary's, continue to explore the seasonal beauty of BCP Matins and Common Worship Holy Communion.

The Church Ministry Team has met formally twice before moving to on-line discussions. Currently two Faculty Applications are currently being processed. One for the repair of the Tower Clock has passed the first stage and is should receive final approval this month. The application to replace the organ and re-organise the Vestry has proved difficult but continues to be discussed in a positive way. Discussions are also in hand with Salisbury Cathedral Stonemasons for the repair of items raised under the last Quinquennial Inspection. During the shutdown the opportunity was taken to update the Churchyard records. Plans of the churchyard are now computerised and show the location of all graves. Using archive material, the names of all but 6 memorials were noted. The use of archives enabled the names of several memorials to be identified despite the inscriptions having weathered beyond legibility. The oldest grave is dated 1686. There are 470 identifiable graves and memorials.

The main challenge for 2021-22 will be getting the organ replaced, opening up the external Vestry door and re-organising and decorating the Vestry. Hopefully this will provide a space suitable for meetings and the signing of registers.

Rev'd Jonathan Plows

6. Report from Neighbourhood Watch – Non attendance (written update)

During the past year, visible crime in the area has been very light - mainly due to Covid. The Amesbury police were in the process of a small reorganisation at the start of Covid and this proceeded slowly during the year. Our main concern has been with the considerable rise in computer driven scams and phishing. These seems to have increased significantly over the recent months, with the older being most vulnerable. In the UK some 70% of successful phishing attacks have been on the over 70 year olds. In the last week there was a sequence of catalytic converter thefts from cars in the valley. All have been warned to keep their cars locked.

Tom Cox

7. Public Forum

Question - Litter and fly tipping is an ongoing issue in Wylde, what can we do to help this?

Answer – Our newly elected Cllr Heppinstall is taking on the responsibility of litter, she is looking at ways to improve this problem. We will be discussing this item at the July PC meeting.

Question – Can the use of CIL monies from the development of Deptford Farmhouse be looked into, how it can be applied for and what it can be used for? Answer - This will be looked into by the Cllrs and the Clerk and added onto the agenda for July PC meeting for further discussion.

Question - Can anything be done re the cyclists through the village, riding too fast, taking up the whole of the road?

Answer – An option is to get in touch with the cycle network and let them know that there has been lots of near accidents in the village another option could be signage, signs for cyclists to ask to cycle sensibly. This item will be added to the agenda the PC meeting in July

8. The date of the next Annual Meeting of the Parish.

Thursday 19th May 2022

Chair