

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Up Hatherley, held at the Village Hall, Cold Pool Lane, Up Hatherley, on Tuesday 19th April 2022

Present: Chair of the Council, Councillor S. Bamford

In attendance: K. Oakey – to record minutes, 4 parishioners, Councillors P. Worsley, R. Whyborn, D. Willcox; A. Bamford, J. Furley, A. Houlton, N. Holden, J. Wells, P. Vaja, and S. Ellison

Apologies: Cllrs. A. Ponting, J. Sankey, and D. Young

Welcome and Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked those members present for attending. This will be an informal meeting consisting of a short presentation and any questions followed by an informal session whereby members will be available to answer questions.

Community Safety:

- Spate of arson attacks targeting hedges particularly in Broad Oak Way. The Parish Council became involved talking to residents, funding a camera, and assisting the Police. An arrest was made and the arson attacks have now stopped. Well being of residents is pivotal to the Parish Council.
- Bike Marking 2020, 2021 (outside) and 2022. The Parish Council have funded these events and over 300 bikes have been marked. The Parish Council has a good working relationship with the Community Policing Team, and it is hoped that future meetings on other topics can be held in the hall.
- Lighting improvements have been made to Caernarvon Park with help of the Civic Pride Fund. It is hoped that a similar scheme can be used to improve lighting at Cheriton Park.

Highways and Footpaths:

- The Parish Council has a good working relationship with the Highways team at the County Council. The condition of the pavements, drains and footpaths are discussed at regular meetings. A priority list is maintained and discussed to ensure that issues are dealt with.
- Successful clearing of the drains on Cold Pool Lane has helped reduced flooding on the roundabout, and the watercourse in Sunnyfield Lane is next on the list with plans to clear the watercourse to prevent the lane flooding.
- The Parish Council has 3 VAS signs and they are moved around the parish to build up a database on speeding in the Parish, and to deter speeding. The units are moved around every 2-3 weeks and batteries are changed regularly.

Youth Work:

- The Parish previously had a Youth Parish Council, but this disbanded many years ago and together with decades of little investment in youth services the Council made a decision to join a joint borough wide scheme and contribute to a Summer scheme. Youth work is now targeted within the parish, and the youth workers are working with the children in the Parish.

Food Poverty:

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- The Parish Council has been involved with the Lakeside Project, which operates out of St Margaret's Hall. Originally set up due to the pandemic the current cost of living crisis means that use of the foodbank is increasing. Members continue to volunteer and Morrisons and the Lakeside Takeaway are closely involved providing much needed food donations.

Open Spaces, Trees and Well Being:

- There has been a recent issue with the Broad oak Way estate. Built as a Radburn estate whereby cars and parking is directed to the rear of the estate leaving wide open spaces at the front to allow children to play safely. The site was auctioned off by a London auction house recently and sold for £100,000 on a speculative basis. The Parish Council has been working closely with the Borough Council to get a Community Bid together, which can be done if it can be proved that this is a community asset. The Parish Council has been working closely with residents to gather the evidence to go into the bid, and it is hoped that this will secure the area and bring it back into public ownership. Prior to the auction we were successful, with the assistance of Cllr Sankey, in getting all the trees on the estate under TPO's.
- Last year the Council took over the insurance for the local health walks, with Cllr Houlton being the walk leader. The events are very popular with 30+ people each week taking part, with both physical and mental benefits.
- The Council started recruiting Green Volunteers, who are assisting on various projects around the parish including the Pocket Park, and other green spaces.
- The Council has worked closely with the borough council to improve how the greens in the parish are cut, including taking away the green grass cuttings, whereas previously they were left. This has resulted in a higher standard of green space, and the council is looking to see if this could be extended to other parts of the parish although we only own Fernleigh and Long Mynd Greens.
- The Council has purchased a number of trees as part of the Rotary Club centenary.

Village Hall:

- The hall is over 100 years old and the roof in desperate need of repair. The work should be taking place over the summer and the hall will close whilst the work takes place. Following the recent parish survey there was a lot of interest in increasing the use of the hall for community events.

Community Engagement:

- The council has an annual carol service and despite the pandemic this has continued although in a slightly different format. This year unfortunately it was very wet, however still well attended. For the last 3 years the children have been encouraged to make and hang tree decorations.
- The garden competition has moved to a virtual platform and will stay in this format for the coming year, however it is hoped that more engagement with children can take place.
- The Record continues to be a popular and successful annual magazine delivered to all the properties in the parish. With the decline in hard copies being delivered such as the church magazine, this publication is well received and more regular updates have been requested.

Parish Survey:

- Following the delivery of around 3000 copies of the survey around 10% were returned with 120 online and the rest as hard copies. The summary below is a brief

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overview of the results, however more work will be done on interpreting the results and pulling together an action plan:

1. Aware of PC activities – generally yes but confusion on who to contact for issues
2. Meeting needs of community – positive
3. Village Hall – many didn't know it was here
4. Hire of hall – no was a high percentage
5. Social events – lots of interest
6. Open spaces – well used
7. Fit for purpose – generally positive
8. Roads – pot holes were high on the list, although not a parish responsibility
9. Footpaths – width of footpaths was raised
10. Traffic – speeding, parking by the hall
11. Cycling – UH Way was mentioned and generally poor provision in the parish
12. Safe / secure – generally positive
13. Contact police – no
14. Age range – mix, lowest >25

The Chair finished the presentation and brought the more formal part of the meeting to a close, Cllr Worsley thanked the Chair for the presentation, and Cllr Holden for the work on the survey.

Signed..... Chair, 10th May 2022