

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Up Hatherley, held virtually via Zoom, on Tuesday 4th May 2021 from 6pm

Present: Chair of the Council, Councillor S. Bamford

In attendance: Clerk, K. Oakey – to record minutes, Councillors A. Bamford, D. Willcox, Ponting, J. Furley, A. Houlton, N. Holden, D. Young, and one parishioner

1. Welcome and Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and reported that her report from tonight will be placed on the website. The report is as follows:

It was an extraordinary year for the Parish Council, with only the March meeting being held face to face. Once we adjusted to virtual meetings, it became a good way for transacting business, enabling councillors to take part without leaving the safety of their own home – indeed it did not even require us to be at home if we had the chance to go away. It did not suit everyone though and the two new members who joined us at the beginning of 2020 left during the year. We also said goodbye to Richard Johnes, who joined the Parish Council in 2014 but has moved with his family out of the Parish. We really appreciate everything that Richard has done in Up Hatherley, with an overhaul of the Village Hall and its facilities as well as encouragement for the Parish Council to be more proactive in the community. This leaves us short of members and we hope to encourage some new members to join us – particularly people living in the North and East of the Parish. It would also be excellent to see more diversity in members – more women, different ethnicities and younger councillors would really help with representing a broader spectrum of our community.

Police and Community

It has not been possible to launch new Neighbourhood Watch schemes, hold the planned meeting on Cyber Crime or organise youth activity as planned, but plans are well underway to get things in place as soon as it is permissible.

Unfortunately, we have seen some quite serious anti- social behaviour including arson near to Broad Oak Way and Morrisons and in the Windermere Road area. We agreed to fund the loan of a camera to see if we could catch the culprits. A reward is being offered for information leading to arrests and we are considering the funding of youth work targeted towards potential offenders.

The bike marking event that had to be postponed in January 2021 will be held outdoors at the end of May and plans are underway to publicise the event.

Footpaths and Open Spaces

During July and August and in response to the increase in the numbers of residents taking a daily walk, we delivered letters to 1400 homes around the open spaces in the Parish to find out what the views were on these areas, as well as finding out what interest there might be in volunteering. The response was very promising with a wealth of ideas and over 50 people offering their services as “green space volunteers”.

Progressing collective volunteer action has been tricky given the constraints posed by the pandemic, but we were able to hold a special meeting in August and agree several schemes to

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improve the open spaces in our Parish. Money was spent on the Broad Oak Way spinney and we are now awaiting a start on improvements to Caernarvon and Cheriton Parks, where the Parish Council is contributing £15K and CBC spending £40K. We have been able to incorporate suggestions from residents.

A start was also made on tree planting with 3 centenary oaks on Up Hatherley Way (more planned for the autumn) and CBC / the Forestry Commission planted over 200 native species saplings at the front of the Manor Farm Open space.

We made a new arrangement with CBC / Ubico and our two Parish Council greens are now mowed with cuttings being collected.

Following discussions with CBC, we will shortly see a trial extra bin on Fernleigh Green. If it is well used, then this will help dog walkers in particular.

Village Hall and Communications

John Wells has taken over as lead for the Village Hall, with John Furley heading up IT / Communications. A surveyor is being appointed so that we can organise work to the hall roof (it is 100 years old) and we now have a way of e-mailing councillors collectively as well as having a thorough review of our website to check it meets required standards.

Peter Worsley edited and produced an excellent edition of the Parish Record and, with several Parish councillors and volunteers helping, we didn't need to pay for a delivery company, so avoiding errors in delivery.

Policy and Resources

Adrian Bamford continues to update the Planning Tracker and the Action Tracker to enable us to monitor applications and keep an eye on progress with projects. The most controversial planning application this year was from Avenue Lodge, where the applicant is seeking to build a detached dwelling, having filled in a significant proportion of the pond and either failed to do the things that were previously approved or meet the conditions attached to those approvals. We took the time to speak to all the affected residents and made an objection. We await the decision.

Community Engagement

Noreen Holden leads this group now and headings have been agreed for the Parish survey. Andy Ponting has been working on a draft of the questions and we should shortly be able to produce and organise delivery, possibly with GRCC help in analysis.

A revised Garden Competition has been launched in schools and in the community – no glitzy Awards evening – but something that entrants can take part in safely without the need for judges visiting schools and homes.

Although we could not have our usual Carol service on Fernleigh Green, we did host the Salvation Army's one and only Carol concert which was a mobile service playing carols under lampposts around Up Hatherley on an incredibly cold night. We approved a £300 donation to the Salvation Army for the work that they do all the year round. We put lights on to our tree and lit it up every evening for a couple of weeks. We also had for the second year running a competition for children making homemade decorations for the tree.

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Through donations and volunteering, we have been actively helping with Food Poverty and in February, a Tuesday morning outlet of the Food Bank – the Lakeside Community project started up at St Margarets Hall.

Highways and Transport

Roger Whyborn leads this group and there have been regular meetings (face to face and virtual) with Danny from Highways, who is proving to be very helpful and proactive. Our VAS has been deployed at various sites around the Parish and the information collected has enabled us to demonstrate the best locations for the Police to step up action to catch speeding drivers.

