

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
1830 FRIDAY 4th APRIL 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) – Chairman
Cllr Angie Filippa (AF) – Vice-Chairman
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr Ivan Gibson (IG)
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)
Cllr Alice Foster (AFo)

In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), Ian Jeffrey (IJ) TVBC Councillor, Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate, PCSO Conor Hall, (CH), with a PCSO colleague, and 7 local residents

Apologies. David Drew HCC Councillor (DD) for health reasons; TVBC Councillor Tony Ward (TW) for health reasons; and David Hall (DH) Test Valley School Governor, due to commitment at another local PC meeting.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed our electors present,
2. The **Minutes** of the Virtual Annual Assembly of 30th April 2021 were unanimously approved and signed by SW.
3. **Matters Arising.** There were no Matters Arising from the 2021 APA Meeting
4.
 - **Police:** PCSO Hill had submitted the following report before the meeting, which had been distributed to attendees:

Crime Report for Longstock and some immediate surrounding areas.

01/03/2021 – To Date

Please be mindful that occasionally these reports might contain sensitive information and this should only be disseminated appropriately for the purposes of gathering information for ongoing crimes (where we may ask residents if they heard or saw anything at a certain time etc.)

ASB	- xxxxxxxxxxxxxx – 06/11/21 – Fireworks let off nr Longstock Park
Assaults	- Nil
Business Burglary	- xxxxxxxxxxxxxx – 24/10/21 – Two Waitrose outbuildings burgled

Criminal Damage	- Nil
Road Traffic Collision	- Nil
Suspicious Reports	- A few suspicious reports but nothing of note
Theft	- xxxxxxxxxxxx – 31/05/21 – Suspected theft of wallet, person has dropped wallet and someone else says they think they saw someone else pick something up. - xxxxxxxxxxxx – 08/08/21 – Male arrested by Police on suspicion of fishing/poaching offences at The Bunny. Arrested for theft of fishing rights/license.
Theft from Vehicle	- 6 x TFMV all at Longstock Park
Wildlife Related	- xxxxxxxxxxxx – 20/04/21 – Suspected illegal fishing on the Bunny

- PCSO Hill (CH) also confirmed that the report did not include the Roman Road and Houghton Road areas, which appear to be recorded as Stockbridge in the Police systems. SW asked CH to take note of the Longstock Parish boundaries for future reference.
 - CH advised that the local Police numbers have been significantly improved, and currently the Stockbridge contingent is 1 Sergeant, 4 PCs, and 3 PCSOs
 - CG commented that he had noticed an increased Police presence in recent months
 - CM asked about Police actions and plans to counter poaching activities, and said that the Police response to an incident in 2021 at the Bunny Bridge had resulted in a very unsatisfactory outcome. CH confirmed that increased patrols were now being undertaken.
 - AF mentioned that the theft of a catalytic convertor in Roman Road had been reported on 101, but with no effective result
 - IG asked CH to take action about vehicles parking on the pavement at the Test bridge at Salisbury Hill.
 - DB advised that the Police response to 999 calls for poaching and hare coursing activities is much more effective
 - SW thanked CH and his colleague for taking the time to attend the APA
- **Hampshire County Council:** County Councillor David Drew (DD) had e-mailed his report which had been distributed in advance.

I'm truly sorry I can't be with you this evening as I have succumbed to the almost now inevitable Covid virus. And this is despite being double jabbed and boosted!

This has been a busy year for everyone, me included, as I have taken on the role of your County Councillor when Andrew Gibson stood down. This is an elected position, so there was no certainty about being elected! So a big thank you goes to all those who did support me, and a reassurance to everyone that I am here to serve the whole community.

At my first meeting I was asked very firmly about getting the speed limit reduced along The Bunny. While this hasn't yet been achieved, the 30mph speed limit signs are now visible as the hedge was cut back – although the eagle eyed amongst you will note that one sign has gone missing, which I will chase! I've also been able to persuade HCC to redo the Bottom Road white lines – although the weather and mud has transpired to make them less visible. I'm also seeking ways to make better use of the central reservation on dual carriageway on the A30 – a significant area of land. This is still work in progress.

Hampshire County Council has a huge budget of in excess of 2 billion pounds. Half of this is spent on schools and children's services, and one quarter on adult social care. As many will know, the local roads fall to Hampshire to keep in good order. This hasn't been easy as the budget is constrained. At Hampshire I pay a keen interest in education, sitting on the Childrens and Young Persons select committee, as well as being a governor at two schools in the area.

