

PATNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Village Annual Meeting held on 13 May 2021 at 8.00pm (via Zoom)

Present:

Patricia Alsop	(PA)	PPC Chairman
Mark Cann	(MC)	Parish Councillor
Simon Guest	(SG)	Parish Councillor
Steve Welford	(SW)	Parish Councillor & Clerk
Gino Zabeo	(GZ)	Parish Councillor

Bob Cook, John Derry, Catherine Heilbron, Vicky Hickey, Nikky Rendle, Mary Snook, Vivien and Nigel Thursby, Steve Woodhams, Matt Wright

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Paul Oatway

2. Chairman's Report

PA confirmed that all minutes and agendas are published on the Parish website (www.patney.net) and in hard copy on the noticeboard.

PA provided a summary of the key events over the past 2 years, since we did not have a village annual meeting last year due to the Covid pandemic:

The primary focus of activities over the past 14 months has been to provide a support network for villagers during the pandemic, particularly those who are vulnerable, live alone and had to shield or self-isolate. This support is still available and is being provided. Many thanks to all villagers who have helped others within Patney and in the wider community during this difficult time.

Methods of communication between villagers now include two WhatsApp groups – one for specific Covid-related assistance (Patney vs Corona) and the other for social activities, exchanging ideas, news, disposing of items etc. (Patney Village Network). The number of villagers who have agreed to be contacted by email is still disappointingly low (33 out of 68 households). If anyone wants to be added to the distribution lists, please contact Steve Welford via patneyparishclerk@outlook.com

A variety of work/services have been conducted in this period, specifically:

- A speed check on Woodland Road was requested from Wiltshire Council and undertaken in Autumn 2019. This survey concluded that there was insufficient evidence of excessive speeding to justify any changes.
- “20 is plenty stickers” were purchased and distributed to all households in 2020.
- The need for remedial work to level the hump in the bridge at the south end of the village has been raised with Highways and we are assured it is in their programme of works.
- A new Patney sign for the south end of the village was requested from Wiltshire Council some time ago and is still awaited.
- Emergency tree surgery was necessary on the village green in June 2020 and further work was required in January 2021.
- The defibrillator training session planned for June and then September 2020 had to be postponed and will be re-arranged as soon as practicable.
- The Parish Steward visits for half a day each month (unless required for snow clearance in the winter months). He focuses on keeping drains and gullies clear, removing mud from roads and filling small potholes.
- A Land Registry search was conducted, which confirms that no title is registered for the west side of the village green.

The Parish Council commented on:

- The resubmitted application to demolish the 3 existing cottages and garages at 23-27 Woodland Road and replace them with 3 detached dwellings (approved December 2019).
- The application for an extension at 2 Woodland Road (still under consultation).
- The application to make the existing garage part of the house at 22 Woodland Road (approved May 2021).

The parish precept has been held at £1,000 per annum since 2019/20. The Parish Council currently has reserves of just below £9,000.

A charitable donation of £500 was made to the Chirton & Patney PCC in 2020 in recognition of the fact that normal fundraising activities such as the Village Fete had not been possible during the pandemic.

Changes to the membership of the Parish Council include:

- Peter Small retired as Parish Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer and Councillor in 2020 and was replaced by Steve Welford. The vacancy was announced by letter drop to the entire village and via the noticeboard.
- As planned, John Derry did not seek re-election earlier this month and we are delighted that Gino Zabeo decided to put himself forward for election. As no more than the permitted number of 5 Councillors stood, there was no need for a formal election.
- Peter Small also retired as Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and John Derry took this on. He has kindly agreed to continue following his retirement as a Parish Councillor.

Finally, PA expressed thanks to John Derry for his very helpful contribution as a Parish Councillor over several years and also to Neville Burrell for his continuing help in acting as our internal auditor.

3. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21

SW explained that this had been completed and approved at the earlier meeting of the Council. There were no adverse comments from the internal auditor. The accounts for the year included a Parish precept of £1,000, and total expenditure of £2,335 which includes £1,050 tree surgery work, £500 donation to Chirton & Patney PCC, insurance £186, website hosting £105, and “20s plenty stickers” £90. The bank balances totalled £8,974 at 31 March 2021.

There are no major outgoings anticipated in 2021/22; the renewal of the defibrillator hire is due in June 2022, and we may need to allocate provision for further reduction/removal of the ash tree on village green because of ash die-back.

4. Neighbourhood Watch Report

John Derry will continue as NHW coordinator and circulate reports to villagers who have registered to receive these; if you don't receive these but wish to do so, please email patneyparishclerk@outlook.com.

5. Matters from the public

- Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme – Nikky Rendle provided a brief description of this initiative, and an update on the current status of interest expressed in the village. Details of households who have expressed an interest (22 at time of meeting) are being registered with OpenReach, who will come back with a quote for installing the required infrastructure within the village. Nikky and Catherine Heilbron are preparing a mail drop for distribution to villagers, in order to have as many households registered as possible. PA confirmed that the Parish Council endorses the initiative, but is not the right entity to lead it on account of unknown financial and contractual risk; progressing this via a separate community group is the best way forward. Once the cost of installing the infrastructure is known, further decisions can be taken on how to proceed, especially if there is a delta between this cost and the grants being offered.
- Green Lane (Woodland Road) refuse and dog waste bin – Matt Wright provided the reasons behind his request to move the bin from its existing location, particularly its increased visibility encouraging more vehicles to stop to dispose of rubbish, and a proposal for an alternative location. Concern was expressed about the likelihood of re-introducing the previous dog waste problem on Green Lane, which was the main justification for siting the bin at this location. Nigel Thursby proposed siting the bin further up Green Lane away from the immediate roadside, on his land if necessary. PA confirmed

that she will discuss this with Paul Oatway, especially whether Wiltshire Council's waste removal contractor will empty the bin at this location. PA also confirmed that a 4th bin has been requested from Wiltshire Council at the north end of the village, and that more frequent emptying of the bins has also been requested.

- Use of reserve - Nigel Thursby suggested that the reserves could be used to cover Patney villagers' subscription to the Redhorn News. Concern was expressed that not all villagers currently subscribe to the newsletter, and in some cases do not wish to receive it; PA noted that the Parish Council will consider the request. Another suggestion for use of funds was a contribution to a future village party to be held when circumstances permit.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

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Patricia Alsop, Chairman