

Musbury Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.00pm in Musbury Village Hall Committee Room.

PRESENT:

Cllr Colin Corbett (Chair)	Cllr Matt Craker (Vice Chair)	Cllr Peter Perryman
Mrs Jo Boyce (Outgoing Clerk)	Mrs S Coombe (Incoming Clerk)	13 Parishioners

- 1 **APOLOGIES** County Cllr Ian Hall & Gary Knight
- 2 **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held Monday 25th April 2022 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by Cllr Corbett.
- 3 **MATTERS ARISING** There were no matters for discussion.
- 4 **POLICE REPORT** No report received.
- 5 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - CLLR COLIN CORBETT**

Roads – As always, there seem to be more cars parked on the roads of Musbury. Building work in the village is creating further problems with extra vehicles. Please remember to park with consideration for residents, other road users and especially the emergency services. As re-iterated by the Police representatives at our March meeting, please do report any crimes, including speeding through the village via the website.

I am sure you are all aware of how the Devon Air Ambulance Local Landing Site project has ended and how disappointed all of the Parish Council were at the way it was conducted by DAAT. Fortunately, much of the donated money has been transferred to the Community Playing Field and the rest has been returned to our generous donors.

The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations were a huge success but unfortunately the same can't be said for The King's Coronation Celebrations as discussed in the AGM earlier in the evening.

The thank you ceremony for Caroline Ellis' Retirement went very well.

Thank you to the outgoing Cllr's Ian, Gary, Paul and Janet for their contribution & commitment to the Council.

Drainage and Flooding – Drains have been cleared at Mounthill Lane & Valley View Pond.

Rounding up his report The Chair gave his thanks to the Musbury Parish Councillors and thanked the outgoing Clerk for all her help & assistance during her time in post & welcomed the new clerk.

Questions from Parishioners:

Parking was further discussed by members of the public, particularly that of parents at school drop off/pick up times. There was discussion about staff parking in the school field therefore allowing parents to drop in Col Drakes Car Park. This had been discussed previously & not thought a viable option. Clerk to write a letter to the Headteacher & copy in Paul Walker at the Federation Office to ask for consideration to residents when dropping & picking up School children.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT AND INTERNAL AUDIT – CLERK

The balance of the Treasurers Account as at 31st March was confirmed:

Lloyds Treasurers Account No 1063790

Balance bought forward as at 1st April 2022 £12,847.62

Add receipts £23,455.69

Precept Apr & AMP; Sept £8,500.00

P3 £2,700.00

Allotments £ 445.86

VAT Reclaim £ 875.94

DAAT £6,896.34

Community Field £4,029.87

£36,303.31

Less payments £21,560.83

Balance to carry forward to 1st April 2023 £ 14,742.48

Includes:

Allotment Deposits £ 735.00

Allotment Funds Available £ 1557.48 £2,292.48

P3 Footpaths £ 619.32

DAAT £ 0.00

Christmas Tree £ 122.81

General Fund £7,935.22

Community Playing Field £3,772.65

The VAT reclaim was submitted on the 4th April for the past year:

2022/23 £1,868.33 (£228.46 for P3, £260.60 for General and £1,379.27 for DAAT)

We spent £21,560.83 this year – includes £3,213 on staff, £1,015 on grass cutting, £2,516 on P3, £385 on allotments, £705 on charities, £10,481 on DAAT and £272 on the Community Playing Field

Questions from Parishioners

No questions.

7 OFFICER'S REPORTS

Musbury Playing Fields - The recent annual safety inspection has reiterated the areas of the playground in need of attention which we are pleased to say are many fewer than last year thanks to the amazing work of volunteers. The only remaining significant issue now is the safety surfaces. In July, during some of our hottest weather, Steve Hearn, Annie Stark and Graham Stark worked on restoring the existing playground equipment – the swings, slide, climbing wall and rocket rocker. Metalwork was sanded down, rust was treated and fresh paint applied. I think we can all agree the difference is remarkable. The group has also added elements to the trim trail and has obtained quotes from several companies for installing a toddler rocker and nest swing. A lottery bid to help fund the replacement of the surfaces has also been submitted.

A new noticeboard has been made and installed.

We have benefitted from a new grass cutting contractor this year – Ian Churchill has done a

really good job so far and takes care of our public spaces.

On Monday 8th May, an open morning was held to encourage parishioners to come along and see what has been achieved so far and enjoy some coffee and cake.

Questions from Parishioners

No questions.

Musbury Village Hall – Cllr Perryman said that the Hall was doing well & letting was going well with 3 new organisations now using the Hall on a weekly basis. There aren't many days when it's not let.