One positive aspect of being a councillor is the ability to sign off grants to the community. I'm delighted to say that a £200 grant, from Hampshire, is being put to good use for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations here in Longstock.

As some of you may have seen, I'm now the Chairman of the Hampshire & IoW Air Ambulance as well as a governor on the Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This enables me to provide occasional updates to the Parish about front line medical services. Most prominent recently has been the increasing number of Covid cases in local hospitals. Fortunately most cases have mild symptoms as a result of the vaccine programme.

Finally I would like to say thank you to the Parish Council and its clerk for both keeping me on my toes with things that have needed attention, their enthusiasm, and for the kindness they have shown me.

SW thanked DD for his efforts to support the PC over the past year.

- **Test Valley Borough Council:** Councillor Tony Ward (TW) had e-mailed his report which had been distributed in advance, and Councillor Ian Jeffrey (IJ) attended the meeting as TW was still recovering from Covid.

School card jubilee design contest!

Schoolchildren across Test Valley will soon begin competing to design the official card that's sent to Her Majesty The Queen to celebrate her platinum jubilee.

Primary schools up and down the borough have been invited to take part in the contest that will see the winning card sent to Her Majesty from the mayor of Test Valley. As first citizen of Test Valley, the mayor's card will be on behalf of all residents in the borough.

This June, a number of events are taking place to mark the 70th anniversary of The Queen's accession to the throne. Street parties, public art installations and tree planting are just some of the activities taking place to commemorate the occasion this summer. The winner of the card competition will be selected by the current mayor, councillor Mark Cooper, and mayor-elect, councillor Alan Dowden, and announced after the Easter holidays.

Councillor Grants for Mid Test

Two more grants have been awarded for community initiatives in Mid Test. King's Somborne will get £900 towards a Summer Fete bringing community organisations together to raise funds for the school. Broughton have been awarded £1000 to help restore vintage signposts to their original condition.

Because of the large number of events being planned for the Platinum Jubilee the Councillor grants will be limited so apply early.

West Dean and West Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan

A major achievement for the community when the West Dean and West Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2029 was 'made' following the positive referendum on 17 March 2022. The plan forms part of the development plan for the parish and will be used to guide planning decisions in West Dean and West Tytherley. Everyone involved must be congratulated in bringing this to fruition – the amount of work and dedication to complete is a real achievement

The referendum result is as follows:

Response	Votes	Percentage
YES	176	94.1%
NO	11	5.9%
Turnout		26.64%

The made plan, decision statement and declaration of result can be viewed at: [West Dean and West Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan | Test Valley Borough Council](#)

From the 18 March, the West Dean and West Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan is subject to a six-week period where applications can be made to the High Court on the grounds that the plans are not within the appropriate powers, and/or a procedural requirement has not been complied with. This six-week period of legal challenge ends on 29 April 2022.

Test Valley mentioned in national resilience report

The National Preparedness Commission has this week published its independent review of the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act and its supporting arrangements. The review was prepared by a team of experts in the field, led by Bruce Mann, former Director of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, and is based on over 300 interviews with people on the front line of emergency response. It makes 117 recommendations and concludes that the Government must learn lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies over the last two decades if UK resilience arrangements are to be made fit for the future.

The report itself refers to Test Valley's community resilience work and a case study on page 101 mentions our community councillor model, the community team and our grant funding.

Types of Affordable Housing and who provides it.

In our first article on this topic, we showed how affordability was defined and how difficult it was to buy or rent. Now we look at the different types of homes available for people who are unable to meet their housing needs through the general housing market. This includes homes for rent and purchase.

Social Rented Housing

This is subsidised rented housing owned and managed by an Affordable Housing Provider (AHP)(also known as Registered Provider or Housing Association) and allocated through Hampshire Home Choice to eligible households. Rents are typically charged at no more than approximately 60% of market rents.

Affordable Rented

Affordable rented housing is also subsidised housing owned and managed by an AHP and allocated through Hampshire Home Choice to eligible households. Rents are typically up to 80% of open market rent. A large proportion of the new affordable homes being built are let at an Affordable Rent.

Shared Ownership (also known as part buy/part rent)

Shared ownership enables a purchaser to access home ownership through buying an initial share (usually 25% to 75%) * and paying rent on the remaining share. Purchasers can then increase their share later if they choose to. This is known as stair-casing**. In many rural areas where open market values are very high, a shared ownership product is the most likely route for local first-time buyers to access home ownership.

