

NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at the Community Hall on Friday 1 April 2022

Present:, Cllr Welbourn in the chair, Cllr Babey, Cllr Cook, Cllr Merrill, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Haysom, Cllr Penman (HCC), and Cllr Tipp (NFDC), R Taylor (NFNPA) . Rev. John Reeves, Victoria Spraggs-Sutton, Neighbourhood watch, Alison Talbot NFCAB, Richard Williams PCSO, Parish Clerk and RFO/Assistant Parish Clerk.

Apologies had been received from Julian Lewis MP, Steve Thomas (hall committee) and Mathew Bowen (NM School).

1. Welcome – Cllr Welbourn welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting 16th April 2021 held via Zoom were taken as read.
3. Business of the Parish Council 2021/2022 – Chairman Cllr Mike Welbourn read the report, see appendix 1.
4. Neighbourhood Watch report – Victoria Spraggs-Sutton gave a reported the aim of the group was to encourage community interaction and minimise crime. It is hoped to go to a non subscription membership with the use of more online information and newsletters. A website and public and member on sections on Facebook are in preparation.
5. Police Report – Local Policing - PCSO Richard Williams reported. PCSO Williams will report back on an update on the situation regarding the arson at Paultons Cricket Club. see appendix 2.
6. District Councillors report – Cllr Derek Tipp gave the report on behalf of himself and Cllr Reilly, see appendix 3.
7. County Councillor Report – Cllr Neville Penman gave his report and spoke about improvements at Totton Station. See appendix 4
8. NFNPA Report – Richard Taylor gave a report on NFNPA matters. See appendix 5.
9. New Forest CAB – Alison Talbot gave a report on a very busy year. They have been involved in research with Southampton University showing that a standard basket of items in a local shop is +/- £20.00 more expensive than in the larger stores, with a 12% rise recently. Where public transport is minimal this can be a particular problem. There is great concern about unrecognised poverty in the New Forest, especially with the sudden rise in the cost of living. Help and support are available we all need to work to ensure people are aware of this The Nearest food banks are Totton and Ashurst. There is a community Food Larder on Wednesday mornings.
10. Netley Marsh Church – The Rev John Reeves spoke about the Church Hall, the Church School and the Church itself. The recent school inspection had graded the school Good. There are concerns about the church which could close if repairs to the floor are not carried out. Finance is the problem.
11. Netley Marsh Community Hall – Cllr Jacquie Shaw gave the report on behalf of the Hall Chairman who was unwell. See appendix 6.
12. Netley Marsh School – no report had been received.
13. Public Questions and comments – activities around the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen were raised, there will be a special church service on 5 June. It is hoped the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch will liaise over the opening of the path on the recreation ground, with a community picnic on 4 June.
14. After refreshments New Forest Beekeepers gave a most interesting presentation on local beekeeping and answered numerous questions.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed

Date

Appendix 1.

Annual Report for Netley Marsh Parish Council

April 2021 – March 2022

It is lovely to be able to meet face to face this year, as last year's meeting was via zoom.

Despite the covid 19 restrictions earlier in the early part of last year the Parish Council have continued to deal with many matters, I would like to highlight the following points:

Planning

The Parish council continues with a dedicated planning committee that meets 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 28 planning applications, which have been received and actioned during the year, this is a decrease on the 40 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 grounds continue to be kept tidy and are well used by residents.

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

Having been unable to produce some of the previous editions due to Covid – 19 we were pleased to be able to continue with 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. We are grateful to Ramboll for printing the newsletter for many years as a service to the community. From the Spring 2022 edition the Parish Council now pays for printing. 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 Jacque 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 problems.

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

We have four noticeboards which are kept updated by our clerk and we maintain one bus shelter outside of St Matthews Church.

Parish Website

Our website 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, New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau, New Forest Consultative Panel, New Forest Association of Local Councils, NFNPA Quadrant meetings and Netley Marsh Hall Committee.

Currently Councillors are: Bridget Babey, Tim Cook, Sharon Merrill, Jacquie Shaw, our newest councillor Tony Haysom and myself Mike Welbourn.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the time and commitment that was given by Cllr Puttock and Cllr Antrobus, who both sadly passed away last year.

In closing my report, I wish to thank my current Vice Chairman, Tim Cook. I wish to thank all Parish Councillors for their support and commitment, the Parish Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer/Assistant Clerk.

