

NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held via zoom on Friday 16 April 2021

Present:, Cllr Welbourn in the chair, Cllr Babey, Cllr Cook, Cllr Merrill, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Penman (HCC), Cllr Reilly and Cllr Tipp (NFDC).

Apologies: Cllr Antrobus, Cllr Puttock, Victoria Spraggs-Sutton, Neighbourhood watch, R Taylor (NFNPA) and CI Andrews.

In attendance:, PCSO Richard Williams, W Bewes, D Bond, B Loades, Steven Lorton, Alison Talbot (CAB), Heather Lawrence Parish Clerk, Ros Cooper RFO/Assistant Parish Clerk.

The meeting started by observing a minutes silence in memory of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

1. Welcome – Cllr Welbourn welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting 26th April 2019 were taken as read.
3. Business of the Parish Council 2020/2021 – Chairman Cllr Mike Welbourn read the report, see appendix 1.
4. Police Report – Local Policing - PCSO Richard Williams outline a very different year with Covid 19. He outlined reports received from members of the public, with just one fine issued in Netley Marsh. Burglaries, particularly from outbuildings continue as do car and catalytic converter thefts. Speedwatch can resume from 19 April and PCSO Williams has volunteer training in hand. More volunteers would be very welcome. He was asked about dog theft, there has been none in his area to date. PCSO Williams then left the meeting.
5. Netley Marsh Community Hall report, Cllr Jacque Shaw read the report see appendix 2.
7. Neighbourhood Watch report – Victoria Spraggs-Sutton no report received.
8. District Councillors report – Cllr Derek Tipp gave the report on behalf of himself and Cllr Reilly, see appendix 3.
9. County Councillor Report – Cllr Neville Penman gave a statistical report only due to Purdah in anticipation of the May elections. Mr Loades asked why in view of spending to support reductions in climate change so little was done to use local rivers and streams. See appendix 4
10. NFNPA Report – Richard Taylor gave a report on NFNPA matters including information on the developing walking/cycling infrastructure. Cllr Welbourn made Mr Taylor aware of concerns re Paradise Copse. Cllr Babey will take some photographs of the site. See appendix 5.
11. Age Concern Village Agent report – Willi Bewes outlined his work as the Village Agent, offering help with form filling for benefits and grants etc., and working with other charities to assist local residents.
- 12 New Forest Citizen Advice Bureau report – Alison Talbot gave a PowerPoint presentation on the work of the CAB and in particular in to how it had changed in response to Covid 19, substantially increasing email, online and telephone working.
13. Public Questions and comments Steven Lorton said Paultons were very pleased to have opened again on 12 April, with a new attraction though limited numbers. Everyone wished the facility well for the coming year.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Appendix 1.

Annual Report for Netley Marsh Parish Council

April 2020 – March 2021

As with the rest of the world we have adapted to a different way of life during the last year.

In May 2020, due to covid-19 parish councils were allowed to not hold their Annual Meeting of the parish council and all elected positions remained in place for the following year. I therefore continued as the Chairman and Cllr Antrobus as the Vice Chairman.

We have mastered holding our meeting on Zoom and the council continued to deal with many matters, I would like to highlight the following points:

Planning

The Parish council continues with a dedicated planning session immediately prior to the Parish Council monthly meetings. This provides parishioners with a forum to comment on planning matters while keeping additional costs to a minimum. We oversaw 40 planning applications, which have been received and actioned during the year, this is a decrease on the 47 applications considered last year.

Housing

Residents will be aware of a recent planning application for a development on land in the north of the parish together with land in the Totton and Eling Council area.

Police

The Council is kept informed on police matters mainly through the monthly update sent via Hampshire Alert. PCSO Richard Williams is in touch with the Council and attends our meetings when his rota allows. He has set up a small speed watch group in the Parish, although additional members are still required. We welcome Richard to the meeting this evening and we look forward to hearing more in his report.

National Park

The Parish Council has been represented at Quadrant meetings over the past year. Richard Taylor is our representative at NFNPA and we welcome him to meetings as his other commitments allow.

