

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Hanham Abbots held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at 8.00pm at Hanham Hall, Whittucks Road, Hanham

## 1 CHAIRMAN OF MEETING

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

## 2 MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were circulated and approved.

## 3 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The Clerk submitted to the meeting the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

## 4 REPORT ON FINANCE

The Clerk submitted to the meeting a report on the Council's finances for 2021-22 and an estimate of the Council's expenditure for 2022-23.

## 5 ANNUAL REPORT

The following report was submitted by Chairman S Hicks:-

I was looking back at last year's report and recall the awful situation the whole country was in with the covid pandemic running rampant. I remember saying that things couldn't get much worse and they have. Not the pandemic, which finally seems to be subsiding and will hopefully disappear soon but its replacement and maybe a greater threat, the terrible war in Ukraine. Our hearts go out to all affected by this terrible war and although we feel helpless and frustrated, we must take any opportunity either as a parish council or as decent human beings to do what we can to help.

So, although our efforts over the last year may pale into insignificance by comparison, I must note just a few of our local achievements and some of our plans and hopes for the year ahead. Events in the parish have included, not in any particular order of importance, our own mini balloon festival held early on a beautiful morning in July on the common (maybe something that might happen again as I've made contact with last year's organisers and put forward a strong case for this year but it seems that it will go to a ballot.) The planting of three oak trees to mark the Queen's Jubilee by our primary schools. An event much enjoyed by all who attended, children and teachers and was well publicised in the local press.

A major highlight in the last year was the appointment of our new parish clerk, Christine who has fitted in seamlessly and appears to have been there forever. The appointment was however tinged with the sadness of losing Claire to Oldland Parish after 13 years and we thank her for all the brilliant work she did for us in that time.

On the subject of appointments we're looking forward to working with two new councillors, Dean Smith who has already been appointed and another vacancy is currently being advertised. They replace Ian Richardson and Noel Lethaby who leave with our thanks for their work on behalf of the community. On this subject, I'm sure you'll know that next year, 2023 is an election year for us. I believe that we need a strong parish council so I'd like to start looking for prospective new councillors as soon as possible. I think social media might be the best platform although if any of you know of likely candidates, please let myself or Christine know.

Next football season will also see the return to the common of BOCO in the form of two of their junior sides who are going to use the youth pitch on Sundays. I spoke to the Junior Section Manager on the common last week and we found that his teams can be accommodated by marking out a pitch within the boundary of the current practice pitch, thus saving us having to take out the old posts and store them. BOCO will be responsible for paying the initial 'marking out' of the pitch and

then the fortnightly 'marking out' will come from their pitch fees. The additional revenue can be used to improve our main pitch.

Swift Coaching who currently coach juniors on the common for Hanham Parish will be expanding their coaching expertise to take on an even younger age group, which we will be fully supporting. Another exciting development in the area will be the cycle trail being developed along the tow path at the river side.

There may be trouble ahead in the form of the revised joint spacial review as outlined by Toby Savage at our last meeting. This is something we need to watch very carefully and maybe discuss with our friends in local parishes and our Greenbelt Society.

As you know, I no longer live in the parish but I make sure that I visit at least once a week just to keep an eye on all of you. I have to say that after driving through Chew Magna, Whitchurch and Keynsham I'm always pleased to reach our parish. The parish is cleaner than anywhere else and it certainly notices. It's got to be down to our excellent parish warden, Paul. He always seems to be out and about with his various gadgets making a great job of keeping our parish clean.

This year, as we're all aware, marks the return of our famous Hanham Common Fayre after a covid gap of two years. It will be complete with all the usual suspects. A great free show as always. This year we will also see a 'bit of a do' on Jubilee day when our new Jubilee bench will be available to sit on! We're going to advertise the common for picnickers to use on the day with a hog roast and I'm trying to organise a beacon.

So that's it for another year, but wait I hear you say - 'what about the pavilion'?

How could I forget that. Frustration, elation and annoyance are just a few adjectives I could use but in the end the planning went through almost seamlessly. Great thanks to our brilliant architects and to Claire for the efforts she put in when she was Clerk. As we move on to the building stage I can't help but think that my excellent presentations at Hanham Hall to the massed hordes of Hanham Abbots residents finally swung the project in our favour.

Obviously, I've not covered everything that's been going on but I hope I've given a flavour of life within our parish and the efforts of you, Hanham Abbots Parish Councillors.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm, having been attended by 11 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 C Cushing, Cllr David Smith & Cllr J Bamford.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Dean Smith.

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Chairman