

Annual Parish Meeting for Heytesbury, Knook & Tytherington

Tuesday, May 14th 2024, 7pm

Hospital of St John

Draft Minutes

Present:

Cllrs C. Barker Bennett (Minute Taker) , B. Coombes, P. Fellowes, V. Peters, V. Sturmey (Chair), M. Teale, N. Williams.

Cllr C. Newbury (Wiltshire Council)

6 Members of the public

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr S King.

2.a) Minutes of the Meeting on April 4th 2023.

These were approved and signed.

b) Minutes of the Meeting August 16th 2023

These were approved and signed after Cllr Sturmey's apologies were recorded.

3. Chair's End of Year Report 2023/24

Cllr Sturmey reported:

"What the Parish Council has been working on during the municipal year 2023 / 2024:

After meeting with residents who raised issues about speeding in Heytesbury, the council applied for a Speed Metro Count traffic survey. Unfortunately, the 3 areas: outside the school; in the high street near the Blind House, outside St John's near A36 and a location near Knook allotments did not meet the criteria to set up a Community Speed Watch scheme. However we have worked with the local highways and footpath improvement group and a scheme to provide new "Slow" road markings on Tytherington Road and a 30 mph red roundel with bar markings as drivers enter the village from Heytesbury roundabout have been approved and works should start shortly. 25% cost to the parish is £799.

In June the Council agreed to nominate the sports fields as an Asset of Community Value. This would give an interested group 6 months to raise funds and make a bid. Although this was approved by Wiltshire Council it was later rejected on appeal by the owners in November. In January a response from the owners was not favourable to any community bid.

In July the Parish Council resolved to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, and establish a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group made up of residents and councillors. The Steering Group /PC are looking for resident members to help our community in producing a plan with funding from "Locality". This is a 1-3 year project with various consultations along the way. Having a Neighbourhood Plan means parishes have more say and control in planning terms. Key priorities:

- i. protecting the sports fields
- ii. protecting and enhancing the environment of the village
- iii. meeting local housing needs (affordable housing)
- iv. providing a community centre.

The Council started: 1) a blue plaque heritage trail with the first plaque at the Blind House and others to follow; 2) a newsletter delivered to every residence in the parish; 3) drop-in councillor surgeries at various locations in the 3 villages, where residents can approach councillors informally.

The Outside Space Working group (OSWG) is in early discussion with highways about a site for a pollinator corridor to help encourage and sustain bees, butterflies and other insects and wildlife. The project can be funded from the Best Kept Village prize money and other sources.

Councillors are working in small groups to overhaul and revise council policies and find new ways the council can create, support or sponsor parish events and activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the councillor's past and present for their hard work this year and I look forward to working with members over the coming year."

4. Open Forum

Reports from Group's

1. Heytesbury Social:

Tina Sitwell reported that the annual bonfire night firework party had been sold out.

An experimental Cinema Event had been held in the church with a film for children in the afternoon and one for adults in the evening. It was a very sunny day so the children were otherwise engaged and 30 people came in the evening. They will try again!

The next event is the Picnic in the Red Lion garden August 25th 12pm - 4pm.

2. Church Projects to Improve Facilities:

Tina Sitwell spoke about exploring possible heating improvements after the previous system became defunct. A possible scheme using infrared tiles in chandeliers to heat people rather than spaces is under consideration.

Possible toilet provision is being explored.

Plans for “pods” at the west end of the church and glazing of the west doors is also a possibility.

Events: The Duck Race was impossible because of the height of the river and a Duck Hunt in the churchyard for children was held on Easter Saturday.

Future Events: Elton John tribute concert; a choral group concert at the end of August. The usual Summer Markets would begin on June 15th. (They would provide opportunities for Councillors to meet parishioners).

3. Knook Walled Garden Project:

Liza Kearney spoke about how this was set up in April 2022 with the kind permission of the Duff family. It provides children and young people with autism and other special needs to have experience in gardening and looking after chickens, rabbits etc. The Project is fulfilling a great need in the area. In addition to local children some have come from Salisbury, Warminster and Chippenham. Liza explained that a large proportion of children with serious special needs are home educated so parents are in need of support from others. Volunteers to help in a wide variety of ways are needed!

The Project has been funded by the Kearneys and donations from supporters. It is a Community Interest Organisation.

A serious problem has occurred about access to the Garden. Access from A36 has been banned by the Highway Authority. Access from Knook Lane is being considered but will cost £8-9000. Councillor Newbury agreed to look into the matter.

Following Liza's talk suggestions of possible financial support were made by those present: 1. Wiltshire Council via Warminster Community Engagement Manager; 2. Application to the Raymond Hall Fund; 3. The Fudge Trust, with which the Project is already in touch.

Cllr Coombes recommended Learning Outside the Classroom as an organisation which might give help.

4. Knook Allotments:

Cllr Sturmeay reported that the allotments were going strong. There is one vacant plot. Applications to Diana Walker (dwalker1236@gmail.com).

5. Church Choir:

Cllr Barker Bennett explained that the Choir sang on Sundays at the churches from Norton Bavant to Sherrington on a rota, They also sing at funerals and weddings, Rehearsals take place in Heytesbury Church on Thursdays 6.30-8pm. Those interested are free to come to rehearsals without committing to the church services. The Choir depends on Katherine Venning (Choir Director) and Mark Venning (Organist). There are about 15 members: new altos and basses would be particularly welcome.

Tina Sitwell said that more volunteer bell ringers would be welcomed.

6. AED Guardians:

A written report had been sent by Andy Frost, Chair:

“This year is our 10th Anniversary of the automatic electronic defibrillator at the shop, this lifesaving piece of equipment can be accessed by the public 24/7 and is looked after by a team of volunteer guardians.

With a £2,160 grant from the Raymond Trust and donations from our supporters we have taken on new leases for 2 machines at Knook (on the wall of the Pottow's dairy) and Tytherington (on a wall opposite the church) which should be installed shortly

Please look out for the date of our next free awareness evening on CPR and Defibrillator use delivered by the South western Ambulance Service here in the residents hall

The committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank our guardians and supporters who help to ensure the defibrillators are available and rescue ready in the event of an emergency.”

Cllr Sturmeay added that the school was planning to have a defibrillator. She recorded thanks to Andy Frost and his team.

Other Matters Raised

Litter pick May 25th 10am: Cllr Sturmeay announced that volunteers should meet at the school to work on the playground, including wire removal. Cllr Fellowes was planning work to the footpath on Park Street which has narrowed because of vegetation growth.

Grass Cutting in the churchyard was satisfactory. The roses by the War Memorial are to be replaced in the autumn.

Speeding by the School: The school could apply for a 20mph flashing sign. Installation of bus stop markings and double yellow lines were being explored.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Williams raised the lack of progress since last year. Cllr Sturmev said that it was proving to be a complicated matter and that more volunteers were needed to take the Plan forward. Cllr Fellowes had been promised a template, as used in Devizes, to provide a guide as to how to proceed. Cllr Newbury said that Mike Killminster at Wiltshire Council is responsible for assisting villages. The money has to come from Parish Councils.

Parish Clerk: in answer to a question from a member of the public, Cllr Sturmev confirmed that he was still employed by the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm