

Clerk to the Council/RFO: J Hodgkiss
Chairman: Cllr M Underwood

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 25 April 2022 in the Memorial Hall.

Chairman: Cllr Mark Underwood – Parish Council Chair

Present: Approximately 12 electors in addition to the Parish Councillors and speakers.

In attendance: Julie Hodgkiss – Clerk; Peter Orrell – Deputy Clerk
Invited speakers: Cllr P Stevens – representing the Memorial Hall Committee, C Wassall – Guides, O. Degtyar – BH Village Association, Cllr T Clarke – SCC, Edward Andrews – Country Parks and Heritage Sites Manager SCC.

The Chair of Bayston Hill Parish Council, Cllr Mark Underwood opened the meeting.

APM01.22 **APOLOGIES** – Cllrs Parkhurst, C Teckoe, C Higgins and P Higgins. Mrs R Courtney.

APM02.22 **MINUTES** – The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 27 April 2021 were taken as read. The minutes were unanimously approved as a true record.

APM03.22 **MATTERS ARISING** - None

APM04.22 **PARISH REPORT** – The last two years have been a challenge to us all including the Parish Council however I am glad to say that during this current year circumstances have gradually improved.

Achievements include:

- Uncontested election of 13 new Councillors a significant uplift to the five serving Councillors prior to the election.
- Appointment of a Deputy Clerk, Peter Orrell
- In June the inaugural Bayston Hill 10k was held
- The Sensory Garden has continued to develop and thrive and a big thank you to the volunteers that make this possible
- Big Green Week held in September in partnership with Oakmeadow School and Bayston Hill Parish Council.
- Second year to have the Christmas Tree up in the Parade.
- The precept for 2022/23 has been set and will mean an increase of 5.6p per week for a band “D” property.

- Worked with the Scouts and Guides to help them relocate to the Youth and Community Building until they are in a position to build themselves a new HQ.
- Continued to support the Bayston Hill Community Group by paying the cost of the dedicated phone line for them. Thank you to Jo and her team for all that they have done.
- Meetings with Shropshire Highways to see what can be done to reduce speed limits within the Parish
- The Parish Council is also considering installing improved speed signs that will enable us to capture real time data and to be able to move the signs around the village as and when required.
- Welcome Back Fund – The Parade improvements ongoing.
- Council arranged for the planting a Crab Apple Tree near the Sensory Garden to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen Elizabeth II
- Declared a climate Emergency and have set the target to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. A Carbon Neutral Working Party has been established.
- We do have vacancies on the parish Council so, if you would like to serve your community and bring your specific skills to help the Council fulfil its potential then please speak to us after the meeting or contact our Clerk, Julie Hodgkiss for more details.

APM05.22 GUEST SPEAKER – EDWARD ANDREWS, COUNTRY PARKS AND HERITAGE SITE MANAGER “WHATS HAPPENING AT LYTH HILL”

Mr Andrews gave an insightful presentation about the management of Lyth Hill. The staff and volunteers have carried out extensive works including replacing the boardwalk which was damaged and worn. Mr Andrews also highlighted the plans to reintroduce native flowers and grasses to encourage wild life. The group are always grateful for new volunteers.

AMP06.22 MEMORIAL HALL – CLLR P STEVENS

Cllr Stevens outlined all of the many successes of the Memorial Hall. The hall hosts dozens of groups and is cherished by the community. The Hall need new volunteers and anyone who is interested can get in touch.

AMP07.22 GUIDES – C WASSELL

Ms Wassell explained how popular the Guides and the younger groups continue to be. Also highlighted was the continuing issue of the accommodation used by the groups and plans to fundraise to replace the Youth and Community Building at the sports complex. Volunteers are needed to enable this long-established group to continue.

AMP08.22 BAYSTON HILL VILLAGE ASSOCIATION – O DEGTYAR

Ms Degtyar outlined the continued success of the association and the magazine which continues to go from strength to strength. BHVA are leading on the plans for celebrating the Platinum Jubilee and have worked with other stakeholders to create a programme of events across the weekend. The association has some new members including Ms Degtyar as Chair but are always looking for more and an invite was made to all to the AGM.

AMP09.22 SHROPSHIRE CC – CLLR T CLARKE

Cllr Clarke apologised as due to a diary error he did not have a formal report to hand. Cllr Clarke did however highlight that his reports are available in The Villager Magazines monthly and as part of BH Parish Councils monthly agendas.

AMP10.22 OPEN FORUM

Speeding concerns – Cllr Underwood explained that he had had a useful conversation with John Campion – Police Crime Commissioner – who had pledged to see why Bayston Hill wasn't regularly monitored like other areas. Cllr Underwood will write to Mr Campion to follow up. The Parish Council are looking at purchasing a mobile SIDs machine that will monitor and collect data on speeding, this can then be fed to the police. The police will only take action if data provided meets their threshold for action. As requested by a resident – yes, members of the public can be involved in discussions with Highways.

Sensory Gardens – A resident asked if more could be done to provide seating, particularly specialist seating, for the sensory gardens to make it more accessible. Cllr Clode responded by informing the meeting of a survey that was undertaken by a representative from a disability group. This survey highlighted improvements that could be made and the Parish Council will be reviewing the proposals and considering costs.

Covid Memorial – Could we have something in the village – maybe some art, with the children involved – to remember not only the victims but of the efforts by the village to work together.

Community Awards – To give thanks to those community members who do so much in the village. The parish Council will re-introduce these for next year, if not before.

Netball (Sports) – Can we encourage more diverse groups to use the facilities? Cllr Underwood responded that the council were always willing to support groups as best they can, be that grant opportunities or advertising, but there were limits due to resources.

Cllr Underwood thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm