



Annual Parish Assembly Minutes – DRAFT

held on Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 19.30, in the Main Hall, Village Centre.

Present: Cllrs Bridget Culley, Patrick Foote, Phil Jeffrey, Oliver Madge (Chair), Ed Makgill, Glenda Mew, Dave Peart, Gwen Randall,

In attendance: Parish Clerk, Maxine Owen Members of the Parish: 30+

Meeting start: 19:30

Parishioners were able to access the Main Hall from 19:00 for Welcome Drinks, and to take the opportunity to view reports from organisations operating within the parish. All eight Parish Councillors, the clerk & two Borough Councillors were available to speak informally to.

Reports were made available from:

SMB Village Centre
Hill & Valley
SMB United Charities & Holdway Almshouse Charity
The Lunch
Sustainable Bourne Valley

The above reports and the Parish Council Chairman's Reports are available on the parish website or from the Parish Clerk by emailing clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk

Welcome and Introduction led by the Chairman Oliver Madge

Representatives were invited to speak:

Hill & Valley. Michael Widen spoke on behalf of the Hill & Valley. Giving a brief explanation of the magazine's history and its circulation. Michael advised that the Treasurer of the Magazine and the Community representative from Hurstbourne Priors have now resigned, so for the magazine to continue more volunteers were needed. Pearl Pritchard was thanked for stepping up into the Editorial Role. Michael appealed for volunteers to help with distribution of the Hill & Valley as well as to fill current vacancies. It was agreed by the audience that the quality of the magazine had improved greatly since being published in colour in recent years. In recent months the advertising revenue had to be increased due to increased printing costs, and as a compromise to the advertisers there is now a separate card of advertisers included.

SMB Bowling Club: John Alchin, President spoke on behalf of the SMB Bowling Club specifically about the potential loss of parking on Bell's Meadow, and the problems this might cause if the current parking can not be secured with the new owner. John explained the numbers and ran through the evenings that the Bowling Club is active. The loss of the current parking provision could mean an additional 30 cars trying to use the Village Centre. The issue was acknowledged but there is no obvious solution to a problem the Parish Council are already trying to resolve. John agreed to share dates with the Clerk.

SMB Horticultural Society/ Flower Show: Jeremy Barkes, the Deputy Chair, spoke on behalf of the SMB Horticultural Society/Flower Show in place of John Banbury, the Chair who was

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unable to attend that evening. Jeremy advised that the Flower Show would be reverting to the last Saturday in July from now on. The society had trialed changing the date to earlier in July hoping that with the local schools still open, then more people would be available to attend. The change of date in fact seemed to make little difference, so it has been decided to revert to the end of July when it had traditionally been held. This year the Flower Show committee has decided to have less classes in the Exhibition in the hope there would be more competition in each class. Jeremy advised that in 2022 the Revenue from the Flower Show was £8,500 with a profit of £7,000.

1 Apologies for Absence - None

2 Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Assembly was granted. Proposed by Mr Derek Kane, seconded by Mr Michael Widen.

3 Borough Councillor Reports

Cllr Sam Carr: Cllr Carr gave an update on planning saying there were not too many contentious applications in the borough last year. BDBC are trying to slow down house building, and are looking to ensure that housing numbers do not go up in St Mary Bourne Parish. All three borough councillors for the area are campaigning against development north of the railway. They are supporting the development of 200 houses on the other side as this will also bring a new GP Surgery to the area.

Cllr Carr also updated the Assembly on the sewage escape from St Mary's Hill in Hurstbourne Priors. Southern Water are trying to avoid taking responsibility for this sewer, but BDBC are pushing back and insisting they do. The risk is too high for the Bourne Valley and Vitacress for the issue to be left.

Cllr Carr stated that he was pleased to see how active the community are in our parish, saying that often commuter villages often become dormant.