Charges currently remain the same, however with the rising costs of Gas/Electricity & being treble that of previous bills a review will be discussed at the next meeting.

Questions from Parishioners

No questions.

Musbury Allotments – The Clerk was pleased to confirm that there is one half plot vacant, there are two people remaining on the waiting list, the first of which will be contacted in due course. If anyone knows of anyone in the village who would like to be added to the list, please contact the clerk. In these times of rising food costs, growing your own is more important than ever.

Allotment rent levels were maintained this year after the increase of 5% for the 2019-2020 season. The main expenditure in the past year has been the payment of water bills, particularly as we had a very hot and dry summer – for the UK! To counter this, the water is turned off for the months of December, January and February when there is less requirement for water and more likelihood of pipes bursting or leaks going undetected. The Clerk and Mr Parkman liaise regularly to monitor the plots and any ongoing maintenance needs. The allotments have a very healthy balance of £2,231.28 thanks to prompt payment of rents and deposits, some generous waiving of returns of deposits and accurate meter readings meaning accurate water bills.

New elements to contract: The allotment is let on the condition that it is maintained in a state of proper cultivation and is used for its intended purposes (cultivate the land for personal consumption and/or enjoyment) and not left idle. That on termination of a tenancy, to leave the allotment garden in good order, clear and weed-free, removing any shed unless by agreement with the Council. Failure of a relinquishing tenant to comply will result in a professional quote for clearance being obtained and the tenant given the option of paying the quoted fee or clearing the plot within one month.

Thanks to all involved in the maintenance of this great asset to the village.

Questions from Parishioners

No questions.

Musbury Planning & Development - The Clerk outlined the past year's planning applications Applications. There were 7 applications reviewed in the past year, a number of which were impacted by the planning moratorium imposed by Natural England due to the high levels of phosphates and nitrates in the River Axe. Many applications were for internal changes or minor additions such as agricultural buildings and single storey extensions /car parking spaces. The majority of applications had the support of Parish Council and there were several requests for advice from EDDC planning. One application was in regard to tree felling which the Council defer to the opinion of the Tree Officer of EDDC.

Baxters Farm – The Farm House has now been sold by DCC and we look forward to seeing fresh life breathed back into the building. There was discussion about the work being carried out without permission.

Questions from Parishioners

Members of the public asked about the lack of planning permission for the work that was being carried out on Baxters Farm. The Chair said there had been discussions with the LPA & a visit had been carried out by the Enforcement Officer. His conclusion was that he had no issues with the work being carried out & reported back that he considered the case closed with no further action

P3 Footpaths – Janet Albano read the following report

Repairs and improvement April 2022-March 2023

Fp32 - New flight of steps, the Jubilee steps, from Mounthill to Musbury Castle, with new access gate and fencing.

Fo 20 - Major improvements, French drain installed across the lane, 2 self closing gates, and repair to the bridge.

The lane that crosses Fp 20 (from Doatshayne lane to Bottom lane) is now signed as ' unmetalled Road' is still part of the highway system and will be included in the PROW inspection.

Fp16 - New gate and marker post.

Fo10 - Self closing pedestrian gate to replace a stile.

In addition to numerous minor adjustments to gates, Paul Smith dug out and back filled steps as well as much strimming.

The annual survey was carried out by Paul Smith and using this information the survey and finance forms were completed and bids for 2023 funding submitted.

Repairs to steps on fps 20 and 30 have been sent to the contractor and should be completed in the next couple of weeks. These paths are on popular walking routes (fp30 is on the East Devon way).

Janet Albano thanked Paul Smith, she would have been unable to look after the paths for so long without his help.

She has prepared a file with the list of repairs for the coming year, and other useful information such as landowner contacts, lanes that have no public footpath status such as the lane along side Barley Close and a parish map. It is important to know the Parish boundaries- after 20 years she is still asked 'are you sure, when explaining a path is not on our patch. So finally please look after the footpaths.

The Chair thanked Janet for all her hard work over the years.

Questions from Parishioners

No questions.

8 MUSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

No report Received

9 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

No report Received

10 OPEN FORUM ON THE PAST YEAR

A member of the public mentioned & asked that it be minuted that they were not happy with the font on the freshly painted castle sign & didn't think it was in keeping with the original sign. Others disagreed & said they liked the new sign.

A member of the public spoke about the fire hydrants within the village & stated that one particular hydrant plate had been sealed over after work had been carried out in the village. The question was asked about how often maintenance & checks are carried out on the Hydrants? The Chair said he had a contact in the Fire Service so would contact them to find out.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 8:45pm