

BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting Held Monday 16th May 2022 at 7.30pm in Brightwalton Village Hall

Present

Shaun Orpen	Chairman	Sarah Youldon	Clerk
Christine Delahunty	Councillor	Sarah Wheatley-Hince	Brightwalton Pre-School
Sue Sayers	Councillor	2 Parishioners	
Annie Agnew	Councillor		
Tim Wyatt	Councillor		
Mike Cooper	Councillor		

Chairman's Report	Action
<p>Shaun Orpen opened the meeting reporting on the last year as follows:</p> <p><i>It is always interesting to reflect on the year that has been. If I look back on the last 12 months there have been a number of new initiatives in the village.</i></p> <p><i>Firstly, we have celebrated the life and contribution of two individuals in particular in the village, both of whom were instrumental in shaping the village over a great many years as reported in previous editions of Brickleton News. In memory of Sir Philip Wroughton we have planted an avenue of 22 Cherry Trees along both sides of the road from Keepers Cottage to Dunmore Pond. In memory of John Hall-Craggs, there is now a lovely new bench to the left of the church entrance.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of village infrastructure, we celebrated Phase 1 of ASPIRE going live. The church has a WC, servery and new organ making it much more accommodating for both church and other community events (There will be a concert on July 31st in aid of Ukraine).</i></p> <p><i>We have been busy raising funds as part of this project for the Brightwalton Community Worker – a new role designed to bring the village together, encouraging the provision of mutual support and friendship. The role will specifically provide opportunities to get together, meet people, learn new things, share skills and information and where required opportunities to seek additional support. I am delighted to say we have reached our target to fund this project for a 2-year pilot. So now we turn our attention to finding the right candidate.</i></p> <p><i>We now continue the major task of attracting external funds to pay for the final phase of the ASPIRE project.</i></p> <p><i>During the year we also renewed the lease on the Playing Field for a further 20 years, although we ended up having to pay some administrative/legal costs that were not planned. On the subject of the playing field, I am delighted to say that we have received grant funding to renew the Cricket nets and breaking news it looks as if there may be a Children's Football evening every other Friday evening on the field, thanks to a member of the community who is giving up his time to set up this up and run it.</i></p> <p><i>We are also in the middle of a project to turn the SE Corner of the playing field into a wildlife area with wildflowers.</i></p> <p><i>For the village community it was great to have the fete back again this year, which was, thanks to the Village Hall and Fete Committees, a huge success both as a community event as well as raising some much-needed funds for the village hall. Many of us also enjoyed a pre-fete get together on the field where it was lovely to see some of the many new faces that have joined the village during COVID years. At Christmas, we continued the initiative of putting up a large village Christmas Tree in the Church yard and had a good turn our people singing carols with a glass of mulled wine just before Christmas. Finally coming up on 5th June we have the Jubilee Picnic in the Park.</i></p> <p><i>One project that has gathered momentum this year is our focus on Broadband coverage in the village. We believe that with more people working from home and more and more digital services we feel it is important that as a community we stay ahead of the game and can offer ultrafast (in other words fibre to every home) broadband to every corner of the village. This should also future proof us from future technology changes. You may have seen a couple of articles on this recently in Brickleton News. We will shortly be asking people to express an interest in this.</i></p> <p><i>Finally in terms of finances for the year. Against a total income of £11,359 our total spend was within £100 of that. Despite the huge increase in costs that we are all facing, we have managed with some careful budgeting to keep the budget increase next year to 5%.</i></p>	

Open Session	
<p>Brightwalton Pre-School: Permission requested to set up a small natural seating area within the trees around Dunmore Pond, to use as part of their outdoor learning. Councillors agreed that logs could be laid in a circle on the East side with bark added in the centre. Pre-school to organise as required. Also agreed that a similar area could be created on the edge of the area that is being set aside for wildflowers in the corner of the field. Suggested that the logs could form the edge of the area, creating both seating and edge to the area. Further work to create the wildflower meadow would continue in the Autumn with more clearance and levelling followed by seed sowing.</p> <p>Jubilee Picnic in the Park Suggested that more advertising is needed. Clerk confirmed that further flyers had been printed for display on the telegraph poles / playing field gates. Second advert already agreed for the May Brickleton News. Agreed more details could be posted on Facebook. To be discussed further with the organising group in the meeting next week.</p>	SY

Signed: S K Youldon 17th May 2022

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