Cllr Mike Welbourn

Chairman Netley Marsh Parish Council

Appendix 2

Hampshire Police report - PCSO Williams

NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL AGM 2022

Again this year there have been 3 main areas of focus as a result of the crimes and issues that have been reported to us

BURGLARY – these are both residential (HOMES) and non-residential (OUTBUILDINGS) and happen across the Forest especially when most people's outbuildings are a long way from their houses.

OP TREADSTONE was started by New Forest Heart Cops in November of last year when there was an increase in these thefts and also thefts from cars and vans parked in hotel and pub car parks. This was particularly a problem in MINSTEAD and STONEY CROSS but the crimes were being committed all over including the HAYWAIN in Bartley, Netley Marsh and on Woodlands Road. OP TREADSTONE ended in a car being caught in the act at the Stoney Cross Travel Lodge, sadly it rammed us and made off but that car was later found burnt out in a Forest car park. A different car we found parked near to the Cadnam roundabout still had stolen property in it and a forensic examination of it has given us a DNA match for an offender so we are hopeful of some good results soon. BUT THERE HAS BEEN A REAL DECLINE – almost to nothing – on those types of crimes since the incident at the Travelodge which is now three months ago. PLEASE TOUCH SOME WOOD WHEN YOU READ THIS.

Thefts from Motor Vehicles will start to increase again with the arrival of the holiday season. That means that we will be re starting OP KOEMAN soon which is the operation that since we started it 6 years ago has seen a reduction of just over a third in that crime BUT we need to keep driving the message home about never leaving any valuables on display in your vehicle and taking them with you. We will be patrolling the Beat with the help of the cadets throughout the holiday season and would encourage you to tell your family and friends too please.

OP KOEMAN will also include the New Forest campsite and pub and hotel car parks and will be targeting people with bikes with the same message – DON'T LEAVE THEM UNATTENDED or they will be stolen.

SPEEDING – OP MOUNTIE – in response to speeding across the Forest and in the villages and towns we have increased our enforcement operations especially on Roger Penny Way. With our partners at Forestry England, the National Park Authority, New Forest District Council and the New Forest Roads Awareness Team we have held many sessions where drivers receive a mixture of enforcement and education and it is working really well and the good news is that it's being franchised out across the Forest so I am hopeful that we can do something similar in and around Netley Marsh.

We now have a Netley Marsh Speed Watch team – its two people and we are always open to having new members – 2021 wasn't a good year for the team but we hope to be out and about much more in 2022.

Another issue across the Forest and in this parish is FLY TIPPING – sadly it would be almost impossible for us to catch someone in the actual act of dumping rubbish and they very rarely leave any evidence with the rubbish they dump so we have started (again with our partner agencies) holding enforcement days where we stop all vans going down Lyndhurst High Street and check what they are carrying and if they have the right licences. Again we will be bringing this to the rest of the Forest so watch this space – I'm hoping to ask the carpet warehouse if we can use their car park to the same here soon.

Those are the major issues that we have reported to us and that is how we are looking to deal with them – we still try and visit all victims of crime on our Beat – and we would encourage anyone with any issues to contact us directly except in an emergency when you should always dial 999.

At the moment we are waiting to appoint a new Police Officer to the beat but I am still your PCSO and can be contacted on 07554 775469 or Richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk

If anyone has any questions about Policing in Netley Marsh or in the New Forest generally then please contact me directly.

Appendix 3

NFDC Report - Cllr Derek Tipp

District Council Report 2021 – 22

The Freeport

The Solent Freeport offers a once in a generation opportunity to drive economic growth within the District, and also, hopefully, to give residents access to the training and skills they need to take advantage of new employment opportunities. It will not be a panacea to the economic challenges ahead, no one has claimed it will be, and it will not be without its challenges. Especially around the infrastructure required to ensure that it does not cause further congestion or environmental damage.

We live in a changing world and we do our community no favours by being left behind. Some fear it may lead to too much development, but what are the alternatives? Either we give it our support and embrace it or we reject it. The experts estimate that the Solent Freeport will create 26,000 jobs and £2billion GVA directly within the Solent for the residents of Totton and the Waterside.

Town centre investment

The Council also plans to provide over £1million for the regeneration of our town centres to support and grow the local economy. The Council will begin consulting with the Town Council, community groups and residents of Totton this summer, about their vision for the town over the next 20 years. This money is available due to the Council's sound financial management.

