

**WINFRITH NEWBURGH & EAST KNIGHTON PARISH
COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 12th Apr 2021
6.30pm
Via Zoom**

Councillors

Cllr Nic Johnson (chairperson)

Cllr Brenda Mustoe

Cllr Charles Smith

Cllr Andy Muir

Cllr Mark Morley

Cllr John Yonwin

Parishioners

Clerk Irene Atkins and Pat Yonwin

1. Welcome and introduction to the parish council

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

2. None

3 Minutes

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th Mar 2020. Minutes accepted.

4. Chairperson's review of the year 2020-2021

4. At this time last year the Parish Council rose to the challenge of circulating information to all parishioners so that they knew where they could receive support during the unprecedented event of the COVID pandemic. This encapsulates the essence of our community of which we are proud.

As a Council we used Zoom when necessary but facilitated hybrid meetings when the hall was available. Thanks go to the Clerk Mandy Stephens and the village hall for leading us through this.

We were sorry to lose Mandy as Clerk after so many years of hard work guiding us all on rules and regulations. We wish her a happy retirement and welcome Irene Atkins in her place. Irene has joined us at a tricky time with no face-to-face meetings but has risen admirably to the challenge.

Richard Barrett retired from the Council for health reasons. Although his tenure was short it was productive, and we wish him a speedy recovery with the hope he can return sometime in the future.

We welcome John Yonwin and Mark Morley as new Councillors.

The focus of the past year has been on traffic problems within the Parish. We have worked with Highways via on site meetings and traffic surveys to examine ways to reduce the impact of increased traffic. We have operated Speedwatch when allowed.

The outcome is more road markings at the entrance and exit of Winfrith Newburgh, a quieter road surface being installed and support for erecting 20 is plenty signage. Positions for these

have been identified and they will be in place soon. We have had the support of our Dorset Councillors in making an application for a 20mph speed limit the result of which we are awaiting.

The road closures that occurred in 2020 produced unrest. We surveyed the whole Parish for feedback and have used this to inform the meetings of the Local Resilience Forum to plan better for the summer of 2021. In addition, we supported further investigation of a longer-term solution and receive feedback at meetings from a working group. Work on producing an Emergency Plan for the Parish was prompted by the road closures and this is nearly complete incorporating the necessary GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) documentation. Tackling issues with traffic will be ongoing but it is not the only focus. We have acted as a conduit for the installation of defibrillators at various places in the Parish. Work is ongoing with the Sports Committee to ensure the pavilion is refurbished. Paths, hedgerows, and green spaces have been maintained together with the children's play area. We recognise the latter will be a main focus in the near future.

A Parish Council website will be live soon which will assist with communication to the community. We thank everyone in the Parish for their patience, understanding and support during the last year and look forward to a return of face-to-face meetings in the very near future.

5. Committee Reports

6. DAPTC Cllr Morley

DAPTC continues to update the PC on the latest changes/amendments to regulations and procedures. Of note are:

- DAPTC website being improved.
- Revised Councillors' Code of Conduct now published, and councillors are encouraged to formally adopt these by mid-2021.
- 20mph speed limits county-wide a constant topic and being raised with the DCC.

Newest Councillors (John Yonwin and me) are currently undergoing NALC online training through the DAPTC.

7. Rights of Way Report Cllr Smith

No issues of significance to report. Paths have stood up remarkably well bearing in mind the much greater use caused by Covid exercise requirements.

The "permissive bridleway" crossing fields south of Newburgh Dairy is due to be upgraded to a "public bridleway". This is important as the current legal walking route through the farmyard is both hazardous and occasionally virtually impassable.

8. Transport Cllr Morley

Following various meetings between interested PCs, the NT, bus companies and "Friends Of" organisations, Purbeck Transport Action Group (PTAG) has submitted a Strategy Proposal to Dorset CC, outlining the main areas of concern in the Purbeck area. Key concerns are volume of traffic, speeding, parking, missing links between key public footpath

/cycle path and bridlepath routes, the lack of integration in the various public transport companies' timetables and (yet again) the requirement for more 20mph speed limit areas.

The DfT recently published its 84 x page "Bus Back Better" National Bus Strategy for England, which promises to make buses more reliable, more frequent and easier to use. By the end of June 2021, the government "expects all LTAs... to commit to establishing Enhanced Partnerships across their entire areas, under the Bus Services Act.

Current buses routing through the parish are:

First Bus **X54** (Weymouth / Poole). 6 x services each way per weekday, calling at either the Red Lion or Winfrith PO

The summer services timetables (such as the 50 or X55) not yet available - although First Bus is apparently "increasing services in the summer".

9. **Flood plan** Cllr Mustoe

No major flooding has occurred but surface water on School Lane continues to be an issue despite reporting problems online.

3 areas of the River Win were identified for watching maintenance and volunteer guardians identified. Subsequently the river has run freely and at a measured pace during periods of high rainfall.

Flood alerts from the Environment Agency have been highlighted to raise awareness of risk in the wider area.

10. **Village Hall** Cllr Smith

The hall has had a quiet year. David Wilkins has patiently read the ever-changing volume of Covid restrictions as to permitted use and ensured that there was compliance. Community meals have been able to continue via takeaway. The car park has been successfully used for the sale of 'loaves and fishes'.

11. **Children's playground** Cllr Morley

Originally manufactured and installed by Eibe Play Ltd. in 2007, this is now old and tired and will probably need replacement within two or three years. Unfortunately, it is also subject to sporadic vandalism and the perimeter fencing has had to be repaired several times. The steps to the slide were replaced earlier this year (age-related, not vandalised), thanks to Andrew Muir, Oliver Hurlstone and Father Mark, and uprights for the two sets of swings will require replacement within the next year or so (pending confirmation from RoSPA's next scheduled safety-check). Cost of each upright from Eibe Play is £181.18 +delivery & VAT plus labour. The PC may be able to source volunteers who can undertake the required labour pro-bono.

BS EN 1176-1:2017 sets out a three-tier inspection system: a) routine visual inspections, b) operational inspections, and c) annual main inspections. RoSPA is due to undertake our annual main inspection in May. We have also agreed to purchase RoSPA's routine checklist to enable documented weekly inspections to be carried-out.

Estimates for replacement of the playground with a more modern play area (which would cater for a wider age-range of children) vary from a starting-price of £25k (Home Front

Outdoor Play) up to £35k and £50k (Fawns Recreational Services Ltd.) Sponsorship has been discussed. Approaches could be made to Spring Che Ltd (new solar farm company), or companies well-known for sponsoring playgrounds, such as Aviva and Tesco's.

12. Tree and Hedgerow Cllr Muir

Trees and hedgerows have been cleared where required. Opposite the shop has now been done. Overhanging branches and Ivy cleared from the village trail.

13. Village Maintenance Cllr Muir

Bench table in the was playground repaired along with 7 sections of fencing. The notice board internal repairs are done, and the outside will be painted when the weather improves. The "20 is Plenty" signs are being ordered.

14. Stakeholder Cllr Johnson

End date has been delayed by about 12 to 18 months because of COVID.

6 Any other business

15. None

Meeting finished at 18.47 hrs.