

ROCKHAMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held in Rockhampton Village Hall on
Wednesday 23rd May 2022 commencing at 7 pm

Present

Parish Councillors: Tom Cullimore, Tina Mitchell Skinner, Mike Goode, Tony England & Henry Price. Clerk Mr J Carpenter. There were no members of the public present during the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Severn Vale Ward Councillors Matthew Riddle & Keith Burchell

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 5th May 2021

It was proposed by Cllr Price, seconded by Cllr Goode, and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2021 be signed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. REPORT FROM CLLR TOM CULLIMORE, CHAIRMAN OF ROCKHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings

Four Council meetings were held from May 2021 to February 2022. Thankfully, three of which were face to face due to the relaxation of COVID restrictions. Meetings have been well attended by the Councillors and supported by a Ward Councillor on each occasion. Their input and updates are invaluable.

Forums

The Parish Council has been represented on many forums throughout the year, all details are available in the minutes.

The most notable is probably the renewed interest in the Oldbury Power station site and the possible development of a "Fusion Energy" plant, although the design of this is still in its research stage.

Consultations

As mentioned last year the Parish Council made a strong representation against the pedestrianisation of Thornbury High Street. Unfortunately, South Gloucestershire Council have decided to plough on with this scheme against the wishes of local businesses and strong opposition from the majority of residents. The current system is considered hazardous involving a one-way system for delivery vans but allowing cyclists to meet them head on from the other direction. Of course, there is some support for this scheme, but the democratic decision would be to reverse their decision and not to have this scheme forced upon Thornbury by people not living in or representing Thornbury. Maybe politics are getting in the way of the correct decision.

Events

With the process of COVID restrictions being lifted we are now quite quickly getting back to a state of normality. The Village Hall is now opening hosting many events. The same is for St Oswald's Church which is holding regular services. June will see the return of the Folk Festival after a two-year gap. There are many new events happening including "the Pop-Up" Café soon to be followed by a "Pop-Up" Shop.

It appears there is growing support to develop the Pavilion on the common for these types of events, and also talk of making it into more of the "Village pub" with input from both locals and the Cricket Club in partnership.

Our local sporting clubs are now playing with COVID restrictions removed. The rugby season has just been completed, followed by the new cricket season now in full swing. Both clubs now have highly successful and busy youth sections. Last Friday saw some 120 plus people attend the "Cricket Dynamos" aged five years and upwards.

This year Jubilee will be celebrated by a Picnic on the Common on Sundays 5th June and the installation of a Jubilee bench somewhere in Rockhampton later in the year.

General

A training event for the defibrillator was very well attended. The telephone box library is now very well used thanks to all involved. We still have a weekly visit by the mobile Post Office located outside the Village Hall each Friday between 9:30 and 10:30 am. Oh and we now have a litter bin in the Village Hall car park!

Highways

We regularly update "StreetCare" with any pothole's issues etc. Our main concern currently is the subsidence of the Hill Road which StreetCare have been made aware of and are continuing to monitor.

The speed of traffic is of continued concern. Speed monitoring has been completed showing some quite alarming data. We will discuss this further with South Gloucestershire Council and Avon & Somerset Police to try to encourage and enforce our 30-mph limit through the village with more effect.

Planning

Some seven applications have been received and discussed by Councillors. Views were taken from parishioners when in attendance at our meetings.

Website

Our website is a great source of information and is readily kept up to date. All Council business is readily available from the minutes to finance. The two notice boards again are up to date and available to advertise village events.

The Parish Council of this small but active village, conducts its business in an open way and a common sense of approach to local issues. We are lucky to have devoted and committed council members, and an excellent Clerk to guide us through our business.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM JAMES CARPENTER, PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER.

The internal audit for fiscal year ending 31st March 2022 has now been completed. This audit was undertaken by the Clerk for Aust Parish Council with no issues reported and a small number of recommendations suggested. The 2021/2022 Accountability return (Sections 1 and 2) have been completed and are ready to be approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting following this meeting. As the Parish Council's annual income for 2021/22 did not exceed £25,000 the Council can continue to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 as has occurred in previous fiscal years. However, the accounts will be subject to inspection under the exercise of public rights which are expected to take place between Monday 13th June and Friday 22nd July 2022.

The total income for the year ending 31st March 2022 was £3,524 this was made of £3,180 from the precept (an increase of £100 over the previous fiscal year and £344 from interest received, a reclaim of VAT and other general income. The Council's expenditure for the fiscal year was £2,522 (incl. VAT). This was £2,099 down on the previous fiscal year but can be attributed in part to the purchase and installation of a defibrillator.

The Parish Council ended the fiscal year with a closing balance of £4,755.82 of these funds £3,650 are earmarked to cover future election costs, and the amenity land alongside the Village Hall. The remaining un-earmarked funds of £1,105.82 are appropriate for a small Parish Council with no other main source of income other the precept.

As required under the Transparency Code following approval by the Council at their Annual Parish Council Meeting the Council's Annual Report for 2021/22 will be published on the Council website which will provide full details of all the Council's financial activities during the year.

6. ITEMS RAISE BY ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

None

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

Signed Cllr T. Cullimore

Monday 24th April 2023