Council Tax

We will continue to make prudent decisions, to ensure that we deliver for our residents, but in a way that is financially sustainable. With UK inflation currently at over 5%, and the Council's energy costs predicted to increase by over 90%, we are unable to reach any other decision than to increase Council Tax by five pounds on a band D dwelling, bringing the total share of the Council Tax that this Council will receive to £188.36 per band D property for the coming year, less than £3.63 per week. While no-one wants to see their overall Council Tax bill increase, for this year at least, with the £150 government council tax support payment, more than 60% of households within our District will pay less Council Tax in the coming year than last, by about eighty-five pounds.

Housing

Our Housing Revenue Account budget includes maintenance budgets of over £10million, and a budget to improve fire safety measures of £5½million. Also over £14million in the coming year to fund additional housing numbers to reduce the waiting list. A few days ago, in my role as Chairman, I opened a new block of six high spec. newly refurbished studio flats for homeless people. I was very impressed with the quality.

Our medium-term financial plan shows a deficit of just under £1.9million by 2025. This is a challenge, but through our sensible investments in service efficiency, for example, to ensure our ICT keeps pace with technological change, increased income from investment property (an additional £278,000 this year) and other efficiencies, such as reviewing our corporate estate with a view to reducing office space, in light of new ways of working, we are confident that this gap can be closed.

Our General Fund Capital programme for the coming year totals over £17million. Delivery of vital Capital projects, such as over £3.6million for coastal monitoring and works, £7million to sustain and modernise our waste and recycling service, including £4million for a new depot to replace the one at Hounslow is made possible through using some of the reserves we have accumulated and the Council's track record of making revenue contributions to capital financing, when it is able to do so.

We have awarded over £215,000 in community grants this year and we have committed to provide £600,000 funding to Citizens Advice New Forest over the next three years. As Council Chairman it was my privilege to attend the opening of a new Advice Centre in New Milton on Wednesday.

During this past year as NFDC Chairman I have seen a number of excellent projects and attended the AGM's of some great organisations the Council has supported. Much of it goes un-noticed by most of the public.

Appendix 4

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

Update from Hampshire County Council Cllr Neville Penman for Annual Meeting of Netley March Parish Council 2022

The homes for Ukraine website is now live on Homes for Ukraine – Homes for Ukraine – Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine (campaign.gov.uk) Individuals and organisations who are interested in sponsoring a Ukrainian refugee are being invited to register their interest on the website.

- Just over £10,000 per Ukrainian refugee will be available to local authorities under the scheme. The Government will provide additional funding to local government to ensure that school places (early years, primary and secondary) are available for refugee children.
- Additional funding will be given to local authorities to provide wraparound care to refugees.
- The Government will work with local authorities to ensure there is support for refugees with disabilities.
- Security and safeguarding checks of sponsors will be a national vetting process initially, with local authorities following up.

Refugees arriving with pets

DEFRA has said that refugees arriving with pets will need to first contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency, who will confirm approval and organise a quarantine stay if necessary. The maximum stay in quarantine for a pet which has received no rabies treatment is four months.

Budget HCC approves £2.4 billion spending on local services in 2022/2023

Plans for the next financial year focus on the county's ongoing work following 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 £1,390.86 – an increase of £0.78 per week, equating to 2.99%, of which 1% is for adults' social care. The budget includes £556.2 million of capital expenditure over the next three years to boost jobs, the quality of the environment and to tackle climate change.

The proposed capital programme includes: • £109 million in new and extended school buildings to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire • £136 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years • £109 million for integrated transport schemes including over £50 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements • £95 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings and land holdings over the next three years following the £33 million for decarbonisation schemes covering solar PV, single to double glazing window replacements, transition from oil to gas and the implementation of heating controls that took place in 2021-2022

Transport Infrastructure to 2050

Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) is set to be consulted upon in April for 12 weeks. LTP4 will support improved travel choices by focusing on improvements for walking, cycling and public transport as an alternative to the car for the residents of Hampshire. LTP4 recognises the importance of the strategic road network to the economy as well as the need to decarbonise the transport system.