Hall, Recreation Ground with the play area and outdoor gym

The Council continues to work with the Hall Committee to keep this excellent indoor facility available for the Parish. Our Groundsman James Shadick inspects the play area, has implemented a new cutting regime making access to the field facilities easier and helps with other tasks around the parish as necessary.

In July, a small pedestrian gate was installed by the main car park gate. This is to give additional safety so that children cannot run out into the road.

The Council was very pleased to install a zip wire in the recreation field in September 2020 following consultation with older children of the parish.

Netley Marsh School

The Parish Council is no longer represented on the Netley Marsh School Governors but receives the school Newsletter which is very welcome as a means of communication.

Flooding

The situation on flooding, while still ongoing continues to see improvements. With HCC approval, the Lengthsman has cleared grips and created new ones in some areas.

We encourage residents to keep their ditches clear and always welcome residents advising us of any problems within the parish.

Outlook

Covid – 19 has had an impact on our magazine in the last year.

The Summer 2020 and the Spring 2021 editions have not been produced as delivery would have not been possible during lockdown.

We aim to produce the Summer 2021 edition.

The magazine is normally published three times a year and has regular contributors along with a high number of occasional contributors. The Parish Council feels that this is a valuable contribution to the parish as a way of communicating with parishioners, and is grateful to Ramboll for continuing to print the newsletter as a service to the community. Local advertisements are welcome.

Parish Councillors are most grateful to Tina Vine who continues as Outlook Editor, creating a vibrant and colourful newsletter. Tina and Cllr Jacqui Shaw organise the distribution of the magazine and the Parish Council thanks them as well as the distribution team. A new

Delivery co-ordinator is required as well as additional people to help with the deliveries. If anyone has some spare time, please let the clerk know.

Bus Services

The Council is pleased that Shareen Barnett, continues to represent the parish at the New Forest Passenger Transport Forum.

A326/A336

The Council has concerns about the A326 and the proposed developments along the Waterside which will inevitably increase congestion with potential to impact the local roads.

The A336 has seen an increase in speeding traffic as well as lorries using this road instead of going via M27 Junction 2 and the A326. The parish council is working with local residents, HCC, NFDC and the local police to try to improve the ongoing problem.

Footpaths

Following requests from parishioners, some years ago the Council made an application to change the designation of Footpath 5 to a Bridleway. We understand progress remains in the distant future but we remain hopeful. On other footpaths and bridleways to some extent the Council relies on members of the public to advise when works are required.

Noticeboards & Bus Shelter

The parish has four noticeboards which are kept updated by our clerk.

In November 2020 our handyman was able to replace the roof of the bus shelter on Ringwood Road, which is a great improvement.

Parish Website

We have a new website, which we hope you will all find an improvement on our old website. This is regularly updated with minutes and agendas of meetings and other useful information. Links to various organisations are listed and more would be welcome.

Broadband

Disappointingly, broadband speeds continue to be variable – both the actual speed and in terms of location within the Parish.

Staff

- We continue to have Heather as our clerk and Ros as our Responsible Finance Officer and assistant clerk.

Councillors

As well as attending Parish Council meetings, Councillors give freely of their time to attend meetings organised by other bodies such as, Citizens Advice Bureau, New Forest Consultative Panel, New Forest Association of Local Councils, NFNPA Quadrant meetings and Netley Marsh Hall Committee.

Currently Councillors are: Derek Antrobus , Bridget Babey, Tim Cook, Sharon Merrill, Les Puttock, Jacquie Shaw and myself Mike Welbourn.

In closing my report, I wish to thank my current Vice Chairman, Derek Antrobus. I wish to thank all Parish Councillors for their support and commitment, the Parish Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer/Assistant Clerk. Thanks also to James Shadick our handyman.

Cllr Mike Welbourn

Chairman Netley Marsh Parish Council

Appendix 2

Netley Marsh Community Hall report

After the first government lockdown all the use of the Hall stopped apart from by the Preschool. Initially the preschool opened for children of parents who were essential workers but they ended up taking more children but not as many as before the lockdown.

The Preschool made a request to the committee for some financial help as their income was reduced and the committee agreed to reducing their rent by 50% until the end of the summer term when it will be reviewed.

The lockdown and this rent reduction from the Preschool will mean that the Hall will run at a loss in 2020 and possibly in 2021. Our strong financial position means that we can cope with this situation.