Discounted Market Homes

The Discount Market scheme enables a purchaser to buy a specific property at no more than 80% of market value. Unlike shared ownership there is no rent payable. The discount remains in perpetuity, so when the property is sold the same level of discount is passed onto the next purchaser.

First Homes

First Homes is a new affordable housing product like Discount Market homes. First Homes will be sold at no more than 70% of open market value to qualifying buyers. First Homes are not applicable on rural exception sites, or on any site which is delivering 100% affordable housing.

The main eligibility criteria for all low-cost home ownership products is: -

- First time buyer
- Household income of less than £80,000
- Local connection

*New regulations allow for some shared ownership homes to be sold at a share of as little as 10% of the open market value.

** In some rural areas the staircasing is restricted to a maximum 80% to ensure that the home remains an affordable home in perpetuity.

Still a few days left to have your say

We have launched our new Local Plan - a document to guide future development in Test Valley.

The plan covers how we aim to grow the potential of our town centres, communities, people and local environment.

Your view matters and we want to hear from you:

- Do you think we've identified the appropriate priorities for Test Valley?
- Will these priorities help to improve the way we live, travel, work and enjoy our borough?
- Do you think these priorities will protect the environment and help tackle the climate emergency?

The consultation closes on 8 April 2022.

Chantry Centre pop-up market

The next Chantry Centre pop-up market will take place on Saturday 2nd April between 9.30am and 4pm.

This month we're making it easier to shop by moving the market stalls into the middle of the Chantry Centre. You will find stalls located in the central areas near to Card Factory, as well as outside Boots and in the 'indoor garden' next to Boswell's Cafe.

This is great opportunity to support local independent businesses. [Click here](#) to see which traders will be attending the April pop-up market.

The French market will be coming to Andover High Street in May.



Prison time for serial fly-tipper

A man has been sentenced to 15 months in prison after fly-tipping asbestos in Romsey that caused a road to be closed off for two days.

Mitchell Cooper, of Hillyfields, Nursling, was given the sentence at Southampton Crown Court on Friday. As well as the time behind bars, he is now subject to a criminal behaviour order for the period of three years.

Just last year, Cooper was fined £20,000 for a series of fly-tips across Romsey and North Baddesley. That sentencing, which totalled more than £23,000 when costs were added on, took place in January 2021. But, just one month prior, Cooper had fly-tipped 3.5 tonnes of hazardous asbestos in the middle of Lee Drove in Romsey, which landed him at crown court on Friday.

The asbestos was dumped within a large green container, tipped off the back of the vehicle that Cooper was driving on 18 December 2020. As well as the hazardous material, car parts and wood were also found strewn across the road.

Cooper had difficulty tipping the truck enough to dump the container into the

road, but eventually it was found deposited for around 100m along the road.

All of this was caught on one of the borough council's covert cameras, which are regularly moved to catch people committing waste-related offences.

Specialists then had to be brought in to clear the dangerous waste, closing the road off for two days in the process.

Closure of Andover Covid testing centre

In accordance with the decision made by central government regarding Covid testing, the borough council has been notified that the Covid test centre occupying part of the Shepherds Spring Lane car park will close on the 30 March. The site will be cleared around 7/8 April and hopeful full access should be available shortly after. The council will be arranging for any direction signs to be taken down.

Support for financially pressured families

With the enormous pressure on the cost of living and the fuel crisis many families will be seeking help. We have compiled a list of services available locally that can help. Please if you are contacted or know of anyone in need of help use this list to direct those families to the right place.

Romsey Community Services: <https://rcsservices.org.uk/>

- Fuel Vouchers – can offer vouchers of £25 for pay point meters (not suitable for those on Direct Debit)
- Pantry Vouchers - gives three free shops in Andover, Romsey & Eastleigh
- Winter Warmer Packs - a tote bag of goodies - fleece, scarf, gloves, water bottle, insulated mug, bag of food (all sizes)

Christians Against Poverty (based at the Freedom Church, Romsey):

<https://www.freedomchurch.uk/>

CAP offer support with debt and financial management. Call 0800 328 0006 for a telephone appointment. For more info go to their website, a selection of the groups they run are shown below.

