

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 22nd MAY 2023

7 members of the public

None.

3. Chairman's report

Interaction with the college is improved thanks to the relationship with Peter Husband.

The village hall has now been surveyed professionally and we know where we are. This will be an evolving situation.

Finally the opening of the village pub is given the village space to reconnect with each other.

4. Finance

i. Report of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

The Clerk and RFO made the following report:-

I am presenting the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The balance carried forward from last year was £43002

Total receipts for the year amounted to £30328 including grants of £3229.

Total payments for the year amounted to £21774 resulting in an excess of receipts over payments of £8554.

The end of year reserves amount to a total of £51555 with £32567 allocated to the general fund, £8000 to the playing field, £2000 to the local parish plan, £2000 to village appearance, street lights and footpaths, £1200 to the election fund, £766 to the Transparency Act IT fund and £5022 in unspent CIL payments and WCC rents

The accounts, cash book and bank records etc have already had their internal audit by Jim Thornton of Ashorne with no issues and will be subject to external audit in the coming months.

5. County Councillor's report

Cllr O'Donnell filed the following report, that was read by Cllr Slora (Cllr O'Donnell arrived late)

As we emerged from Covid we are facing the challenge of increased cost of living due in part to the war in Ukraine. Warwickshire has provided additional support as outlined below.

Cost of living support for Warwickshire Residents.

£421 Million was made available to Councils and unitary authorities to support those in need due to the global inflationary challenges and a significant rise in the Cost of Living Cost of Living Payments November 2022-February 2023 20,000 eligible families received automatic payments £30 per eligible child for food payments.

Utilities Campaign: Nov-Feb 11K households with eligible children were supported. 2000 Fuel vouchers were distributed.

Act on Energy awarded £100k to the existing Warm and Well Programme to support the pensioner age groups. Help included boiler replacement, boiler heating services, payment of debt on fuel accounts and direct payment to fuel companies.

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme helps our most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help. Residents can call 0800 4081448

or 01926 359182 to speak to an advisor in confidence.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme

Spending

£569k to children eligible for benefits related free school meals for food support. £926k as part of the November/December utilities promotion £250k in grants to community groups and charities. However, the largest spend for WCC is Adult Social Care @£200m per year. Furthermore, WCC paid £2.8m to increase capacity in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine scheme 12 months on and 1,072 Ukrainians have started new chapters of their lives in Warwickshire with 360 host families via the scheme. We still need host families.

Throughout the county over 89 Ukrainian families have successfully moved to independent living. For more information Warwickshire's Homes for Ukraine team at 0800 408 1447 or via email

ukraine@warwickshire.gov.uk to find out more.

Cllr Grants

I was delighted to support the Moreton Morrell warm hub application for £1260 towards the super warm hub I visited earlier in the year.

Also through delegated budget resurfacing work and drainage by the brook was completed in Brook Lane in addition to line repainting maintenance and pot holes addressed as reported.

6. District Councillor's report

Cllr Parry filed the following reports :-

The last 12 months have proved extremely busy ones as your District Councillor and as a member of Cabinet at SDC. Key achievements which have impacted on my ward include the following:

- 1) Securing £4,500 CIL grant from SDC as a contribution towards the new youth shelter on the playing field
- 2) Introduction of the 123+ waste collection service in August last year
- 3) Securing Wellesbourne Airfield as employment land, enhancing the flying functions and putting a stop to a 1200 new housing development
- 4) Introduction of a Supplementary Planning Document for the University of Warwick Stratford upon Avon Campus at Wellesbourne, to encourage economic growth and generate high calibre jobs for local people
- 5) Launching the Driving Economic Growth Summit in the district in February 2023
- 6) Distribution of £73 million worth of grants to support and safeguard local businesses during and post the pandemic
- 7) Raising over £25 million in grants for capital projects over the last four years

Every cloud has a silver lining and whilst the local elections delivered disappointing results, I am looking forward to holding the LibDems to account as it is now their turn to make the difficult decisions, and I am consequently welcoming the clearer space in my diary for the grandchildren and golf!

7. Community representative's report

i. Warwickshire College

No report was sent.

ii. The Villager

Jane Cleeton read the following report:-

The last few months have been really good with lots of content from college & groups in the local area I do hope that the Parish Council will continue to give a full report, Claire Monks reports were well received.

