

NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2022, at Copsale Hall, commencing at 6.30pm.

Fifteen parishioners, including Parish Councillors attended the meeting. Sarah Hall (Parish Clerk) was also in attendance.

001-21/22 CHAIRMANS WELCOME

The Chairman, Cllr O Hydes (OBE) welcomed the Councillors and members of the public to the Annual Parish meeting. The Chairman then introduced the two new councillors, Cllr Paddy Bullen and Cllr Danny Lawrence.

The Annual meeting of the Parish Council is where the Chairman reports on Parish Council business for the year 2021/22.

002-21/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** Parish Councillor J Chaytor, Country Councillor Nigel Jupp and District Councillor Toni Bradnum apologies for absence.

003-21/22 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** the [minutes](#) of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th May 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman. (Vote – unanimously approved).

004-21/22 PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Chairman of the Parish Council provided the following report on Parish Council business;

What does the Parish Council own?

- The village green (but it is leased out)
- Many small assets including benches, trees, lamp posts, finger posts etc

How is the Parish Council financed?

- Precept (monies received annually from HDC)
- CIL (monies from completed building developments)
- Grants

What does the Parish Council do?

- Maintains a Business Plan (Parish Plan)
- Works on projects to improve the parish
- Scrutinises and comments on Planning Applications, Appeals, Enforcements
- Uses the Neighbourhood Plan to oppose large developments (Buck Barn)
- Speaks at HDC Planning Meetings
- Completes consultations ... Local Plan, White Papers etc
- Maintains its assets (lamp posts, benches etc)
- Petitions HDC and WSCC for improvements (roads etc)
- Communicates with residents (Website, Facebook, The Link, noticeboards)
- Keeps minutes which are made publicly available

- Holds meetings in public
- Promotes healthy lifestyles via organised walks
- Gives grants
- Maintains Policies
- Liaises with neighbouring parishes

What has the Parish Council done this year?

The Parish Plan has evolved from the Parish Survey 2021

Traffic Issues

- Applied for pedestrian crossing – A281 Elite Garage
- Applied for 30mph speed restriction – Copsale Road/Bar Lane
- Achieved a School Safety Zone

Greening the Parish

- Planted a small orchard, Woodlands Walk
- Planted two trees, Mannings Heath
- Planted bulbs/wild flowers on open spaces

Provision for outdoor activities

- Obtaining three quotes for the renovation of the children's play area (work expected to start later this year)
- It has not been possible to make any provision for older children due to no site being available

Communications with residents

- 12 newsletters on noticeboards, PC's website
- Maintenance of website
- Facebook following of 200
- 12 articles in The Link

Planning

- Invested considerable time on opposing Buck Barn
- Dealt with 98 planning applications
- Spoken at 2 HDC Planning Committee meetings
- Dealt with 20 Enforcement issues
- Made 6 submissions to the Planning Inspectorate regarding appeals
- Engaged with consultations at Central and Local Government level
- Undertaken training in planning

The Neighbourhood Plan

- Prevents large scale development
- Delivering approximately 50 new and small homes on 8 small sites, scattered throughout the parish
- Completed sites: Micklepage, Vaughan Copse, Coolhurst Close
- Under development: Holly Farm, Swallowfield Nursery
- Still to start: Heathtolt, Saxtons Farm, White Horse Site

The Chairman thanked the Councillors, all of whom give their time voluntarily, for their support during the year. The Chairman also thanked County Councillor Nigel Jupp, District

Councillor Toni Bradnum, residents and the Clerk for their continued support. The Clerk was presented with a card and beautiful planter.

005-21/22 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

Budget 2021/22

There was no increase in the 2021/22 budget and the precept remained at £49,842. With careful budgeting there was a total underspend of £9,895.00.

There were a few items which did exceed their budget, including:

- Clerk's salary £2,652.00 (13 x salary payments accounted for in the 2021/22 financial year and Clerk working significantly more hours)
- IT Budget £958.00 (SharePoint, Microsoft Annual Subscription, IT Support)
- Grants £956.00 (WGAG Buck Barn)

Significant underspends

- Street Lighting Maintenance £1,200.00 (no contract in 2021/22)
- General Maintenance £4,000.00 (carried over into 2022/23 General Reserves)
- Reserves Policy £2,245.00 (carried over into 2022/23 General Reserves)

West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) recommend that Parish Councils retain 50% of their precept in reserves, the Parish Council have retained 57% of their precept in general reserves.

The Parish Council have received £24,904.00 CIL monies, the majority of this will be spent of the upgrading of the children's play area.

Budget 2022/23

The budget for 2022/23 has increased by 5.3% with a precept of £52,498.00 The increase is necessary to cover the Clerk's salary, increased IT costs (cyber security), street lighting (increased by 250%), grant payments have also increased and £2,000.00 from the budget has been allocated to 'top-up' the children's play equipment fund.

Horsham District Council published [comparison figures](#) for Parish Council precepts in the district, the Parish Council are in the middle.

006-21/22 QUESTIONS ON PARISH MATTERS FROM ELECTORS

A member of the Nuthurst Carbon Busters asked if a member of the Parish Council would consider supporting the initiative.

The Chairman suggested that members of the Nuthurst Carbon Busters were welcome to attend future Parish Council meetings.

The meeting closed at 7.01pm