- Debt Help
- Job Cubs
- Life Skills
- Money Coaching
- Community Coaching

Lighthouse Project (based at St Marys, Andover):

<https://www.stmarysandover.org/lighthouse>

- CAP Job Clubs – Steps to Employment course to help you get into paid work, further training, or work experience
- Employability drop-ins – on-demand support with CV-writing, interview skills, job search, applications, and strengths-finding
- CAP debt help – providing help and support for those struggling with debt
- The Money Course – a short course to help you better manage your money
- Kintsugi Hope – physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing

Citizens Advice (Test Valley) <https://testvalleycab.org.uk/>

Advice line: 08082 787 862

Telephone Call-back on 01264 723641 (Andover) or 01794 522137 (Romsey). Leave a message and a representative will call you back. Please be aware the call back will come up as a withheld number. For more information, please visit their website.

Money Advice Service www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk

Offer support on managing debt and budgeting. Call 0300 500 5000 or visit their website for more information.

Food Support

With multiple locations throughout Test Valley, the local Food Banks can provide food parcels. Vouchers are needed when requesting parcels and can be issued by several local agencies, including Citizens Advice, children's centres and health visitors.

- [Romsey Foodbank](#)
- [Andover Foodbank](#)

Community Pantry's

The principle of the pantry is to give those in need the opportunity to have a 'helping hand' by getting food at a lesser rate on a weekly basis

Items found in the pantry will be a range of fresh, frozen, and general foods. This will change on a weekly basis. The members of the pantry will be charged a nominal sum of £5.00 per shop and receive £15 plus worth of goods. When available each member will also be given additional items free of charge.

Additionally, the Pantry will have a delivery service for those who are not able to come and shop for whatever reason. This service will be charged at the rate of £1.50 for up to 5 miles.

Andover

- Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 09:30 – 12:00
- Twilight hours: Wednesdays 16:00 – 18:00
- Telephone: 01264 359223
- Email: rcscommunitypantry@gmail.com
- Address: The Longmeadow Centre, Cricketers Way, Andover, SP10 5DE

Romsey

- The Pantry will be open Monday and Fridays from 10am to 2pm all year round.
- Telephone: 01794 522106
- Email: rcscommunitypantry@gmail.com
- Address: No. 7 Dukes Mill, Broadwater Road, Romsey, SO51 8PJ

Mental Health Support and Advice

Andover Mind, Test Valley Well-being Team (Andover & Romsey) - if you're concerned about your mental health and well-being, you can call 01264 332297 or alternatively email well-being@andovermind.org.uk

Romsey Community School provides a range of wellbeing courses online, including moving forward financially, lockdown and beyond and career choices. Please contact: community@romsey.hants.sch.uk for more information.

Hampshire Families Trust offer early intervention support which consists of six weeks therapy. Available to families, children, and young people. Email Flo-hampshire@familycounsellingtrust.org or call 07538 029210

Youth in Romsey – Provide services and support for young people. Please text 07443 508418 or call 01794 500581 to speak to a member of the team. Or visit www.yir.org.uk

ManGang UK - Men are bad at talking about what troubles them, add this to the stigma that surrounds poor mental health and it's no wonder that three quarters of all suicides are by men. ManGang offer weekly peer support meetings both on zoom and face to face where we show that 'It's Not Weak to Speak' find them on Facebook or visit the website www.ManGang.co.uk or email: info@mangang.co.uk.

Tee-rific new adventure golf at Charlton Lakeside

Work has begun on a brand-new adventure golf course at Andover's Charlton Lakeside. This exciting new facility was approved following feedback from users, residents and visitors to the lakeside. Perfect for all the family to enjoy, the new iron age theme adventure golf course will test your golfing skills across 18 holes!

Adventure golf specialist Greenspan has been appointed to carry out the works, which will now last for 16 weeks, ensuring the facility is open in time for families to enjoy over the summer holidays.

Leader of the council, Phil North, said: "Charlton Lakeside is a one of Test Valley's much-loved green spaces - and I'm delighted that it will now be enhanced even further with this exciting new addition. Offering a great facility for families to have fun and enjoy the outdoors."

- **Longstock Parish Council:** Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) Chairman of the LPC presented her report:

So here we are at the Longstock Annual Parish Assembly 2022, in person and not on Zoom! Life is so much nicer in the real world and not a virtual one.

We have all been through two extraordinary years with a global pandemic, exiting from the EU post the Brexit vote and now a war in Europe with Russia's invasion of the Ukraine. All our lives have been touched one way or another.

