

Wootton Fitzpaine Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 11 April, 2019

At Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: John Bradbury, Jon Snook, Jackie Collis, Margaret Taylor, Anne Sharp, Peter Sharp, Simon Christopher, Una Christopher, Katie Millar, Marion Brooks, Debby Snook, Charles Tait, Christopher Roper.

Apologies: Received from Bill Taylor Sean Kitcher, Teresa Kitcher

Election of Chairman: Debby Snook offered to stand as Chairman. There being no other candidates, she was elected unanimously. Proposed by Margaret Taylor and seconded by Marion Brooks.

Minutes of the last annual meeting: These were circulated and agreed as a true record. Proposed by John Bradbury, seconded by Debby Snook.

Neighbourhood Watch Representative Report: PCSO Amanda King from Lyme Regis gave a report about the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She has been based in Lyme Regis for 18 months and covers a wide area. A neighbourhood watch unit in a village can consist of one person or several who each cover a small area. Any activity which is considered to be of interest to the police can be reported on line or phoned in on 101. A neighbourhood watch scheme can protect the vulnerable and reduce isolation. Statistics suggest that with a scheme in place, rates of crime can fall by between 10% and 26%. Some insurance policies will give a discount of 10% if a location is within a neighbourhood watch area. Dorset Alert is an online information system which anyone can subscribe to free, even if they are not in a neighbourhood watch area. Amanda reported that there has been an enormous increase in cybercrime, and scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Chris Conroy is a speaker who gives informative and useful talks about this expanding problem, and the meeting was very keen to invite him to speak to our village. Amanda left her contact details for this to be arranged.

Report on the activities of the Char Valley Parish Council 2018/2019

Debby Snook, Char Valley Council Representative, gave her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She covered topics concerning the refurbishment of the White Gates, and updated the progress on the refurbishment of the fingerposts. Information about the new Dorset Council and the local elections on 2 May was also included. Improvements to the playing field, the new footpath officer, Sarah Dewe, a parish council grant to the village hall, diversion through the Vale due to closure of the A35 and the parish precept were other topics covered. Details of the new countryside working party formed by the parish council were given. As Debby is not seeking re-election in May 2019, along with Richard Colby, current Wootton Councillor, there is only one candidate, Clive Sage who is standing for the 3 seats in Wootton, leaving 2 vacancies. It is to be hoped that 2 candidates will be quickly co-opted for these vacancies. Debby is very happy to help anybody who would be interested in being on the parish council.

Report from the Playing Field Committee Trustees: Jon Snook gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The hedge along by the Estate Yard needs trimming. Jon will ask John White to do this in the autumn. Jon volunteered to clear the drain in the carpark. A new tree to be planted to replace an old one, playing field funds to be allocated for this. Some discussion took place regarding ownership of the playing field. CVPC owns half of it along with WDDC (now replaced with Dorset Council). Debby will ask the clerk of CVPC to investigate, particularly to ascertain the legal position. The Nationwide accounts stand at £464.25 and £2012.21.

Election of Playing Field Committee Trustees: Jon Snook and John Bradbury are willing to continue to be Trustees. Nigel Chapman will be asked if he also would like to continue. All Trustees elected unanimously.

Report from the Best Kept Village Committee: Jon Bradbury gave this report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Wootton hasn't entered for this competition for 2 years running, because various repairs had not been completed. It was the meeting's wish that we entered for the 2020 competition. David Brooks has volunteered to repair Diana Kennedy's seat, and even though we are not taking part for this year, it was agreed that we should have a village clean up on Sunday 12 May, from 10 am onwards. Debby agreed to do a poster and have details posted on the village website and Facebook page. Balance in the nationwide account stands at £667.59.

Report from Village Hall Committee: Christopher Roper, who has been the Chairman of the Village Hall committee for a year, gave his report. A major refurbishment of the toilets is in the offing, drawings by retired architect Ivan Mazija, having been on show at the recent AGM. A large proportion of the costs can be from Village Hall funds, with some local fund raising for the balance. It has been suggested that the fence at the front of the village hall is replaced by cattle trough planters. Bookings and events at the village hall continue to flourish, including Arts Reach, and we now have regular film showings.

Wootton 2000 Group: John Bradbury gave the report for this group and began by saying it was really a moribund entity and needs some revitalising. The closing balance for this group stood at £4,440.96. There are 48 books remaining. A donation of £350 was made towards the refurbishment of the White Gates. There is a great deal of information of the history of our area on boards currently stored at the Manor. Some discussion took place regarding the possibility of transferring this for digital storage. Ray Dyer will be approached for advice. There was also the possibility of a photographic competition taking place along with an exhibition, the photos to contrast the current village with that of the past.

The Friends of St Paul's Church, Wootton Fitzpaine: In the absence of Sue Bradbury, John Bradbury reported that the church is having services once a month, attended by between 10 and 15 people. The fund set up solely for the maintenance of the fabric of the church would still be administered by the Trustees even if the church were to close or become a venue for occasional services only. It is anticipated that this fund will increase to such an extent that the income will provide sufficient monies to maintain the fabric of the church. Should the church close, decisions would need to be taken as to its future, for example, to be used as a museum, although ongoing damp problems could be problematic.

Residents' Discussion: Peter Sharp asked about the possibility of a speed limit through the village. Some years ago, Highways arranged for a test to be made over one week, and concluded that the average speed through the centre of the village was less than 30 mph. Debby will ask the clerk of CVPC to investigate further. Jon Snook has observed that verges are encroaching slowly but steadily onto the lanes, and this could have serious consequences if allowed to continue. Debby will advise the clerk to contact Highways. Jon Snook also mentioned that the footbridge on the footpath to Charmouth now needs repairing. He has already contacted the Rights of Way officer, who has seen the bridge, but now the matter is becoming very urgent and needs immediate attention. Ref No for ROW officer is MNT 42897. Debby will inform the clerk.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Signed Dated