

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Up Hatherley, held at the Village Hall, Cold Pool Lane, Up Hatherley, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Present:** Chair of the Council, Councillor S. Bamford

**In attendance:** K. Oakey – to record minutes, 2 parishioners, Councillors P. Worsley, R. Whyborn, J. Sankey, A. Bamford, A. Houlton, J. Wells and P. Vaja

**Apologies:** Cllrs. A. Ponting, J. Furley, S. Gutteridge, S. Ellison, N. Holden, D. Willcox

## 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. As per last years format the Chair will report under the key working groups of the Council.

### Community Safety:

- We have had great success with lighting improvements in the open spaces in the Parish. Following last years success at getting lighting installed in Caernarvon Park, this year lighting was improved in Cheriton Park behind the Hillview. A new light was installed in a particularly dark area of the park, and the other light in the centre was improved. This was part funded by the Jubilee Bid made to Cheltenham BC.
- A Cyber and Security talk took place in the Village Hall as part of the new 2 o'clock club. It was well attended with over 50 parishioners and was led by an expert from the Economic Crime Team at Gloucestershire Police and the new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. It is hoped to run it again in the future.
- Bike Marking, the 5<sup>th</sup> funded by the Parish Council, took place in the Village Hall with over 80 bikes marked.
- The bike sheds installed at Greatfield Park School are being well used by pupils and the Chair showed a picture of the new shed.

### Highways and Footpaths:

- Potholes have been particularly bad but the Parish Council is not responsible for fixing them and can only pass on concerns to the County Council. It is hoped that we could become more proactive in this area, and follow the example of parishes in Devon, who have a small budget to repair potholes.
- Following successful clearing of the drains in the Parish there have been few instances of flooding considering all the rain that we have had during the past year.
- 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. Sadly, one of our signs was stolen during the year, and has yet to be recovered. The Chair thanked the team who regularly move the signs around the parish

### Planning

- Caernarvon Court has been the most controversial application in the parish, but was refused by the Borough Council. They may yet come back with a revised scheme, so is one to keep an eye on. Unfortunately, there has been fly tipping in the area, but councillors have worked swiftly to get this cleared.

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## Youth Work:

- The Council has been involved in a successful joint borough wide scheme and also contributes to a summer scheme. Unfortunately, the Borough wide scheme is now coming to an end, so a new model will be developed for the future. The summer scheme will continue.

## Food Poverty:

- The Parish Council has been involved, and contributes, to the Lakeside Project, which operates out of St Margaret's Hall. Originally set up as a foodbank it has now moved to be a food pantry. The new 2 o'clock club has been passing donations on as well.

## Open Spaces:

- Through joint funding with the Jubilee Bid the Council has purchased two new benches which were installed in the Chargrove open space, following requests for more and better seating in the area. The benches have been installed as Chairman's benches with each showing a dedication to previous Chairmen from the parish council.
- Following the recent auction of the Broad Oak Way open spaces, the Parish Council has worked hard with the Borough Council to get an area of Community Value order in place for the site. Despite selling at auction the site has yet to change hands so we are pursuing a Community Land Trust for the site to keep it in public ownership. All the trees on the site had TPO's put on them prior to the auction which was a good result.
- The local health walks, with Cllr Houlton being the walk leader, continue to be popular with numbers regularly in excess of 30 people.
- The Council previously purchased a number of trees as part of the Rotary Club centenary, these are doing well although one is looking a little dead.
- The Pocket Park has not been as successful as we would have liked, and unfortunately looks like the Borough Council have mowed it, destroying all the wild flowers. A new strategy will be considered for the ongoing maintenance of this site.
- The Parish has a good band of local volunteers and litter pickers, and future events are being planned, particularly litter picking behind the Hillview.

## Community Engagement:

- 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 with the Salvation Army providing the musical support.
- The garden competition continued as a virtual event; however, this format will now be paused as a new future for the competition is considered. An alternative such as a flower show may be considered, making use of the Village Hall.
- 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 had been requested. As a result, a number of newsletters / updates have been produced and delivered, particularly targeting the Broad Oak Way residents regarding the sale of the land, and advertising for the new 2 o'clock Club.

## Village Hall:

- The hall reopened following the replacement of the roof and raising of the ceiling. It is well used, and the changes have been well received. We have now moved on to

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the outside of the hall and work is planned for July. The Clerk provided the drawing for the rear of the hall, which it is hoped will provide a community garden and more usable outside space. A £10k Lottery Grant has been secured to help fund the works, and we are waiting on a decision to tap into funding from the County Council Build Back Better Fund as well.

The Chair finished the presentation and brought the more formal part of the meeting to a close, Cllr Worsley thanked the Chair and the Clerk for their hard work and assistance during the year. He informed those present that the Parish Council is superb thanks to the excellent leadership in place.

Signed..... Chair, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023