

**GODSHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
3RD MAY 2023 AT 7.00PM**

MINUTES

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a presentation was made by Graham Biss of Natural Enterprise on their work in maintaining Munsley Bog. This included general maintenance and a proposed project to renew the boardwalk. Grant assistance for the project was being sought but had not yet been achieved. A new information board was to be located on the site. An update was also given on Natural Enterprise works on combating invasive species.

1.MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING.

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

RESOLVED: To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 9th May 2022.

2.MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3.PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31.3.2023.

The Parish Clerk had circulated the Parish Council accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2023. 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 ninth Annual Parish Meeting as the Chairman of Godshill Parish Council and I again welcome those present.

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 the IW Council website. A special meeting was previously organised by the Parish Council in order that Captiva Homes could outline their plans for a housing development on land adjacent to Yarborough Close. The meeting was very well attended and local residents were given time to make their views on the proposed development known. The Parish Council and many residents objected strongly to the subsequent planning application but the application was approved by the IW Council

Road Safety in the village has always been and will continue to be of concern to the Parish Council and I am still 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. At the July Parish Council meeting there was a presentation by Inspector Matt Gooding on Speeding and Road Safety in which he detailed the new Speeding Units strategy for addressing the problem on an islandwide basis, and stressed the importance of the public reporting on witnessed incidents of speeding. 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 2023 -24 financial year at its meeting on the 5th January 2023, the precept for the year being agreed at £45,072, an increase of 5% on the previous year to maintain existing services and make provision for inflationary pressures.

Planning permission had been previously granted for a new playground and community centre at Central Mead. The lottery bid for the playground was not given final approval due to revised assessment criteria and the different priority allocations being operated by the Lottery Funding Assessors. A separate lottery bid was submitted for the funding of the proposed community hall but it has been advised that this will not be considered for at least six months until new criteria for allocations have been put in place. A funding review of the proposed projects was commissioned to identify the most cost effective vehicle for taking the projects forward and the potential for merging the Village Hall Charity and the Childrens & Young Peoples Charity is to be investigated.

The Parish Council has continued to maintain Central Mead, May Close, the Memorial Garden, Bridgecourt Cemetery and Church Hill. The year saw the first full year of the operation of the new modular Public Conveniences that had been installed by Danfo. The feedback on the project has been very favourable and a much improved facility has been provided for the use of local people and visitors to the village. Income raised from the introduction of a 20p entrance charge is being earmarked for necessary roof repairs. Maintenance work is currently being undertaken on all assets arising from recent site visits and inspection.

The Parish Council provided for an event at Central Mead to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, and I would pass thanks to Councillor Astrid Bysouth for all her work in making arrangements for the event. Unfortunately the weather and attendance resulted in some disappointment in the final outcome of the event.

A Remembrance Day service was held at All Saints and I on behalf of the Parish Council laid a wreath at the Memorial Garden. During the year I made regular attendance at the local Health Forum and at the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) who provide vital information to local councils and represent them on regional and national local government Issues.

A number of local residents have formed the new Godshill Residents & Business Association (GRABA) and a number of its members have attended some Parish Council meetings. GRABA undertook the siting and decoration of a Christmas Tree which has been donated by a local resident for a number of years. Our thanks to GRABA, Danny at the Olive Garden and the Tree Donor for their help in brightening up the Festive Period.

It is with great sadness that I report on the recent death of Mr Ronald Mew who served on the Parish Council with distinction for many years and who served as its Chairman from 2009 until 2013. Ron was well respected and a stalwart of the Parish who will be greatly missed by all those who knew him and who worked with him. Our thoughts and condolences go to his family at this sad time

Finally I would like to express the Parish Council's thanks to Isle of Wight Councillor Suzie Ellis, for her work on behalf of the Godshill community, although again having suffered from periods of ill health. We all wish Suzie a full recovery and thank her for all the work she has undertaken during the year.

5.REPORT OF IW COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

IW Councillor Suzie Ellis was unable to attend the meeting but had been submitting monthly Reports to the Parish Council, the content of which formed part of the minutes of the respective Parish Council meeting.

6. REPORT OF ANY OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

There were no other reports.

7. GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A question was asked regarding the future of the Post Office and its funding. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had included a sum of £5,000 in its budget in the current year for a contribution to the running of the Post Office. Community Action were in dispute with the post Office and the outcome would have a major impact on determining its future viability. No further Increase in contribution would be made without public consultation.

Combating vehicle speeding was a concern of all present, and the need to build a community spirit within the Parish was also considered a priority.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.