Under the government guidelines the Hall will reopen for unlimited public bookings from the 21st June and we are already getting some enquiries. The Gardening Club have told us that they will not be booking the Hall in 2021 as they are going to a larger hall where they can create more space around the attendees. This may also happen to some of our other regular hirers.

In preparation for the reopening after the first lockdown, which did not happen, we installed liquid soap dispensers in the toilet and a hand sanitiser in the main entrance

We have yet to be advised of what the requirements will be for cleaning between hirings but we are hoping that they will not be too onerous as we do not have a cleaner who wants to take on more cleaning.

Bob White Chairman of the Hall Committee

Appendix 3

NFDC Report given by Cllr Derek Tipp

District Council Report 2021

Like everything else, the past year of District Council activity has been overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately the Council has made big investments in ICT which has allowed it to continue to provide critical services with the majority of staff working from home. Members have continued to meet virtually, including planning and licensing. Now that lockdown is ending we will see how these changes will affect our working practices in the long term. A new website was launched in July which is easier to navigate for our residents.

The Council has distributed £82 million of financial support to local businesses from central government. They have also given £0.5 million of council tax relief. 130 homeless people have been housed during the year using £800,000 of government funding.

By this April the Council has acquired 200 more homes for rent and shared ownership. By 2026 we hope to have a total of 600 extra council homes at a cost of £53 million.

This year has sadly seen a 59% increase in fly-tipping, resulting in a 66% increase in the cost of cleaning it up. The cost is now £100,000 a year.

In August 2020 urgent repairs were needed to the Milford sea wall. 15000 tons of rock were imported to stabilise it and £0.25 million funding from the Environment Agency was granted for scoping work for a much larger more permanent scheme to be put together.

In spring 2022 new toilet facilities are due to open on Lymington Quay. The existing facilities at Calshot and Barton are to be improved to make them covid secure and re-opened.

The pandemic has resulted in a long term budget gap of £2.5 million over the next three years. To close this we must look at alternative methods of service delivery. We have already embarked on a scheme whereby the Council has entered into partnership with a not for profit company (Freedom Leisure) to run our leisure centres, saving £7 to 8 million over the next decade.

You will be aware that the Council is currently undergoing a review of its waste collection service. There are likely to be changes including a separate food waste collection service to comply with government legislation. The possible introduction of wheelie bins is very controversial and no final decision has been made on this. An increase in recycling rates is an important driver of this review. We are currently waiting for the details in a government bill due to be published soon before deciding on the new service.

Big changes are starting to take place in our district with the large increase in housing numbers in the new Local Plan. The development on the old Fawley power station is the largest in Southern England with 1400 homes. There are other big developments including over 900 in the north of this parish as you know. There is no doubt that the accumulative effect over the coming decades will be significant with increased traffic a dominant issue of concern.

The local Freeport bid has succeeded in getting to the final short-list and they will now have to prepare a detailed bid to try and secure government approval to go ahead. If approved it should bring more skilled jobs and put extra money into this district. What might prove less welcome is the extra development along the Waterside and the likely extra traffic once again.

Finally I am delighted to inform you that I have been put forward to become the district council chairman for the forthcoming civic year.

Appendix 4

HCC Report given by Cllr Neville Penman

Hampshire County Councillor, Totton North and Netley Marsh Cllr Neville Penman

Annual Parish Meeting Report 2021

Facts and Figures Hampshire's population is 1,376,300 (2018) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban). Hampshire CC maintains 5400 miles of roads, 4300 miles of pavements, 133,000 streetlights, 481 schools, 45 libraries, 3 Discovery centres and 1 e-library, 16 care homes with 960 beds for older people, 24 household waste centres and 5 country parks. Every year 94% of all household waste is diverted from landfill (40% recycled) is burnt for energy and powers 50,000 homes. Everyday 454,000 people travel to work by car or van, 86,000 bus journeys are made, and 4% of journeys are by train. More than half of Hampshire's EU citizens have signed up to the Government's EU settlement scheme.

Public Health - Coronavirus (Covid-19) Hampshire County Council continues to play a significant role supporting vulnerable residents and providing local guidance and information. To date over 32 million people in the UK have received their first dose of the vaccine.