I would like to Thank the Parish Council for funding the wages. Naomi has now moved on to University & her sister Emily has taken over the delivery. My thanks to Naomi for doing a grand job. Thanks also to WCC for sponsoring the villager & Pete Gibbins in the print room for putting it all together.

iii. Village Hall

Mike Harwood read the following report:-

The has been limited use since COVID. Rentals have included Parish Council meetings, children's parties, school discos, allotment association AGM, fabulous supper events and more recently the gardening club.

A management committee was formed to consider other uses of the hall and its attraction. The coffee club mornings did not attract sufficient numbers and the use by youngsters for the pool table, tennis table and table football drew little support. Recently the hall has been used as a village polling station.

The halls irregular use and cost of electricity has required support to ensure that the rental is not unattractive.

The future of the hall has recently been challenged by reports undertaken for damp and structural surveyors report. These reports identified significant works are possibly required. The future of this valuable asset community asset is to be discussed due to the costs of the anticipated work required.

Cllr Parry enquired about re-imbursement of the PC for the structural report , Mike replied this need to be discussed.

vi. Moreton Morrell Parochial Church Council

Clive Irwin filed the following report:-

Thank you for the opportunity to present a report on behalf of Moreton Morrell PCC

Over the past year, services on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1030 am have been re-established – Holy communion led by Rev Lynda Lilley on the 1st, and Primetime led by Church members on the 3rd.

Although congregations are still small compared to pre Covid, there are a regular group of attendees who meet up in The Room for conversation and refreshments following the services.

A successful Craft fair has been introduced and will occur again in Autumn 2023 in the Church and Churchyard.

In addition, the back of the Church hosts a space for young children during the service surrounded by a free to access book collection with a range of adult and children's books.

The Room hosts a variety of events/ groups and has been enhanced by having Wi Fi access installed which reaches both the Church and the Room. The kitchen facility allows functions with food and refreshments for up to 50 people (seated). It has acted as the base for The Warm Hub which hosts lunches on Tuesdays for those who wish to attend which is run by volunteers but not directly linked to the Church.

The Churchyard itself remains a haven for rest and meditation with a useful commemorative bench just inside the entrance gate. The grounds are attended to by the Churchyard working group who usually convene on a Saturday morning 2 or 3 times a year to tidy up and reinvigorate the grass and verges.

The ongoing issue of consistent funding remains a serious challenge with the reduction in footfall and reduced regular giving. We will be trying to address this through communication in The Villager, and other initiatives as well as ongoing fundraising. Any grants or donations are very gratefully received as our current income does not match outgoings and our contribution to the Parish share is threatened.

The PCC are always keen to welcome new members who might want to become active members, particularly in the absence of 2 experienced Church wardens who have stood down and yet to be replaced – a significant loss to the Church and its members.

The Remembrance Sunday service and laying of wreaths in November was well attended and a poignant reminder of what we owe.

Rev Lilley is currently unsupported by a Curate and is responsible for 4 Churches in the benefice, with the added challenge of the new development at Upper Lighthorne.

We are hopeful that upcoming events in which the Church are involved will be as well supported as the 9 lessons and Carols service which was a beautiful combination of song, readings and praise just prior to Christmas itself.

Upcoming events include – Community choir concert Sat 24th June in Church, preceded by a Choir workshop aimed at children.

Sun 25th June Flower workshop 11 am-4pm

Village School / Church fete Sat 8th July in the school grounds.

v. Gardening Club

Eileen Edwards filed and read out the following report:-

In December 2022 a new Gardening Group was set up thanks to the initial funding and support of the Parish Council.

The group has been a big success with currently 25 members as well as visitors attending most meetings.

A varied programme of speakers and garden visits has been established running up to December 2023.

Although membership fees now make the group just about self funding, with the cost of visiting speakers averaging around £100 it is difficult to continue with a varied and interesting programme without some continued support from the Parish Council.

The group now has a bank account and treasurer and would be happy to share the accounts with the PC after a full year of operation.

To help sustain a successful village gardening group for the next year it is hoped the Parish Council would grant aid the group £200 for the next financial year.

vi. Allotments

John Moverley read out the following report:-

We have 30 plots on three sites and 27 tenants, all are occupied, and we have a waiting list. I would like to thank the Parish Council for the grant for replacing the gates and the hedge cutting by the Black Horse . We have improved our financial accountability by opening a new account with Metro Bank. Thank you

8. Matters of Interest

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.