

## PATNEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Village Annual Meeting held on 16 May 2024 at 8.00pm at Manor Farm House, Manor Farm Lane, Patney, and via Teams

#### **Present:**

Patricia Alsop	(PA)	Chairman
Gino Zabeo	(GZ)	Parish Councillor
Simon Guest	(SG)	Parish Councillor
Heather Cross	(HC)	Parish Councillor
Steve Welford	(SW)	Parish Councillor & Clerk

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

None received

#### **2. Chairman's Report**

PA confirmed that all minutes and agendas are published on the Parish Council website ([www.patney.net](http://www.patney.net)) and in hard copy on the village noticeboard. Meetings are also advertised on the Village WhatsApp Group. If anyone wishes to join the WhatsApp group please let us know.

PA provided a summary of the main matters dealt with by the Parish Council over the past 12 months. These are:

- Appointment of a new Parish Councillor, Heather Cross, who was co-opted onto the Council today.
- Flooding issues on Woodland Road at the north end of the village and around the village green following periods of heavy rain were raised with Wiltshire Council on various occasions. Our thanks to villagers who patiently cleared mud and debris from drains. The Parish Council arranged for a private contractor to sweep both Woodland Road and Manor Farm Lane. The cost of this (£1200) was disproportionately high compared to the benefit as the drains quickly became overwhelmed again with the subsequent wet weather. This is not something the Parish Council will be able to fund again. Eventually after dates being missed there was a visit by Wiltshire Council Discretionary Gully clearance service to clear the blocked drain by the village green but not before persistent flooding of a nearby property.
- The Coronation Party hosted by Helen & David James was supported by Parish Funds; again our thanks to the James' and to villagers who made this event such a success.

- Various fallen trees (in particular on the Hail Bridge bridleway) and overgrown bridleways were reported and dealt with either by Wiltshire Council or adjoining landowners.
- Arranging for Wiltshire Council to repair the broken parapet on the river bridge at the South end of the village.
- Parking and speeding issues on Woodland Road were the subject of a discussion with a Senior Traffic Engineer, and a traffic survey was conducted in April, the results of which have been recently received, and reported on in today's Council Meeting.
- A defibrillator training session was held on 5 June last year, attended by 9 villagers and another is planned for the Autumn this year.
- Installation of an additional "Unsuitable for HGV" sign for the village green end of Manor Farm Lane.
- Parish Precept held at £1500 for 2024.
- A poppy wreath was again laid at the War Memorial in Chirton on Armistice Day on behalf of the village.
- Various planning applications were considered and commented on. None were regarded as controversial. Contact was made with the Planning Officer to ensure adherence to conditions in relation to the refurbishment of the Rank. Villagers are alerted to new planning applications via the Village WhatsApp Group.
- A deposit account was opened with Cambridge Building Society and £5000 of Parish Funds are held there with some interest accruing.

### **3. Finance Report, and Statement of Accounts 2023/24**

SW explained that the Statement of Accounts had been approved at the earlier meeting of the Council. The accounts for the year included a Parish precept of £1,500, and total expenditure of £3,110.35. The bank balance was £7,300.03 on 31 March 2024.

Variances from 2022/23 are an increase in income of £499.92, an increase in expenditure of £1,004.68, and a reduction in the EOY bank balance of £948.16.

The internal audit of the accounts will be completed in June; the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) documents, including Certificate of Exemption, will be submitted to the external auditor before 01 July 2024.

### **4. Matters from the public**

None were raised prior to the meeting

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

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Patricia Alsop, Chairman