

ARTHINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2022

- Present:-** Councillors Sue Handy (chairman), , Bernadette Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, Keith Ross, Lesley Sanderson, John Harris
- Attendees:-** Jane French, Yvonne Tinkler, Jan Handy, Sarah Turner
Ward Cllr. Cecile Irving-Swift
- Apologies:-** Cllr. Kate Morse
- Previous Minutes:-** It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st August 2021 be approved and signed.
- Matters Arising:-** None

Updates from Ward Cllrs.:-

May will mark the first anniversary of the creation of West Northamptonshire Unitary Council (WNC). It has been a challenging year for everyone with the pandemic and then the sad situation with the Afghans and Ukrainians refugees. Nonetheless, your Council's first priority was to be rigorous with its finances in year one.

Up to date, WNC accounts are solid. Without using our reserves, we closed the year on budget – possibly even under budget (we still need to be audited).

To achieve this demanded a new rigour and a new approach to budgeting. We are delivering our manifesto and main actions in our first year as follows:

- WNC joined the UK 100 Net Zero Council group
- WNC has been chosen to be a pilot for Integrating Social Care. In the next few months, this will be rolled out for the benefit of our residents
- The trust for Children is working well for our most vulnerable children
- Fly tipping: after a few successful prosecutions, we are going to take a hard line towards the culprits as we want to stop this blight on our environment. We also have a great recycling centre at Brixworth.
- Tree planting: we have been active helping communities and schools to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to be part of the Tree Canopy Challenge
- Covid Grants: We had £2,500 Covid grant per councillor. We spent it helping across our ward and across the ages from the Scouts to the WI, focused on improving well-being.

These are the major elements of spending in our budget. By making Adults and Children services robust, your Council will deliver our manifesto in full.

We also took some small actions which have an important impact on your life

Now, towards the future, we are looking to develop a new strategy for our rural connectivity, to make planning across WNC a smoother process and to improve the interaction you have with WNC.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who contacted us. It is only by working together that we will make our West Northamptonshire Council the best for us all.

Chairman's Report:-

The chairman welcomed all newcomers to the vilage.

Councillors:- Sue Handy, John Harris, Bernadette Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, Kate Morse, Lesley Sanderson and Keith Ross who was co-opted when Georgina Reed resigned.

Thank you for your help and support throughout the year.

Meetings:- As usual there were 6 bi-monthly meetings during the year plus the Annual Parish Meeting and extraordinary planning meeting when necessary

Thank you:- to the clerk, Lynne Partridge, who takes the minutes and advses the council and is the financial officer.

Neighbourhood Plan:- The whole council is congratulated on the work put in over the last 2 years. The document is now in its 1st consultation period.

Roads:- Potholes are reported and repaired when they meet Highways criteria. At last the drains have been cleared.

Grass Mowing – the annual mowing has now started.

Village News:- Plans have been made for an Afternoon Tea on 2nd June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
Open Gardens will be on the 1st weekend of June.

Footpath Warden Report:-

Cllr. John Harris, the footpath warden, advised the meeting that most of the footpaths were good. Any problems had been reported to Street Doctor and 2 have been reported to the landowner.
Any problems please let him know.

Neighbourhood Plan:- The chairman of the group, Cllr. Lesley Sanderson, thanked the groups and everyone who took part in the project, from being part of the action groups to attending meetings in the village hall.
The document has now gone to WNC for assessment and if there are no issues will be circulated for comments. All comments will be answered and cannot be anonymous.

Accounts:- The audited accounts for year end 31st March 2022 were presented to the meeting and the clerk gave the variations report with no questions arising.

Public Meeting:-

- 1) Following complaints received regarding speeding vehicles through the village a meeting took place between Cllr. Sue Handy, Daffodils Nursery and Helen Howard of Highways. It was suggested that the 30pmh signs be moved further out of the village. The meeting received no further comments regarding this plan.
- 2) The Burial Ground hedge has been cut and paid for by a private donation.
- 3) Yvonne Tinkler wished to thank the Neighbourhood Plan group for all their hard work in preparing the plan.
- 4) There was some discussion regarding the defibrillator which is still out of order. Unfortunately the electrodes are still not available as the necessary parts cannot be obtained. Cllr. Irving-Swift to request help from WNC.

Meeting Closed at 8.10pm