Finally, signage has been relocated on Up Hatherley Way on approach to the roundabout with Sunnyfield Lane / Cold Pool Lane. We await the start on work on a path so that residents can more easily cross Up Hatherley Way near that roundabout.

Working with Schools

We helped fund a track around the school grounds at Lakeside School so pupils could do a “daily mile” and contributed funds to barriers to help manage social distancing at the school. We are just about to agree financial help to enable Greatfield Park School to build a Cycle / Scooter storage area.

Recycling facilities at Morrisons

Andy Ponting raised the problem of fly tipping and mess around these facilities, and we have been in contact with CBC, looking at how the situation could be improved.

Finally, I would like to thank every councillor on the Parish Council and our clerk Kathryn Oakey for all your help this year. It has been an incredibly challenging year where we have needed to think of all sorts of inventive ways to do things, but you have all risen to the challenge and been absolutely brilliant!

2. Police and Community Safety Update: David Young

Councillor Young passed on thanks to Sarah Bamford for being the Chair. He then presented his report as follows:

Neighbourhood Watch

Promotion will be re started once normality starts to appear. In the meantime, we continue to stay in touch with the NHW Officers by email. Following the Arson attacks in Broad Oak Way it is intended to restart a NHW Scheme again as soon as the restrictions allow. This may include Doverhay and Glenlea Grove where there is interest as well. Depending on numbers it may be that two schemes are more appropriate. The camera on Broad Oak Way is being retained for a further period. A Crime Prevention Seminar will be held later in the Year once the Village Hall can be used again.

Bicycle Marking

Following the previous successes, now that outdoor events are allowed, but subject to Covid Changes, a Bicycle Marking will be held on Saturday 26th May in the Car Park at the Hillview Community Centre. This will be advertised on the Website, Twitter feed and all Parish Social Media.

Crime Statistics

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Figures for the whole of 2020 are now available and presented as Appendix A. Due to the lockdowns, there was a substantial increase in domestic violence calls, which in turn led to more crimes of a harassment, assault without injury and public fear, alarm and distress being recorded. Mainly due to this and increases in antisocial behaviour, criminal damage, and public order offences we were 15.8% up on 2019 figures. This was also reflected on numbers throughout Cheltenham and the County. Scam calls have also significantly increased, as have door to door Rogue Traders and all were asked to remain vigilant.

3. Policy & Resources Update: Adrian Bamford

Cllr A. Bamford reported that due to the lockdowns it had been a boring year financially, with income reduced and projects delayed. As a result, the balances of the Council remain constant. The Outturn report is shown in Appendix B.

Turning to planning there have been 30 applications over the year, with most being straightforward. Three have been problematic, including:

1. 18 Keswick Road. This is a significant development and was rejected by CBC, however an appeal is expected.
2. 38 Denbigh Road. This is a four-bed detached property in the garden of a current semi-detached house. There is not a lot of space, however it is difficult to see any planning grounds for refusing.
3. Avenue Lodge. In 2014 the owner applied to build a detached dwelling in the garden where a lake was located. He was unsuccessful, however after several appeals he was eventually successful in his bid to drain part of the lake on the condition a tank was installed, and landscaping carried out. He has now put in another application, however it would appear that instead of half the lake being removed 95% has gone and no tank or landscaping as per the conditions of the application has been done. It is disappointing that CBC did not follow up on the application to ensure the conditions are being met, as many local people have been impacted by the draining of the lake with increased flooding to their properties. CBC view is that they only investigate if a complaint is made. The Parish Council has objected to the latest application, and it is yet to be determined, however it would be disappointing if the application is successful based on the fact that the owner would benefit from not meeting earlier conditions.

4. Highways and Transportation Update: Roger Whyborn

Cllr. Ponting reported that following a new officer being appointed at the county council good progress has been made in the parish. This has included extensive resurfacing, moving the 30mph sign on Up Hatherley Way, removing vegetation, carrying out speed surveys and new dropped kerbs. In addition, there is a good list of jobs under review for the future.

There are still issues with flooding after heavy rain, and the church puddle although better, is still there. Flooding also continues at the Sunnyfield Lane roundabout, and this will be followed up during the coming year.

5. Community Engagement Update: Noreen Holden

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The Garden competition was not held last year, however this year we are doing an online event and flyers have been printed and distributed. The closing ate is 5th July and prizes will be garden vouchers. It is hoped that later in the year a social event can take place once restrictions are lifted.

A Parish survey is in the pipeline and questions have now been set and circulated for comment. It is hoped that this will provide us with key areas to focus on for the future. It is hoped that these could be completed online, and this is being looked into.

The foodbank is going well and 15 – 20 people are being fed each week. It has taken a while to get the word out, and more is still needed to raise awareness. Morrisons has been very helpful and there are some great volunteers involved.