The Parish Council continues to meet regularly and with commitment to serve this village as best as possible. The duties increase, the expectations rise, the pressure to keep on top of all the local government changes increases and still we step up to keep this wonderful village going to the best of our ability. We are volunteers at the end of the day, but we take the flack thrown at us because we believe in this village, its farming heritage and we love it.

This past year we have attended several site meetings to determine planning issues, discussed planning applications at length, worked hard pulling stinging nettles and weeds in the cemetery on clean-up day each year, overseen burials, ashes interments, supported the allotments, answered residents' worries about issues, and backed village events. We oversee the playground, liaise with Test Valley School, action and move forwards the Neighbourhood Plan, protect our footpaths, set environmental goals and initiatives, have resilience initiatives at the ready just in case, run and maintain our beautiful cemetery, continue as custodians for the Village Hall, maintain the streetlights, enable and distribute the Newsletter and the Henry Smith Charity – a proactive, hardworking Parish Council I think.

Our village has to grow with the times and move forwards. We are told by local government what is required, and we try to implement it without selling our soul. Our quest to provide much needed affordable housing, for our youngsters and the elderly, continues. We are working hard with the landowners of the village to achieve this goal that the majority of the village support.

We have met as a council 11 out of the 12 months this year to keep abreast of the issues that arise. Most of our meetings have been well attended by residents, which is heart-warming, we aren't doing all this hard work for nothing, it's nice to see that some people are interested!!

The Longstock Newsletter is a Parish Council publication and I hope you will agree that it is invaluable. We owe a huge thank you to 'the team' who pull this together – no mean feat - Thank you Heli Cole, Rosie Flewitt and Selina Musters. Also, a big thank you to the distributors – you know who you are – the silent angels in our village!

Talking of silent angels Dave and Joy Watts religiously tend and mow the war memorial garden. It is a credit to the historic centre of the village. Also Peter Moore looks after the flower bed at the cemetery, quietly does it, below the radar and with his expertise we know it is in very capable hands. Thank you.

Ann and Dave Roberts for regularly picking up litter thrown into the hedgerows. You do make a huge difference, thank you.

Ian Armitage, who is the new owner of Charity Down Farm has been a most welcome addition to our village, working with us and keeping us up to speed on developments and new initiatives.

As a Parish Council we have had very positive support from our District Councillor David Drew and Mid Test Borough Councillors Tony Ward, Ian Jeffery and Alison Johnston. Thank you all very much for your help.

The playground continues to be very well used by everyone, including the fete, always a highlight for Longstock. The annual inspection by RoSPA is due in May. We have a new group who have stepped up and offered to be part of the inspection rota. Also, the inspection sheets have now been digitised! Hello 21st Century! A very big thank you to, each and every one of you. A thank you also to the Leckford Estate for regularly mowing the main field for us, we understand that now due to fuel cost rises you will no longer be able to do this for us. Your support has been hugely appreciated.

The Henry Smiths Charity provided lunch before Christmas for over 60 Longstockings! A really great event that is so inclusive, well attended and appreciated. In all the charity has distributed more than £4,220 to Longstock residents over the last year. An amazing charity that really does make a difference.

A big thank you to The Peat Spade and team Shelley for the Remembrance Sunday reception and monthly support of the Parish Council, always ready to help where you can and accommodate us, where necessary. Thank you very much.

As trustees of the Village Hall, I feel very proud of this fabulous asset in our village. Self sufficient financially and the envy of many of the surrounding villages. Thank you, John and Selina Musters together with all the maintenance team. We really do appreciate your hard work. Cllr Selina Musters for your never-ending positivity and resilience, always working towards the best outcome for all things Longstock, including The Village Hall, streetlights, and the Newsletter.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a huge commitment that we have bravely stepped up to with the help of our consultants Plan-et, Liz Bourne and Becky Hopkinson. This is being brought forwards by Cllr Angie Filippa as NHP Chairman and a very proactive steering group. This is no mean feat and Angie I thank you and the steering group for all your phenomenal hours of work on this huge project. Also I want to thank you, Angie, for everything you do as Vice Chair of the PC, you have gone above and beyond for this village; your expertise and knowledge has been invaluable to us all. Longstock wouldn't be Longstock without its beautiful footpaths and byways. Cllr Charles Grieve has maintained the boundaries of the Parish, kept the signs in good order, foot paths open and well looked after despite government cutbacks. He has also managed our Lengthsman and his work schedule. Thank you, Charles.

