

Minutes of the online Annual Meeting of the Parish of Hanham Abbots held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 8.00pm.

1 **CHAIRMAN OF MEETING**

The Chairman of Hanham Abbots Parish Council, Councillor Mr S Hicks, was in the Chair.

2 **MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2019 were circulated and approved.

3 **AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk submitted to the meeting the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

4 **REPORT ON FINANCE**

The Clerk submitted to the meeting a report on the Council's finances for 2020-21 and an estimate of the Council's expenditure for 2021-22.

5 **ANNUAL REPORT**

The following report was submitted by Chairman S Hicks:-

Two years ago, when I made my last address no one could have foreseen or even believed the terrible times the country and the world would soon be facing. Everyone's life has been affected and changed and our thoughts go out to those who have lost loved ones to the pandemic.

Tucked away in our own little bubble which is Hanham Abbots, it seems that most people are doing their best to keep things as normal as possible. They quite cheerfully accept the essential mask wearing, the queues at the shops, the social distancing and the assurance that this will soon be ending.

The parish council, through the wonders of Zoom, (who knew about that just over a year ago?) has been conducting business extremely efficiently, guided by our Clerk, Claire. Meetings have been held regularly and on time and we've managed to get through all the stuff we normally deal with.

We've seen a new VE day bench installed on the common and a new defibrillator installed in the disused phone kiosk outside the butchers at the junction of Memorial and Whittucks roads.

With the help of a generous donation from Harvey Shopfitters, we were able to put a new fully inclusive roundabout in the common play area and further play equipment with new surfacing, thanks to CIL money received, which will bring this popular, well used facility right up to date. The parish council donated £700 to the Hanham Covid 19 go fund me campaign.

Some of our members have been looking at ways to protect the verges in the conservation area and we also have a representative on a group involved in a new walking and cycling initiative which includes the stretch alongside the River Avon at Hanham Mills.

Recently I was really pleased to see the report from Martin Burton, the Customer Contact Manager at South Gloucestershire library services detailing how the libraries have gone from strength to strength since the controversial restructuring around five years ago.

In 2018-19 there were 738,000 visitors using the library facilities and 45,500 of those visits were through Open Access.

Pre Covid, South Glos had more libraries open 60 hours per week than any other authority in the UK. It was a difficult time for councillors dealing with the Save Hanham Library group and the abuse from certain individuals but we stood firm and the library service is now something we should be proud of.

On just one unhappy note, sadly we're once again unable to hold the annual Hanham Common Fayre due to Covid restrictions, but I know that work has already begun on making next year's fayre a wonder to behold!

And finally, what would a Chair's report be without an update on the pavilion...

As you are all aware, we have been talking about this for at least seven years, living the dream which was fast becoming a nightmare! Since we decided to take the advice of a barrister on the status of the common, we have been able to move forward more rapidly and have recently, within the last month, had discussions with architects and designers.

Quotes for drawings up to the building stage, taking into account all the relevant permissions and surveys required are now arriving and when they have all been received, we will be referring them to Full Council to choose the preferred architect. From that stage, we will be looking for suitable firms for the build.

We have a Pavilion Focus Group set up and Claire and myself refer back to them each time we feel that progress has been made. All major changes, especially when money needs to be spent will, of course, be referred to Full Council for approval.

Hanham Common remains the jewel in the parish crown, regularly polished and even doted on by our hard working warden, Paul Burgess, and our thanks go to him for his endeavours. There's no better place on a sunny day.

And finally, finally. I'm so pleased and proud of the way that councillors have stood up to the challenges faced during the pandemic, especially the way that the mighty Zoom has been embraced. Thanks to everyone for the support and cheerfulness you've shown. Let's look forward to normality!

The Meeting closed at 8.15p.m, having been attended by 9 Parish Councillors and the Clerk to the Council.

Parish Councillors in Attendance: Cllr S Hicks, Cllr S Atwell, Cllr J Goddard, Cllr K Bell, Cllr H Goddard, Cllr T Bray, Cllr B Langley, Cllr R Boissevain & Cllr J Bamford.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs I Richardson, C Cushing & N Lethaby.

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Chairman