The Hampshire County Council helpline is available for frail or vulnerable residents who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.

HCC approves £2.1 billion spending on local services in 2021/22. Plans for the financial year focus on the county's ongoing work associated with the pandemic, support for vulnerable children and adults, investment in Hampshire's roads and infrastructure to support economic recovery, as well as climate change mitigation.

The annual council tax charge for a band D property will be £1,350.45 an increase of £1.23 per week, equating to 4.99% of which 3% is for adults social care a government request. The budget includes £13 million for the maintenance of 5,500 miles of roads and an extra £1.2 million in carbon reduction measures across the County Council. HCC's four year capital programme of £744 million is one of the largest in the country.

The proposed capital programme includes: £68 million in new and extended school buildings to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire - £118 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years - £91 million for integrated transport schemes including over £18 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements - £141 million for major improvements of school and other County Council buildings and land holdings over three years - £33 million for decarbonisation schemes covering solar PV, single to double glazing window replacement, transition from oil to gas and the implementation of heating controls.

Climate Change - HCC has been taking active steps to ensure Hampshire is resilient to climate change and in mitigating further changes through carbon reduction measures. HCC's own emissions have reduced by more than 43% with more than a 50% reduction by 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

The 2050 Hampshire Commission of Enquiry placed climate change and the environment as its top priority, In the budget HCC pledged £2m towards climate change measures in addition to the capital schemes outlined above. HCC is aware its greatest leadership and influence will be achieved by working in partnership with District, City and Parish Councils, businesses and communities via the Expert Forum. At a household level HCC is supporting the county-wide Greening Campaign (aims to find simple solutions around reducing and measuring power consumption, insulating housing stock, reducing water usage, sourcing local food, community travel and renewable energy schemes), the Help line, Solar Buy-in scheme and community energy projects

Councillor grants over the 4 years - I supported local causes in my Division with grants amounting to £32000

NFNPA Report to Netley Marsh Annual Parish Meeting 16/04/21



The past twelve months have been extremely challenging for all.

Throughout the pandemic NFNPA have continued to operate using online meetings and home working. As restrictions ease it seems inevitable that this will change, and we will have to adapt to the situation as it evolves.

The restrictions on foreign travel during the pandemic resulted in significant increases in visitor numbers to the New Forest last year which brought many well publicised problems. Forest organisations across the board co-operated to try and manage the situation. A ban on all barbecues, with help from local retailers who stopped selling disposable barbecues reduced the fire risk during a very dry year. The New Forest Ambassadors were launched to help with the litter problems, along with the many other volunteer litter pickers – thanks go to all these for their help. Verge parking was a problem as carparks became full and thousands of cars were ‘stickered’ by rangers. The New Forest Code was publicised at all opportunities to encourage visitors to enjoy the Forest responsibly.

This year we expect visitor numbers to be very high again. A Joint action plan – CARE FOR THE FOREST, CARE FOR EACH OTHER - has been put in place developed by NFNPA, NFDC, Forestry England, and Go New Forest (Tourism) with support from the Verderers, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, and Hampshire Constabulary. Details of this can be found on the NFNPA Website News page. This is a constantly evolving plan and subject to regular update as the situation evolves. If you want to get involved there is a lot of information online to explain how to do this. Again we are promoting the ‘New Forest Code’ as much as possible as a clear and simple guide for how to enjoy the New Forest responsibly, and there are details online of how to report problems.

There are several ongoing issues of local interest.

The article 4 direction and legal issues regarding damage to protected trees at 'Terry's Patch'.

A list of 'non-designated heritage assets' has been produced. These are buildings of local interest which are not fully listed.

The Forest North East Conservation Area Management Plan is due to be updated.

The Heritage Lottery funded 'Our Past Our Future' project has now come to an end. A summary of its achievements can be found on the NFNPA website landscape partnership pages.

The 'Partnership Plan for the New Forest' is currently being updated and there will be a consultation on this plan in the near future. This is the joint management plan for the National Park and involves all the statutory bodies in the Forest.

Richard Taylor – NFNPA NE Quadrant Parish Member