

PATNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Village Annual Meeting held on 21 May 2025 at 7.30pm via Teams

Present:

Patricia Alsop	(PA)	Chairman
Gino Zabeo	(GZ)	Parish Councillor
Heather Cross	(HC)	Parish Councillor
Steve Welford	(SW)	Parish Councillor & Clerk
Matt Wright	(MW)	

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Paul Oatway

2. Chairman's Report

PA confirmed that all minutes and agendas are published on the Parish Council website (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, as follows:

Highways

Speeding on Woodland Road

A traffic survey was conducted by Wiltshire Council at our request in 2024 and a further survey is underway in 2025 but we don't yet have the results. In 2024 the average vehicle speed recorded on Woodland Road was 24mph and 10.23% of vehicles exceeded 30mph. The 85th percentile speed was 29mph (ie. the speed at or below which 85% of the traffic is travelling). The criteria for interventions (such as Community Speed Watch or installation of Speed Indicator Devices) were not therefore met.

Following reports of speeding on Woodland Road we requested a meeting with WC Principal Traffic Engineering Manager, Mark Stansby, and this took place on 10 January 2025. To progress the points discussed, we have engaged with the WC-supported Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG), and following a recent meeting on 21 May can report the following

- A street lighting survey was conducted by WC to determine whether 30mph repeater signs can be added along Woodland Road, the results of which confirmed that these will be added by WC at no expense to the parish; this is likely to happen by September

- Other possible measures, including line painting, can be considered by LHFIG at a later date

Manor Farm Lane Road Surface

The state of the road surface in a particular section of MFL was raised with WC Highways and they acknowledge that it requires attention but cannot yet say when this will happen.

Drains

The problems with blocked drains following heavy rainfall on the Village Green and the north end of Woodland Road were raised with WC. The Discretionary Gully Service cleared these in August and October.

Phone Box

Following requests from various villagers, we are arranging for the phone box to be refurbished and expect the work to take place over the summer.

Planning

Various applications were considered and comments were made/clarification sought where deemed appropriate. All were regarded as uncontentious and have been passed by WC.

Council

There is a vacancy following the resignation of Simon Guest at the start of the year. Our thanks to Simon for his excellent contribution over the past 4 years. Please contact SW or me if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. The four continuing Councillors were all duly elected at the May 2025 elections.

3. Finance Report, and Statement of Accounts 2024/25

SW explained that the Statement of Accounts 2024/25 had been approved at the earlier meeting of the Council. The accounts included income of £1,775.76 (Parish precept unchanged at £1,500), and expenditure of £1,163.15. The bank balance was £7,912.64 on 31 March 2025.

Variances from 2023/24 show a reduction in income of £386.44, a reduction in expenditure of £1,947.20, and an increase in the EOY bank balance of £612.61.

The internal audit of the accounts will be conducted by Neville Burrell in June; the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) documents, including Certificate of Exemption, will be submitted to the external auditor before 01 July 2025.

4. Matters from the public

- Speeding on Woodland Road
Updates from the recent LHFIG meeting and regarding the additional traffic survey were presented, as above.

- Overnight parking at WR entrance to bridleway
There have been incidents observed of overnight parking/sleeping, by what appears to be the same vehicle. The Parish Council confirmed that it is not possible to place a barrier or post to block the entrance to the bridleway. If anyone encounters this and is able to capture the vehicle details please let the Parish Clerk know.
- Waste bin at WR entrance to bridleway
The Parish Council confirmed that no change to the positioning of the waste bin is being considered. If the bin is seen to be full or overflowing, please report it to WC using the information on the bin sticker.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.00pm

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Patricia Alsop, Chairman