

Wootton Fitzpaine Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 25th April, 2022

At Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: John Bradbury, Jon Snook, Marion Brooks, Christopher Roper, Katie Millar, Teresa Kitcher, David Brooks, Andrew Stevens, Louise Symonds, Ginny Luckett, Tara Hansford – Wootton Village Councillor, Nick Ziebland – Wootton Village Councillor, Hilary Joyce – Chairperson Char Valley Parish, Simon Christopher - Dorset Councillor Marshwood Vale , Charlotte James, Mary Durling, Pam and Barry Sampson, Anna Bearpark.

Apologies: Received from Margaret and Bill Taylor, Debby Snook, Sue Beckers, Ann and Peter Sharp

John Bradbury opened the meeting and explained the reason for having an annual meeting. It is an official group with no powers and is held to report on the various groups' activities in the village. Due to the Coronavirus over the last two years the last meeting was in April 2019. Hilary Joyce said that the meeting should be run differently next year and be chaired by a Char Valley Parish Councillor. **Hilary will send something in writing to clarify this.** Andrew suggested that the village could have their meeting first on a chosen date and immediately followed by a Char Valley meeting. They would be notified separately.

Election of Chairman: Jon Snook offered to stand as Chairperson. There being no other candidates, he was elected unanimously. Proposed by John Bradbury and seconded by Christopher Roper.

Minutes of the last annual meeting (April 2019) were circulated and agreed to be a true record. They were then signed by Jon.

Report on the activities of the Char Valley Parish Council 2019/2022 Hilary Joyce, Char Valley Council Chairperson, gave her report, **a copy of which will be asked for.** She noted that there are two representatives for Wootton and that a third is needed. Anyone interested does not necessarily need to live in the village but does need to live within 3 miles of the village. Write to the secretary at charvalley.org for details. If there are people in the area that need accommodation, then go to the Char Valley Parish website for full details.

Simon Christopher spoke about his campaign to find ways to help alleviate the traffic travelling through Chideock and on to Bridport along the A35. He left leaflets with his contact details and how to book an appointment at his main surgery address in Whitchurch Canonicorum.

Report from the Playing Field Committee Trustees: Jon Snook gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Two of the trees along by the road had died and two Wild Cherry trees have now been planted. Anna asked whether the grass cuttings in the bunker could be emptied annually. The Nationwide are no longer providing a Treasurers Trust account. A new joint account has been set up – Nationwide Savings Account with Nigel Chapman and Jon Snook. The balance now stands at £2511.75. The money in the account is held purely to enhance the Playing Fields rather than to pay for maintenance. A new picnic bench was requested. Like the West Bay recycled ones. It would need a hard standing and to be bolted down.

Election of Playing Field Committee Trustees: Jon Snook, John Bradbury and Nigel Chapman are willing to continue to be Trustees. All Trustees elected unanimously.

[Type here]

[Type here]

[Type here]

Report from Village Hall Committee: Christopher Roper gave his report, and a copy is attached. A major refurbishment of the toilets has now been carried out. Wifi is now available in the Hall and Social Club. Two key members of the Committee retired. Thanks were given to Bill Taylor, Treasurer for fifteen years and Jackie Collis, who kept the hall clean and welcoming. They are replaced by Jane Bremner and Anna Bearpark.

A monthly coffee morning has been launched and so far has been a tremendous success. Platinum Jubilee celebrations are well in advance. Anyone who would like to become more involved with the Village Hall please contact a Committee member.

Wootton 2000 Group: John Bradbury gave the report for this group and asked whether anyone would be interested in joining as we really need new people. There is a great deal of information stored at the Manor and could be saved digitally but needs volunteers. Jon said that he knows someone from Bridport Museum who might scan some of the collection and then it would be available for public access. We would still have a quantity of our boards which need a permanent home. Dorset Archive would also be interested in having some of the information.

During 2019 a donation of £350.00 was given to the Char Valley Parish Council towards the remaking of the White Gates.

The balance in the Lloyds bank is £4217.01. There are 30 Wodetone books still available for sale at £7.50

Report from the Best Kept Village Committee: Jon Bradbury gave the report and reminded everyone that many prizes had been won in the past. Pictures in the lobby and in the Hall record our achievements. Katie will be taking over from Marion and hopes to enter the competition next year. Sue Beckers and Katie signed up for a litter picking up kit. So far nothing has been received. **Tara will try to find out why they have not arrived.** The balance in Nationwide Treasurers Trust account is £646.13 and a new account will be required soon as the Nationwide have said they will no longer provide a Treasurers account.

A village clean up has been arranged for Sunday 22nd May.

The Pass Housing Association Andrew Stevens, Chairperson of the PHA spoke about the purpose of the group and that it was set up in the early 1970's. There are now 12 houses including two recent newly built ones. You must be eligible to become a tenant. One of the older properties in the village became empty last year and has now had a complete refurbishment with internal insulation, new flooring, new kitchen and decoration throughout. It now complies with the EPC regulation for letting. Approx 16 applications were received for the tenancy, 3 were short listed and following a very difficult decision a young couple with a newly born baby will be moving in as from the beginning of May.

The ongoing plans are for the septic tanks to be replaced with new treatment plants. The first one will be behind Knapp Farmhouse garden and will support several houses. Easement documents are still being dealt with. **Tenants have asked for a plan showing the route of the new drains to be laid through their gardens.**

Louise thanked the Trustees of the PHA for all the voluntary work done for the families in the village.

Church report Sue Bradbury read a report, a copy is attached. Wootton has fallen behind with its quota payments. Following the outbreak of Covid, the church was officially closed, and no fund-raising activities could take place. The quota for the coming year is £4293.90.

The Friends of St Paul's Church, Wootton Fitzpaine: John Bradbury reported that the fund was set up solely for the maintenance of the fabric of the church. It was also considered that people would donate to this fund even if they did not attend many services. An initial very generous donation of £50,000.00 was given in 2015. A separate charity is now set up with the funds invested. This has grown to about £96,000.00 less £3700.00 which has been used for decorating and providing new seat cushions. It is anticipated that the 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. Application leaflets were handed around for people to set up an annual donation if they wished. We need ideas for other uses since it is not set up for today's gatherings. There are no toilets, no wifi and the pews are fixed to the floor. It is a community asset. Ginny Lockett thanked John and Sue for their continued work in looking after the church.

Charlotte James reported that Coffee mornings have been set up in the Village Hall, alternating between Saturdays and Wednesdays each month. She asked 'Does the money go to the church or to the Friends of St Paul's. A discussion will take place at the PCC meeting which is taking place on Sunday May 1st in the church at 12 noon. All parishioners are welcome.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations report was given by Katie. Leaflets have been printed and circulated in and around the village. Celebrations will take place from 2nd to 5th June. Photos of people outside their houses will be displayed on a board – no size stipulated. There will be a scarecrow workshop and they will be judged over that weekend. A beacon will be lit near Conegar Hill. A disco which is being funded by the Social club. 1950's optional dress. Photos can be taken while sitting on a royal throne. A momento Jubilee mug will be given for each house in Wootton and funded by the Wootton 2000 Group.

Position for the Char Valley Parish Notice Board Andrew reported that the PHA have no problem with the siting of the new Char Valley Parish noticeboard to be positioned at the end of the garden of Katharines Cowstall and at the entrance of Knapp Farm House.

Parish Meeting or Annual Village Meeting this item was more or less covered at the beginning of the meeting and it was suggested that we call it 'The Annual Village Meeting'. **Not yet voted on.**

A.O.B CVPC are giving trees as part of the Platinum celebrations in the Autumn. Wootton will receive one tree. Advice is being taken as to the variety of the tree. Suggestions were Mediteranium Chestnut, Eucalyptus, Mediteranium Oak. It was suggested that a solitary tree could be planted in the middle of a field.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed Dated