Cllr John Izett: Cllr Izett explained that the three current borough councillors for our area (Sam Carr, John Izett & Graham Falconer) work together to represent our community. They each have a strong interest in the rural community. Cllr Izett advised that the finances at BDBC are strong which has enabled them to recruit more staff in such areas as planning, special neighbourhood roles, there's been Capital Investment and Cost of Living Support. In July 2022 BDBC launched a Cost of Living Assistance Fund, and the second fund is being launched in April 2023. Cllr Izett advised that there is a strong influence and representation in planning matters, and similar to Cllr Carr Cllr Izett confirmed that BDBC were pushing for less houses being built in rural areas. The reiterated that they were looking to build the right houses in the right areas.

Because of how topical the subject is, Cllr Izett advised that the borough is working closely with Highways at county level on the condition of the roads, particularly on pot-holes.

Cllr Izett then offered to take questions from the audience.

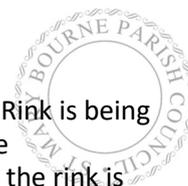
Questions were asked about Refuse Collection in Hirst Copse & Stevens Green, the Cllr was notified of damaged to the verge in the same area caused probably by the refuse truck, but possibly other lorries.

A point was made by one parishioner questioning whether the councillor should have been speaking at the meeting at all, as the Borough is in a pre-election period (Purdah), and would not be allowed to campaign for the upcoming election at an event such as the APA during this time. Cllr Izett responded that he was at the meeting to report on last year, rather than to campaign. (This had been confirmed by Cllr Madge just before the meeting as a result of the same parishioner raising the issue at the Parish Council Meeting immediately before).

Cllr Izett then talked about Affordable Housing in our ward, and that more was unlikely to be built, as the parish have new build affordable housing at Bell's Meadow & Binley in recent years.

The closing of the Ice Hockey Team (The Bisons) based at the Ice Rink at Basingstoke Leisure

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Park was brought up, and it was confirmed by Cllr Izett that it because the Ice Rink is being closed for refurbishment, the team would have no base for the duration of the refurbishment and there was no reason for the team to not restart once open the rink is open again.

4 Oliver Madge, Chair of St Mary Bourne Parish Council then gave his annual report. The full report is available on the Parish Council Website listed under Parish Council Meetings/APA.

Topics Covered:

Playground/Recreation Ground Project

Previous Year's AGAR

Thank you to Temporary Clerk & Review of role

Reserves slightly low currently

Investment of Reserves

New Defibrillator in Stoke, replacement for SMB

Dog Fouling

Planning

Landscaping

Memorial Benches

Cricket teams

3-5 year Management plan for The Lake

Terms of Reference Review

Getting involved.

Thank you for support from the parishioners.

5 Maxine Owen, Temporary clerk clarified that the following numbers are for Financial Year Ending 31st March 2022, and are now concluded by the External auditor. At next year's APA the year Ending 31st March 2023 will be presented.

	Balances Brought Forward	Year Ending 31 st March 21	Year Ending 31 st March 22	Variance
1	Balances Brought Forward	£63054	£62806	
2	Precept	£28749	£30916	
3	Total Other Receipts	£50036	£15823	68%
4	Staff Costs	£14241	£12743	
5	Loan Interest/Capital repayments	£0	£0	
6	All Other Payments	£64792	£49209	24%
7	Balances Carried Forward	£62806	£47583	
8	Total Value of Cash	£62806	£47583	
9	Total Assets	£315267	£315267	
10	Total Borrowings	£0	£0	

The AGAR each year requires an explanation from one year to the next of any variances above 15%. **Total Other Receipts at 68%** variance can be explained because no Lengthsman Grant was requested from HCC (£15,800), No VAT refund was claimed (Previous year was £9001), A River Works Grant of £10,130 was received the previous year, No CIL funds applied this year and other small grants had been claimed the previous year but not during this year. **All Other Payments at 24%** variance is because there were no CIL funded Projects in 21-22 Financial year.

The Internal Auditor is due on 4th May 2023 to examine the 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 financial year. The Parish Council's accounts are prepared and ready for this audit. As soon

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as this audit is done this 22-23 Financial Year AGAR will be published on our website and available for inspection by the electorate if requested.



6. Questions from Parishioners - None

Meeting Ended: 20:45

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