6. Footpaths and Open Spaces Update: David Willcox

During the year a PROW application was submitted, and a consultation is awaited. The gym equipment that was installed is being well used. The annual service has recently taken place and there were no concerns raised. Three new oak trees have been planted along Up Hatherley Way as part of the Rotary Club centenary.

7. Communications Update: John Furley

Cllr Furley reported that he has made changes to the website access removing personal emails and replacing with the new UHPC ones. Following a health check on the website earlier in the year a few updates are needed and are currently being worked on.

Internet has been installed at the Village Hall and is available to users via a free link.

The Chair thanked everyone for their updates and closed the APM.

Signed..... Chair, 6th July 2021

Appendix A: crime statistics
Appendix B: Outturn Report

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Crime type by Month 2020 - Up Hatherley														
Crime type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
Anti-social behaviour	9	20	9	32	34	43	28	19	9	11	8	18	240	41.59%
Bicycle theft	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	8	1.39%
Burglary	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	16	2.77%
Criminal damage and arson	3	5	6	7	9	5	9	6	5	6	7	6	74	12.82%
Drugs	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	7	1.21%
Other crime	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	5	0.87%
Other theft	8	8	5	1	5	3	1	4	2	1	5	5	48	8.32%
Possession of weapons	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17%
Public order	1	3	3	1	3	4	1	1	2	4	5	3	31	5.37%
Robbery	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.35%
Shoplifting	3	5	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	20	3.47%
Theft from the person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Vehicle crime	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	12	2.08%
Violence and sexual offences	5	10	4	14	10	7	9	23	5	11	7	8	113	19.58%
TOTALS Up Hatherley	32	54	34	61	72	66	52	58	30	38	37	43	577	100.00%

Crime type for November 2020	Up Hatherley	Benhall	Cheltenham Town	Leckhampton	Tivoli	Prestbury	Totals	% Up Hatherley
Anti-social behaviour	240	228	1350	228	311	260	2617	9.17%
Bicycle theft	8	14	99	14	25	4	164	4.88%
Burglary	16	20	99	50	35	28	248	6.45%
Criminal damage and arson	74	38	152	47	31	38	380	19.47%
Drugs	7	12	61	10	6	10	106	6.60%
Other crime	5	2	19	6	34	3	69	7.25%
Other theft	48	37	164	24	32	31	336	14.29%
Possession of weapons	1	0	12	0	1	1	15	6.67%
Public order	31	28	162	16	30	18	285	10.88%
Robbery	2	3	23	2	3	1	34	5.88%
Shoplifting	20	18	260	5	27	5	335	5.97%
Theft from the person	0	1	28	0	0	8	37	0.00%
Vehicle crime	12	38	92	62	67	33	304	3.95%
Violence and sexual offences	113	114	551	113	91	94	1076	10.50%
TOTALS	577	553	3072	577	693	534	6006	9.61%

Up Hatherley by Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Anti-social behaviour	240	203	144	153	143	131
Bicycle theft	8	11	12	8	10	4
Burglary	16	23	38	29	24	49
Criminal damage and arson	74	55	31	20	22	23
Drugs	7	9	3	5	3	1
Other crime	5	12	9	6	0	0
Other theft	48	48	40	35	35	34
Possession of weapons	1	2	3	0	0	1
Public order	31	18	4	3	3	4
Robbery	2	0	1	1	0	0
Shoplifting	20	27	11	9	23	10
Theft from the person	0	1	3	1	3	3
Vehicle crime	12	15	41	61	36	30
Violence and sexual offences	113	74	53	32	21	32
TOTALS	577	498	393	363	323	322
Increase by year	15.86%	26.72%	8.26%	12.38%	0.31%	

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Outturn			
	2019-20 Outturn £		2020-21 Outturn £
Expenditure			
Running the Council	8,247		8,993
Maintenance	-		-
Recreation & Culture	16,440		4,934
Including Exceptional Items			
Fitness Park	11,645		-
Loan Repayments	1,646		1,584
Village Hall Expenses	12,524		6,169
Including Exceptional Items			
Hall Painting	1,730		-
Summer Gardens Competition	1,507		-
Other (including subs and donations)	7,115		12,377
Including Exceptional Items			
Mile a Day			7,500
Sensory Garden	4,500		
Total	47,479		34,058
Income			
Village Hall	11,739		3,536
Record	465		440
Interest	188		40
Grants	11,260		
VAT	-		697
Food Bank	-		310
Precept	25,900		26,418
Total	49,552		31,441
Surplus / Deficit for the Year	2,073		- 2,617
Retained Surplus b/f	99,763		101,835
Retained Surplus c/f	101,835		99,219

Reserves:	Opening 2020/21	Transfers	Closing 2020/21
Open Spaces Improvements (1183 / 1168)	15,000	-	15,000
Caernarvon Park (1183 / 1168)	15,000	-	15,000
Election Reserve	18,500	-	18,500
General Fund	18,835	- 117	18,719
Youth Contribution	0	5,000	5,000
Hall Repairs Reserve	20,000	-	20,000
Mile a Day (1117)	7,500	- 7,500	-
Mobile VAS (1083)	7,000	-	7,000
	101,835	- 2,617	99,219