

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Up Hatherley, held at the Village Hall, Cold Pool Lane, Up Hatherley, on Monday 28th April 2025

Present: Chair of the Council, Councillor S. Bamford

In attendance: K. Oakey – to record minutes, 8 parishioners, Councillors P. Worsley, J. Sankey, D. Willcox, M. Ede, A. Bamford, A. Houlton, A. Duignan, S. Gutteridge

Apologies: Cllrs. J. Wells, R. Whyborn, A. Ponting, J. Furley, A. Goldsby and N. Holden

Welcome and Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. She informed the residents present that this will be an informal meeting consisting of a short presentation and any questions followed by a session whereby members will be available to answer questions. She reported that we are a “can do” council, and work hard to ensure that we deliver on the issues that matter to Up Hatherley.

Planning

- The Council responded to the Strategic Land Use Strategy and Local Plan. This included reiterating the importance of Up Hatherley Way as a definitive boundary to the greenbelt.
- Unfortunately, the saga with Caernarvon Court continues. We had thought it resolved when the new owner attended a meeting and plans were approved. However, it was then put on the market again so it is now unclear on the status of the works. The site remains in a poor condition and the plans as presented would add considerable value to the site.
- Broad Oak Way has continued to be another area of controversy as the land was auctioned off but the sale never completed. The Borough Council stepped away from maintaining the site and we have had to work hard to put in place measures to ensure that it was maintained, working with the borough council to facilitate this. Following a meeting today with the borough council we are hopeful that the issue is now resolved.

Community Engagement:

- Following work by Cllr Whyborn a shipping container has been installed as a permanent home for the Lakeside Foodbank. This facility has gone from strength to strength and provides a vital service to the local community.
- The 2 O'clock Club continues to be very popular, with over 30 people regularly attending. Since opening we have donated over £3,000 into the food bank and other local causes.
- The Christmas carols on the greens continues to be popular and supported by the Salvation Army. Children decorate the tree and it brings the community together.

Open Spaces:

- The Health Walk continues to be popular, and has been going for around 10 years led by Cllr Houlton and regularly has 30-40 people in attendance. Sally Houlton collects rubbish on the walk providing a vital service to the community.
- The new benches are a well-used facility in Holmer Park dedicated to previous chairs, improving our open spaces for local residents.

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- The Chair passed on her thanks to Cllr Willcox who has led the Open Spaces Group, and been successful in implementing quarterly meetings with the borough council, improving communications and ensuring that things are getting done and prioritised in the parish. As a result of these meetings footpaths have been cleared and priority works around the parish carried out.

Police and Community and Safety:

- For the first time this year we didn't provide a bike marking event, however there are quite a few now around the community.
- We have installed CCTV at the hall following an increase in anti-social behaviour, but generally there is low crime in Up Hatherley.

Highways:

- The Highways Group led by Cllr Whyborn work closely with Gloucestershire Highways and there have been many successes in the parish with road repairs and resurfacing carried out. Although there is more work to be done, this relationship ensures that we can prioritise work in the parish.

Village Hall:

- The Chair passed on thanks to Cllr Gutteridge who has led on the new garden at the hall, ensuring that it is well maintained and an asset to the community. The garden is such an improvement on what was there before, and was funded by a lottery grant and the Gloucestershire Build Back Better Fund.

Parish Record and Communications:

- The Chair thanks Cllr Worsley for his 18th year as editor of the Record. It continues to be a popular and successful annual magazine delivered to all the properties in the parish. This year's project is already well under way.

The Chair finished the presentation thanking the parish councillors and volunteers from the 2 o'clock club for their hard work and assistance during the year. Cllr Worsley thanked the Chair for the continuing hard work that she puts into the parish council and also passed on thanks to the Clerk.

Before the Chair called the meeting to a close three presentations were made on behalf of the parish council as follows:

1. The Sargison family were presented with a certificate to thank them for all the hard work that they have put into the local community and the YMCA.
2. Maralyn Reynolds was presented with a certificate to thank her for her continued hard work and service to the community.
3. Sally Houlton was presented with a certificate to thank her for her continuing litter picking services, which make Up Hatherley a much nice place to live.

Signed..... Chair, 6th May 2025