

HORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2021 HELD AT ST PETERS CHURCH, HORTON AT 6.00pm

1. **PRESENT** Cllrs Ann Winter – Chair, Ray Buckler – Vice Chair, Dave Johnson, Julie Layzell, Barry Mosely, Ann Richards and Richard Clifford
2. **Apologies** Cllrs Pippa Woodman and Jon Tipping.
3. **TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** Minutes of the meeting held in May 2019 having previously been circulated were approved as a true record and correct record of the meeting. Cllrs approved, seconded and unanimously agreed.
4. **TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** Minutes of the meeting held in May 2018 having previously been circulated were approved as a true record and correct record of the meeting. Cllrs approved, seconded and unanimously agreed.
5. **COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON THE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** None.
6. **TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**
 - Police – Attending at 6.45. Stephen Trace (PCSO) & Rob Chitty (Beat Manager) from Avon and Somerset in attendance. Please refer to bi-monthly January 2021 for full update. The neighbourhood team for the local area is:
 - Neighbourhood Sargent, Rob Jameson
 - PCSO Supervisor, Michelle Haimes
 - Beat Manager, Robert Chidgey
 - PCSO John Martin
 - PCSO Steve Trace
 - Tree Warden - A representative confirmed prior to the meeting there was nothing to report.
 - Methodist Church – Please refer to Appendix 1.
 - St Peters Church – Please refer to Appendix 2.
 - Mothers Union – The representative for St Peters Church informed the Council that the Mothers Union did not meet in 2020 due to COVID-19 and it is not known when the meetings will return.
 - Neroche Primary School – A representative was not present.
 - Ding Gardening Club – A representative confirmed prior to the meeting there was nothing to report.
 - Ramblers Walking Group – The walking group did not meet in 2020 due to COVID-19.
 - Cricket Club – A representative was not present.
 - Village Hall:
 - The representative confirmed that the hall has been closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19 which has resulted in a approximately £12,000 in loss of income however a grant of £10,000 was secured from South Somerset District Council to help cover the costs of lost income.
 - Two residents who sadly passed away recently left a donation to the Village Hall in their wills. monies in will to VH.
The Village Hall Committee have serious concerns regarding the proposed residential development adjoining the site and the potential of the occupiers of the proposed dwellings complaining about late night events and possible noise associated with these events.
 - The Village Hall Committee are currently looking for new members to join the committee as most existing committee members are over 70 and are worried for the future of the Village Hall.
 - Women’s Institute – A representative was not present.
 - Scouts - Please refer to Appendix 3.
7. **ANY PARISH ITEMS YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS, BY LAW AND PASS RESOLUTIONS ON THEM** There were no parish items to be discussed and therefore no resolutions passed.

APPENDIX 1 – BROADWAY HILL METHODIST CHURCH REPORT

Romans 8 v 38 & 39 have been a treasure through the Covid 19 lockdown. “For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love, neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below – there is nothing in all creation that will be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus.

WORSHIP

The preachers planned for the early part of the year have been appreciated. Public worship shut on March 16th only to resume after risk assessment from June, on July 26th. Full Covid safety guidelines from The Government and the Methodist Church have enabled tests and preparations to be made to keep participants safe.

Rev Anna has taken her Sabbatical to return as Rev Philip Wagstaff and Philips wife Rev Catherine left to serve in Kent. Rev Anna now takes up the post of Superintendent for the Circuit. Through August, September and October services have been advertised in the Parish News, Village website and church Bulletins sent to each on the Community Roll and Membership. There have been services available most weeks either at St Peter’s or Broadway Hill. It is helpful to know of those planning to come.

Alternatives for worship have been printed services from the British Methodist Connexion www.methodist.org.uk, livestreams, Reflections from Local Preachers and Rev Anna, Circuit Zoom prayer, Coffee Morning and training. The Methodist Prayer phone line number was made available, Prayer notes were distributed. Word for Today has been delivered or posted. UCB TV and radio has been a help. Wonderful to have friends from Ilminster Methodist and St Peter’s join one or two services.

People have been informed of the conference call service led by Rev Anna at 10.45am on Sundays.

Mrs Elizabeth Beattie offered a service for November 1st All Saints Day. Remembrance on 8th Nov 10.55am along with the usual Broadway Memorial Service led by Rev Phil Denison.

LEARNING/CARING

7 members have moved away since February; We shall miss the gifts of these faithful sisters and brothers.

Lockdown has provided a learning curve for remote relationships, risk assessments and the choreography of social distancing! Also the art of receiving as well as giving!

Four of us attended training for Unconscious Bias at B Hill via Zoom. The Circuit was well represented. This format is an offer for the Church Council assured of social distancing.

SERVICE

With buildings shut, phone lines were busy keeping in touch with Chattabox friends and others. Daily walks took on significance, meeting and talking with neighbours and friends.

Now planning small groups up to six; (current guidelines)

- Prayer Group notes are used at home
- Chattabox now opens for 4 guests with two volunteers twice on Thursday mornings – The Community Slinky Bus picks up three ladies with mobility needs, for which we are very grateful.
- Tuesday Life Group has morphed into “Tuesday Takeaway” for six friends using local meals obtained from the Post Office each fortnight. A microwave is installed in the Sanctuary and all disposable utensils placed in black bin.

- One Coffee Morning was held on a Saturday morning with two new friends.
- Horton Computer Hub is experimenting with 4 guests invited and two volunteers. There is a common theme so there will be an informal presentation with discussion. Roger Doughty has collated responses and questions. It is hoped to work through the clients gradually.
- Joyce Pickering leads Blythswood here, and is hoping for success at Barrington Village Hall to pack and check the Shoeboxes soon. Also Joyce and husband Paul have contributed over £300 for the Food Bank from the sale of their garden produce this Summer. A huge thanks!

ECUMENICAL

Rev Phil Denison offered Sunday Zoom at 5.50pm, later Benefice churches opened for prayer once a week. Now services are planned across the month. Broadway Hill plans in Family Praise on 3rd Sunday. United Harvest was held at St Peter's 6th Oct with donations for the Food Bank.

We welcome Philip Albrow as the newly ordained deacon alongside Rev Phil. The local church leaders have met on Zoom during Rev Anna leave. Sue was able to attend some of these to represent B Hill.

It is hoped to have a united service of some sort before too long.

EVANGELISM

Please pray that we as church will be good news within this community and Beyond. SEP 7.10.20

POSTSCRIPT 17th Jan 2021

With the latest Lockdown all previously mentioned have been cancelled until guidelines allow. However we seek to be in a state of readiness to book small groups, and resume on a limited capacity. The village website keeps the information up to date.

90 Christmas Child Boxes were sent to Romania over Christmas from this area, more than the previous year. 4560 boxes were sent through Blythswood from TA19 together. An amazing result!

The building has proved efficient for being covid-secure. So the changes to the building in 2015 have been invaluable.

APPENDIX 2 – ST PETER’S CHURCH

We had our normal pattern of services throughout January 2020. On February 2nd the Church was closed for re-decoration, and the services took place in the Church room up until 22nd March when we were placed in Lockdown, and the Church closed. We were very fortunate that a generous member of our congregation offered to pay for the repairs, and redecoration of St Peter’s. This has made a huge difference.

Sadly, due to Covid 19 St Peter’s was not open fully until 23rd August – although it was open for Private Prayer on a Wednesday afternoon, and available for funerals.

Our only fundraising in 2020 was 2 Lent lunches in February, and our meat draw on the run up to Christmas. This has left our finances seriously depleted, therefore we remain grateful to Horton Parish Council for their continued support, in awarding a £400 grant towards the upkeep of the Parish graveyard.

We were thankful, and very pleased that we were able to open St Peter’s again, for our Harvest Festival, and also for our Advent services. This included the Christmas tree lighting, our Carol Service, and Christingle service. Collections of which were donated to the Ilminster Food bank, Children’s Hospice South West, and the Children’s Society. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Crib service, and Christmas Eve Communion because of the worsening effect of the virus.

Throughout lockdown St Peter’s Church has been kept Covid secure, and we look forward to the time when we can open our doors once again.

APPENDIX 3 – ILTON SCOUT GROUP

Many thanks for the invitation to your recent Parish Council meeting. Unfortunately in the event I was unable to link into the meeting but am aware that we were invited to submit a report. Hopefully the brief update below will give an understanding of our current position and our great appreciation for donations which were received from yourselves and other organisations and individuals over the past year.

As you may be aware, the leaders have adapted magnificently to keep the group together and they deliver a weekly session on-line using Zoom for each of the sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. These have covered a wide range of activities including scientific experiments, cooking and virtual camps. As a result membership has remained relatively high and we have a waiting list for new members who we look forward to welcoming when we are able to return to face to face meetings.

In order to keep membership accessible to as many children as possible in the current circumstances, we are subsidising the cost of overheads from our small reserve and have temporarily cut subs by 66%. This has in not small part been made possible by Broadway Village Hall Committee generously putting on hold any charges, fundraising and the donations received from other organisations. This has enabled us to continue providing the materials needed to deliver the on-line practical sessions and to purchase the many badges earned by the children during lockdown.

Your interest in the group and your commitment to it over many years is greatly appreciated.