

PAULERSPURY PARISH COUNCIL



Paulerspury, Pury End, Heathencote & Pury Hill



ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 4 MAY 2021 7:30PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8745215637>

Meeting ID: 874 521 5637

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Minutes of the above meeting held by Zoom attended by 9 Parish Councillors and 14 Members of the Public

Opening remarks by the Chairman of Paulerspury Parish Council, Mr Ian Westall.

Mr Westall welcomed those present at this Zoom meeting. A presentation created by Mr Westall and councillor Mrs Westall was shown which illustrated how the parish council could help residents directly. In the event that this was not possible efforts would be made to direct the resident to the correct agency. The percentages of expenditure of the various commitments were illustrated.

Additions to the parish which had been made during the past year:-

- 2 additional dog waste bins (1 of which is currently on trial)
- A second telephone box purchased to provide a library
- Lumber Lane steps into Spinalls Field replaced
- 2 new larger litter bins in Spinalls field
- New set of swings and new wetpour surface
- Refurbishment of the High Street bus shelter and adjacent seat
- Windows and shelving provided in the Westy bus shelter to facilitate a library.

In the pipeline, funded by an £13,792.32 S106 Agreement, is a climbing net, an outdoor table tennis table and a spectator seat.

Councillor Mrs Westall had recruited a team of 15 volunteers who would, on a monthly basis, monitor and collect any rubbish deposited along all the main village roads. The parish council had provided all the equipment required for this work.

Q E II Platinum Jubilee Celebration. 2022

A team had been assembled to consider possible ideas for this weekend - a four day holiday starting on 2 June 2022.

Initial ideas were for a Dance in the Village Hall on Friday 3 June, Church Fete Saturday 4 June 2022 and a Bring Your Own Tea Party in Spinalls Field on Sunday 5 June 2022. Anyone with additional ideas would be welcome to add them to this embryonic list..

District Councillor Tove Ward

Mrs Sandra Barnes

Mrs Barnes said it was the last report she would be making as our District Councillor. After 25 years she would be retiring at the forthcoming election. South Northamptonshire Council which has now ceased has, Mrs Barnes assured the audience, provided the district with excellent services since its inauguration in 1974 and she hoped it would leave a lasting legacy.

The purchase of the Water Meadows in Towcester secured a fantastic asset for the area. The plans ahead include the refurbishment of the existing toilet block on the former Co -Op car park, redevelopment of the site when the former Co- Op building is demolished and planting 94,000 trees – one for each resident in the district.

Mrs Barnes closed saying it had been a pleasure to be a councillor and it had given her many valuable opportunities

Mr Westall thanked Mrs Barnes on behalf of the parish for her service to the parish.

United Reformed Church

Mrs J Raby

Due to the Covid pandemic the United Reformed Church had been closed since the first lock-down. However work had continued and the fire regulations had been updated and a ramp providing an access for the disabled to the church had been installed. A meeting was planned for June and it was hoped to return to normal times when restrictions were finally lifted.

There was much appreciation for Mr Blackwell who cuts the grass and thanks were given to the parish council for its grant to assist with this.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Mr John Raby

As there had not been a collection in 2020 Mr Raby had little to report but hoped volunteers would come forward to assist with the house to house collection in 2021

Paulerspury CE Primary School Mr Richard Money – Community Governor

A new extension had been added to the school which provided 2 new classrooms to be used for music, art and other topics plus a sensory room.

Following a Need for Improvement Assessment in 2018 no other inspections had taken place. The school was however on track with its Development Plan in order to meet the levels required. Help to raise the school profile was being given by Northamptonshire County Council.

Safety bubbles for pupils have worked very well in allowing education to continue. Support had been given to the Pury Play Club.

Riding and canoeing experiences were now being provided. Overall the school was currently in a good and strong place in these challenging times.

Paulerspury Village Hall

Mrs Sharon Taylor

Mrs Taylor reported that the income of the Village hall had suffered due to Covid. The only bookings had been the Pre School and Fast Food outlets.

A grant of £10,000 had been received which covered the loss of income from hirings and the 501 Club.

The roof was in need of repairs which would cost iro £40,000. Grants were being researched for this with short and long term fixes being sought.

Some early bookings had been made so it was hoped normal activities would resume before long

Paulerspury Horticultural Society

. Mrs Heather De Ritter

2020 started off with a talk on Orchids followed by one on the story of Rolls Royce and then came Covid. All meetings were cancelled but a montage of members' gardens was placed online. A newsletter to members kept them informed of issues and a first meeting was planned for 8 July 2021 when there would be a get together in a member's garden. Monthly meetings would resume in September with a talk by the Medical Detection Dog Team.

St James' Parish Church

Mr Jeff Creek

Although the Church was closed the work of the Church carried on during the Covid pandemic. Worship was offered by various means each week and the Community had thrived. Services were held on Remembrance Day and Christmas Day and on Wednesday mornings when permitted.

Much valued work had been done by volunteering young people in clearing the undergrowth in the churchyard. It was now a much brighter place with clear vision through.

Lack of income had meant that the monthly cost of £2000 for utilities, insurance , cleaning and upkeep had not been affordable. A 50% reduction in the parish share had reduced this to £1,500 per month.

One wedding had taken place and funerals had carried on also but no baptisms. Baptisms would be resuming.

Future events planned to date were for the Church Fete to combine with the bi annual Flower Festival on the Bank Holiday Weekend in August 2021 and a Pet Service to be held in accordance with the Covid road map current at that time.

A plea was made for parish support for the church at all the forthcoming events.

Paulerspury Good Neighbours Club

Mrs Joanna Hobson

Sadly closed due to the pandemic but it was hoped that members would soon be able to return to the club. The club was in a healthy financial position.

Paulerspury Players

Mr Alec Wagner

Whilst the planned pantomime for 2020 had to be cancelled writing of a pantomime for 2022 was well underway. A 30 minute performance of Snowwhite and a Christmas video "12 days of Panto" was posted on the Players' website.

A Murder Mystery was being developed and the Players were looking forward to putting on performances and supporting the village.

Questions from the audience.

Prospective candidates in the forthcoming West Northants Council elections Mr Ian McCord and Mr William Barter were present. When asked how funding would be secured for road improvements and reductions in bed blocking Mr McCord said that if Care (in all its forms) which took the biggest slice of the council's budget could be fixed then the underspend could be used to fix the roads.

Planning. Mrs Barnes said there had been an unprecedented demand for housing during the last 5 – 7 years. Should the Appeal currently under consideration for an additional 26 houses in Paulerspury on land lying outside the confines be granted then policies supporting confines would in future be toothless. Mrs Barnes encouraged the council to continue its opposition to building outside the confines with rigour.

Mr McCord stated that there was currently a review taking place of the Local Plan Part 1 which calls for development sites. South Northamptonshire representatives within the West Northants Council would continue to defend confines. Under the new organisation there would be 4 Planning Committees – 3 for local applications in the Unitary and 1 for major developments in excess of 200 dwellings or industrial applications.

Mr de Courcy-Ireland asked whether two trees could be removed from the churchyard. Mr Creek referred him to a response sent previously in answer to this request.

Mr Westall thanked those who had attended the meeting. The meeting closed at 20:40pm.