

**GODSHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
26TH APRIL 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM.**

MINUTES

1.MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING.

On the proposition of Mr Thrower, seconded by Mrs Button it was –

RESOLVED: To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 13th May 2019.

2.MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3.PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31.3.2021.

The Parish Clerk had circulated the Parish Council accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2021. There were no questions on the content of the accounts.

4.REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

The Chairman, Alison Child, reported as follows –

This is my seventh Annual Parish Meeting as the Chairman of Godshill Parish Council and I again welcome those present.

The events of the past year have been dominated by the effects of Covid – 19 and the impact of social distancing. A Community Hub was set up to assist those suffering or in need of assistance during the first and subsequent lockdowns. I would like to pass on my deepest gratitude to all individuals and organisations who contributed to the community effort to help those in need during this extremely difficult period. Meetings of the Parish Council were suspended from the March meeting in accordance with Covid related legislation, but meetings were resumed in July via Zoom and have continued as such to the present time.

The Council continues to consider and make comment on all planning applications in the parish, and this is done by the Parish Clerk through the Isle of Wight Council website. The Parish Council website contains agenda and minutes of all Council meetings and also provides a link from this website to planning applications on that of the IW Council website and also to the website of Godshill School.

Road Safety in the village has always been and will continue to be of concern to the Parish Council and I am disappointed that the introduction of the 20mph speed limit has been unable to have the desired effect on the driving speed of a number of motorists who pass through the village and I feel that greater enforcement of the limit needs to take place if the speed limit is to be truly effective. Parking at School Crescent and Moorview continues to be a safety problem despite the efforts of all concerned and I would again ask that drivers act responsibly to reduce the risk of an accident in this area particularly at the start and end of the school day.

The Parish Council set its budget and precept for the 2021 -22 financial year at its meeting on the 6th January 2021, the precept for the year being agreed at £40,926, the same as the previous year. After careful consideration the Parish Council agreed to proceed with the refurbishment of its public Conveniences by way of the provision of modular units from Danfo. The capital cost of the refurbishment of £80,000 is being met by £30,000 of reserves and a £50,000 loan from the Public Works Loan Board who provide finance to local councils at very low rates of interest. The annual cost of this borrowing will be met from savings in utility costs and cleaning costs.

The Parish Council submitted a planning application for the proposed new playground and community centre at Central Mead. The initial application was withdrawn to enable to provide time to resolve certain matters with Sport England. A second application was then submitted after consultation with residents, the majority of responses to this consultation and the new planning application have been positive. The planning decision is expected shortly. May I pass my thanks to Nikki Collinson and her team who have continued with fundraising for the playground, Lottery funding had been suspended due to Covid but we are hopeful that Lottery support will soon be confirmed.

The Parish Council has continued to maintain Central Mead, May Close, the Memorial Garden and Church Hill.

The year sees the election of a new Parish Council for Godshill and the five persons nominated means that they will all become members of the Parish Council, a sixth member will be appointed in due course by co-option. Due to the reorganisation of IW Council wards, this year is the last time that Godshill Parish will be represented by IW Councillor Rodney Downer. Rodney has been our Councillor for 12 years and has worked tremendously hard during this time for all the residents of Godshill and Wroxall. We all greatly appreciate Rodney's contribution to the Parish and wish him well in his new ward. Thank you Rodney.

I would also express my thanks to Parish Councillor Valerie Banks, (who has not been able to attend the Zoom meetings) and to Parish Councillor John Thrower, neither of whom are standing in this year's election. Both Valerie & John are longstanding members of the Parish Council and have contributed much time to the benefit of the Parish Council and local community. Thank you Val and John, I am intending in due course to provide a social occasion to informally thank Rodney, Valerie and John for their public service to Godshill.

A new Parish Plan Committee was set up in the year comprising Suzie Ellis, Fran Shelley, Kay Evans and myself. I would also thank the others for their commitment and hard work in preparing the next Parish Plan which will be completed later this year.

The traditional Remembrance Day service at All Saints was another event that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic but will hopefully resume this year with all the support and attendance received in previous years.

Finally I would again like to express the Parish Council's thanks to Isle of Wight Councillor, Rodney Downer, whose who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Godshill community and to our Clerk, Gareth Hughes, for all the additional time he has spent on our behalf over the past year. I would also like to thank Mr Farrow for his work on the noticeboard and for assisting the Clerk with placing its content.

5. REPORT OF IW COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

IW Councillor Rodney Downer reported as follows –

Last year we were faced with the spectre of coronavirus. This has caused much disruption and sadly the passing of so many people. I would like to pay tribute to the Parish Council Chairman for her sterling work coordinating the volunteers in the village. Linking in with the Isle of Wight Council hub and Community Action. The volunteers also for shopping for vulnerable and shielding residents, and collecting prescriptions.

The community also displayed sense of community and residents cooking Sunday lunch for people. The village shop was excellent with groceries and deliveries.

Hopefully we are now through the worst and with more and more people being vaccinated with care the end should be in sight.

Island Roads. The car park was resurfaced and after making representations the works were carried out at night.

An accident occurred in Sandford and I reiterated concerns of residents. The area has been placed on the Highways safety and Improvement Register.

There is a triangular area at the top of West Street at Scotland corner. There were numerous potholes here. After making representations it was agreed with the Council that the holes be filled in and work were to take place to bring the area up to standard. After this it would be adopted by Island Roads. This area was on the road network in 1908. There are many places like this that have been missed off the asset register.

Church Hollow, Church Hollow was due to be resurfaced last August.

After making representations to Island Roads and the Councils Contracts Management meant team it was put back until October. In making representations I stressed the need for businesses to be able to recoup after the lockdown.

Drainage. I have made many representations about the drainage situation below Sandford garage. Island Roads are to inspect all the gully's on this section but I have stressed the need for quartering so the water actually runs into the gully's. There is a side mouth drain opposite Lessland Lane which is sunk and so the water collects near to the bus stop. Representations have been made about this as well.

The section of road from Beacon Alley to Roud Road was resurfaced and potholes were attended to in Meryll Lane and Hollow Lane.

As usual requests for lowering of hedges in the front of the car park were put in and these works took place.

A meeting was held about the possibility of a bus shelter on the High Street.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman and myself.

Scams in previous reports I have spoken about doorstep scams, online and telephone scams. Reports have gone to iWASP and I have been in touch with Trading Standards about these matters.

Father John Ryder. It was pleasing to take part in the ringing of a quarter peal for Father John and Brenda on their move to Ipswich.

I have tried to do my best for the residents and Parish Council of Godshill.

It is sad to be leaving but will keep in touch thank you for your support over the last twelve years.

Rodney Downer 26th April 2021.

6. REPORT OF ANY OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

There were no other reports.

7. GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

The meeting closed at 7.12pm.