Cllr N. Penman

Appendix 5

NFNPA report given by Richard Taylor New Forest National Park Authority NE Quadrant Parish Member

Report for Netley Marsh Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting – 01/04/22

New Forest National Park Partnership Plan 2022-2027

The final version of the Partnership Plan was approved at the NFNPA meeting on 24/03/22. Principal partner organisations will now be invited to approve the plan and the final version is expected to be adopted and published in June.

The plan has 5 key themes –

- Nature Recovery
- Net Zero with Nature
- Thriving Forest
- An inclusive National Park
- Team New Forest

Design Guide

The New Forest National Park Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was formally adopted on 27 January 2022 and is a key part of our planning guidance for the National Park. This can be found online on the NFNPA website.

Climate and Nature

The National Park Authority has made a commitment to work with partners to develop a plan to be 'net zero with nature' by 2050.

You can join the New Forest Climate and Nature Challenge on the NFNPA website.

The New Forest Awakening festival in February had 45 online and in person events, and the NFNPA climate champion school assemblies have reached over 2100 children.

A New Forest Green Groups network has been started to share ideas and best practice. All local groups are welcome to join.

Government Response to the 2019 Landscapes Review

The government has responded to the 2019 Landscapes Review with their proposed measures to ensure the future of protected landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). This response is currently being consulted on and NFNPA have responded in a way which emphasises the unique challenges faced by the New Forest.

Article 4 Direction – Temporary Campsites

An article 4 direction has been confirmed requiring all new or large temporary 28 day campsites to apply for planning permission. This will apply to temporary 28 day campsites with 51 pitches or more, and all temporary 28 day campsites established after 1 March 2020. This comes into effect from 30 September 2022. Guidance is available on the NFNPA website.

Locally Listed Buildings

NFNPA has a project to update the Local List of Heritage Assets.

The local list is a list of assets of architectural or historic interest which contribute to the character and appearance of the National Park. We are looking for all communities in the Forest to get involved and further information can be found on the NFNPA website.

Appendix 6

Netley Marsh Community Hall report

Chairman's report for the years 2020 and 2021

General:

The years 2020 and 2021 were completely dominated by the COVID pandemic and the restrictions which were imposed by the government. The restrictions started in early 2020 when the Hall had to be closed to all users. In September 2020 the Preschool were allowed to reopen as they were taking children who came from families who were classed as essential workers. Initially they spent most of their time outdoors using the Hall for the toilets and kitchen and when the weather was bad. They operated under very strict rules required by the government and carried out their own cleaning and health and safety checks.

The restrictions were slowly relaxed but initially there were limits to the number of people allowed in the building which meant that for most regular hirers the number limits were too low and our regular hirers went to meet in larger buildings.

Preschool carried on as the only Hall user until midway through 2021 but their own numbers were down and the Hall agreed to reduced their rent during this period. During the summer of 2020 building maintenance was carried out on replacing the skirting in the toilets and general maintenance on the roof and gutters.

A COVID risk assessment of the Hall was carried out and the only requirement was to install a hand sanitiser and liquid soap dispensers over the hand wash basins.

By the middle of 2021 the hall was allowed to reopen to larger groups and the regular hall users started to rebook their meetings.

Financial Matters:

These two years have seen a much reduced income for the Hall with only the Preschool paying a reduced rent for much of this period. The Hall costs for insurance, maintenance and utility bills have remained the same which has mean that for the first time the Hall has run at a loss of about £400.

The Hall is still in a strong financial position with a bank balance at the end of 2021 of approximately £42,583

Charity Commission Return

The annual returns were prepared by the Treasurer and submitted online.

Health and Safety The regular annual checks for fire safety, gas boiler service and gas safety check, electrical safety check including PAT testing.

Trustees

At the end of the year Anne Brown, Patricia Capstick and Bob White advised of their intention to retire from the hall committee. We had placed adverts for new Trustees and it is hoped that one new Trustee will join the committee.

Anne Brown who has been the booking clerk was replaced by Lucy Johnson who come to the committee as a paid person. Lucy will manage all future booking online and we will have a new system for hirers to collect the Hall keys from the porch of Phil Carre's bungalow opposite the Hall.

Hall Lease

This is an ongoing process and we are waiting for the solicitors to get approval from the Land Registry.

Thanks

To all the committee for their time during the year in particular to Anne Brown for her work as the Booking Clerk, Phil Carre for his contribution as the Treasurer and Steve Thomas for his work on Health and Safety.

Bob White, Chairman