

TADMARTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD MONDAY 4TH APRIL 2022 AT 8PM
IN TADMARTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Turner, Cllr Fitzpatrick, Cllr Tomblin, Cllr George Reynolds and two villagers

1. Welcome/Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Higley.

2. To receive an annual statement from the Parish Council including a financial overview (Cllr Tim Turner, Chairman)

Good evening Ladies & Gentlemen, Halleluiah we finally appear to be coming out of Covid and Zoom virtual meetings.

The Parish Council (PC) have not rested during this time so the Chair was happy to report some progress during the year. The PC have lost a couple of councillors recently due to personal circumstances which has fallen on the others to take on a further workload and the Chair thanked them for this (they know who they are). He also liked to publicly thank the Clerk Christine who somehow manages to keep them all on the straight and narrow. The PC are however very anxious to get back up to numbers and are trying to recruit some new blood!!

So what has the PC done? The PC are all very conscious of what an asset the village hall is and to that end liaise with their committee, and helped them out financially with the refurbishment of the flooring and are continuing to assist.

Speeding is an ever constant problem and due to building works the Parish Council have had many complaints about parking which seems to have mostly fallen on Councillors Mr Higley and Councillor Ms Fitzpatrick who have handled the matter with fortitude and tact. Hopefully the village are getting to the end of this problem. Some years ago the PC joined Hornton, Broughton, and Swalcliffe in purchasing a radar gun and starting a community speed watch scheme. Due to lack of staff at the police end it was a very lack lustre start, however local resident Mr Nigel Demery has taken it on board and with his able team of volunteers is licking it into shape helped by Councillor Higley. They provided the police with very accurate and succinct figures, so thank you Nigel. They are also tackling the VAS speeding signs at both ends of the village.

Other highway issues have also been resolved, finally (whilst it's not the M1) it is possible to pass through Stant Hill without losing your sump and the water ingress is now properly diverted. The problem with the spring flooding again was resolved with a little knowledge and hard work particularly from local resident Jan, again many thanks. Following a RTA by the bridge the County Council were going to replace the lovely old signpost with a modern one so thanks again to Cllr Jane Fitzpatrick for finding and arranging a company to restore it (and paid for by the drivers insurance).

Unfortunately the moving of the bridleway in Hollow Rd (bridleway 12) is a very slow process, mostly down to covid but the Parish Council are slogging on. The Parish Council have also erected a new bus shelter at the lower end of the village and are actively working with OCC to make the entrance to the VH car park safer with restriction lines for parking thus helping visibility.

You may have noticed swatches of wild flowers appeared along the Main Road last year. This is an ongoing project (baby) of Councillors Tomblin and Fitzpatrick.

Having installed emergency defibrillators some years ago the PC are very conscious of their responsibility and are actively sorting checking rotas and have arranged a further training course for CPR/public defibrillator on Mon 23rd May (6pm-8pm) for public training.

Before he resigned, Councillor Kingsford had commissioned a commemorative metal seat which the Parish Council are in negotiation with the PCC to be permanently sighted in the church yard. The village have also been invited by Swalcliffe and Shutford to share with them in their celebrations of lighting the beacon on Jesters Hil for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Discussions are ongoing.

The Parish Council finances are very strong, so this year only took the basic precept allowance from CDC.

3. To discuss the 20mph initiative and speeding

This is a new OCC initiative. The proposal is aimed to make streets safer, encourage residents to walk or cycle and reduce noise and pollution. The introduction of 20mph restrictions in other areas has already cut speeds and accidents. Research by the UK Transport Research Laboratory has shown that every 1mph reduction in average urban speeds can result in a 6% fall in the number of casualties.

One villager did not support the 20mph initiative. The vast majority will comply. Speeding occurs in some parts of the village. The speed signs are good and the bend at the Banbury end slows drivers down. Countdown signs are effective but not county policy now. Cllr Tomblin noted the 20mph limit would help as houses are on the Main Road and horses walk up and down.

There are currently five pilot schemes running. OCC have set aside £8.5M in their budget. 70 villagers are on the list and there is a criteria list. Cllr Fitzpatrick referred to the speeding data that has been collected and 50% stick to the speed limit. The speed signs have been problematic in the past and speeds do reduce when the signs are up and running.

The parking problem on the Main Road has grown recently. Cars are bigger and don't fit in garages. There has been a lot of building work going on.

Action: It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should contact Highways to arrange a site meeting and see what can be done.

4. To discuss the wildflower/verge project

This project started 18 months ago and was considered from a beauty and preservation point of view. Certain parts of the village were started last year, the bank on the Main Road in Lower Tadmarton and the bank near the bus shelter in Upper Tadmarton. New areas are being considered this year. It's a joint effort as other people are helping. The villagers present thought it was a good idea. It enhances the living environment.

5. Open Forum

Cllr Reynolds gave a brief report from the County Council. OCC are bedding in. OCC and CDC are separating and CDC will re-organise themselves. It should not affect the level of service.

The planning department has struggled due to an increase in applications and workers going back to the office.

From the floor a villager thanked Cllr Fitzpatrick for sorting out the damaged finger post in Lower Tadmarton.

Cllr Fitzpatrick thanked Cllr George Reynolds for his ongoing help with the Ukraine refugee crisis.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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