Cllr Alice Foster is such a very welcome addition to our Parish Council, young, energetic, positive and with a mass of ideas for Test Valley School and beyond. She is working very closely with the head Mr Steve Gibbs, David Hall and the board of governors to keep the swimming pool at Test Valley School open. She is also the administrator for our social media and website. Thank you, Alice for stepping up. You really are breath of fresh air with your positive attitudes.

Our cemetery is such a wonderful part of our village, a haven of tranquillity to sit and contemplate. It's maintained by Ivan who also oversees the fabulous allotments and all our trees. Cllr Ivan Gibson has been on the Parish Council for nearly 40 years, showing commitment and dedication to all, he really has contributed to us as a village. Thank you, Ivan.

Cllr David Burnfield has taken over the environment sector and has started a great initiative to 'wild' the dual carriageway for pollination, homes to bugs and bees etc, who are a vital part of our existence. Thank you too David for your years of commitment to Longstock, being the past Chairman, it is your constant, indomitable character, and readiness to help that keeps Longstock the functioning, working farming village that it is.

To Colin McIntyre for being the Leckford Estate Representative on the Parish Council, keeping all lines of communication open between us and as I call him – Action Man, he gets things done! Thanks Colin

I now have to say a huge thank you to our Clerk Mark Flewitt who puts in hours of work on the village's behalf. Reporting potholes, broken bridges, blocked drains endlessly. He has kept us on the straight and narrow financially and abreast of all the never-ending changes that get thrown at us, calmly, meticulously and he smiles through it all!

To my fellow Councillors, these past two years have been very tough for us all.

Without your endless hard work and dedication, Longstock wouldn't be the village it is today, one of the most desirable villages in Britain to live in. I Thank you.

The remaining members of the PC unanimously thanked SW for her work and commitment over the past year.

- **Longstock Parish Council Finance:** Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF) presented his report

The internal review and audit of the 2021/22 accounts by Patrick Coates is still pending, and is due for May. In the meantime, the initial outline figures are as follows:

- The opening balance on 1st April 2021 was £8.6k, and the closing balance as 31st March 2022 is expected to be approximately £8.4k, subject to the receipt and reconciliation of the closing bank statement.
- The April 2021 opening balance included £5.2k of unused NHP Grant funds to be repaid to Locality UK.
- In 2021/22, the March 2022 closing balance also includes a figure of £1.7k in unused NHP Grant from the £4.97k grant received. This unused grant will be confirmed and repaid in the coming weeks.
- On this basis the “real” PC closing balance as at 31st March 2022 will be approximately £6,5k.
- The March 2022 closing balance is some £1k above the budget, due to a series of small variations across a number of budget items, including a reduction in insurance renewal costs, a new HCC Grant to cover planned Platinum Jubilee activities, the allocation of certain costs to the NHP project, and some timing differences on income and expenses related to the Newsletter and the maintenance of the playground.
- The Precept for 2021/22 was increased to £8.5k to allow for the gradual re-building of the PC finances following the investment in new streetlights in the 2019/21 periods
- Newsletter expenses have increased across the year, but income has also increased via new advertisers and increased rates. Printing costs are now rising significantly, and we will need to closely monitor both income and costs in the coming year.
- The Electricity Supply contract was renewed in July 2021. The new prices were fixed until July 2023, and represented a 50% increase in costs to £600 pa. In view of recent developments, this price protection until July 2023 now looks very welcome!
- Cemetery income was largely steady at £0.5k
- VAT Refunds were £0.7k, largely as a result expenses related to the NHP Project.

Budget 2022/23

- The Precept has been maintained at £8.5k as the PC Finances are built up again.

- Subject to the current general price uncertainties, and potential timing differences across certain items, the PC bank position is projected to generate a surplus in the region of £0.8k in the 2022/23 financial year
- Once again, ongoing NHP costs should be funded from the related Locality grants, so will have a “net zero” effect on the PC’s financial position, once the associated VAT costs have been recovered.

SW thanked MF for his efforts over the past 2 years.

5. **Questions/Comments from the Public.**

- Local resident and ex-Clerk Mr Musters, thanked SW for her comments about the Village Hall. He also mentioned that it had been a difficult year for the PC, and that there had been many unfortunate and unjustified comments made about the PC’s efforts. Respect is due to the PC, and the majority of the village was fully supportive of the PC’s efforts.
- SW thanked Mr Musters for his comments

6. **AOB.** Nil.

The Chairman closed the Assembly at 19.25.