

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Up Hatherley, held at the Village Hall, Cold Pool Lane, Up Hatherley, on Friday 26th April 2024

Present: Chair of the Council, Councillor S. Bamford

In attendance: K. Oakey – to record minutes, 10 parishioners, Councillors P. Worsley, R. Whyborn, A. Bamford, A. Houlton, J. Wells A. Ponting, J. Furley, S. Gutteridge, A. Goldsby and N. Holden

Apologies: Cllrs. J. Sankey, D. Willcox and M. Ede

Welcome and Chair's Report

The Vice Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the Chair for the past year and all the hard work that she had put into the Parish. The Chair thanked him and also passed on her thanks to all members for their work on the council. She informed the meeting that this will be an informal meeting consisting of a short presentation and any questions followed by a session whereby members will be available to answer questions and the new garden will be open for all to have a look at the work done.

Planning

- Caernarvon Court has once again been the most controversial application in the parish. The original scheme was refused, and was followed up by another application, again refused, and then another that was subsequently withdrawn and the site sold. A new application has just been received from the new owner and seems to address all the concerns that the parish council had raised which is good news. It is a valuable site, and done correctly will improve the parish.
- Broad Oak Way has been another area of controversy. Just before the surprise auction we were able to work quickly with the borough council and get TPO's on the trees, however the site sold for £100,000 but was never completed. It has taken a lot of time and effort to identify what is happening, and during this time we worked with the borough council to designate the land as a Community Asset and ensure its ongoing maintenance. We have now finally identified that the land has passed to the Crown. The parish council is now pursuing the next stage of the process, looking at purchasing the land to ensure its ongoing maintenance and protection.

Highways and Footpaths:

- The Chair passed on congratulations to the Highways Group who have been successful in working closely with the county council and getting roads and footpaths in the parish prioritised. In particular Caernarvon Road has been resurfaced, although there is still work to do beyond the barriers, which it is hoped is within the current county budget.
- Drains have been cleared over the past few years, and the problem flooding that blighted certain roads has not reoccurred, and the Environment Agency has been active clearing brooks.

Open Spaces:

- We have installed several new benches during the year improving our open spaces for local residents.
- The Chair passed on her thanks to Cllr Willcox who has lead the Open Spaces Group, and been successful in implementing quarterly meetings with the borough council,

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improving communications and ensuring that things are getting done and prioritised in the parish. The parish has a lot of open spaces, and these need a lot of maintenance, however they make Up Hatherley a great place to live.

Crime and Safety:

- We have had another successful bike marking event at the hall, the 6th supported by the Parish Council. These events are great in bringing the community together and getting Christmas presents securely marked.

Food Poverty:

- The Parish Council has been involved, and contributes together with Morrisons and Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council, to the Lakeside Community Project, which operates out of St Margaret's Hall. Originally set up as a foodbank it has now moved to be a food pantry.

Youth Work:

- The Council has been involved in a successful joint borough wide scheme and also contributes to a summer scheme, with this summer being our third year of involvement. The joint borough wide scheme with Inspire to Aspire has now ended and we are waiting for the detached youth work to begin.

Community Spirit and Volunteering:

- The new 2 O'clock Club has gone from strength to strength, with over 30 people regularly attending. There is no charge but donations are requested and since opening we have donated over £2,000 into the food bank and other causes.
- A resident in the parish has cleared the path at the roundabout with Up Hatherley Way, clearing out all the brambles and making the path much more usable.
- Other members and parishioners are regularly going out and maintaining the Pocket Park. The parish has many unsung heroes working in the background to make Up Hatherley such a great place to live.

Parish Record and Communications:

- The Record continues to be a popular and successful annual magazine delivered to all the properties in the parish. Cllr Worsley has been involved in its production since 2006, and we have great contributions and local history updates from around the parish.

Christmas Festivities:

- The council has an annual carol service and this year we had a return to providing refreshments. It was once again a very well attended successful event in 2023, with the Salvation Army once again proving the musical support. Over £500 was raised for the Salvation Army, which is a great result.
- The children's tree decorating is proving very popular.

Village Hall:

- The hall reopened in 2022 following the replacement of the roof and raising of the ceiling. Since then bookings have increased and it is very well used, and the changes have been well received.
- We moved on to the outside of the hall during 2023, and were successful in securing Lottery Funding to part fund a lot of the improvements, which was great news. The rear space is complete, and the community garden is starting to look great. The

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front works are complete and new parking is available at the front of the hall, together with charging points for electric cars.

The Chair finished the presentation thanking the parish councillors and volunteers from the 2 o'clock club for their hard work and assistance during the year. She also passed on her thanks to the Clerk.

Signed..... Chair, 7th May 2024