

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 21 MAY 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2019 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3. REPORTS

Village Hall Management

Neil Clarke, Committee Chair reported that it had been a strange year as a result of COVID and currently emerging from the latest lockdown in a positive way, with some groups already back using the hall and more expected in the autumn. When there were no hall users, the opportunity had been taken to complete some internal and external redecorating. A five year prioritised and costed development plan was being drawn up to support reducing carbon usage and overall costs, including items such as improving insulation, more efficient water heating and new heating. The roof remains the largest structural issue to deal with and grants will be needed to help cover the cost, with some fundraising to be organised. Finally, those that serve on the Committee were thanked, particularly the Treasurer, Secretary, Caretaker and Bookings Secretary.

CareBank

Claire Uwins explained the background to CareBank, outlining how it had evolved as a result of COVID to be central place for relevant information, particularly online. It helped to support vulnerable people, especially through the introduction of a local helpline and a buddy support system. With financial help from Cllr Graham McAndrew (HCC), and additional fund raising, a community hub project was established to join up a number of projects that exist within health, local government and charities, based out of Little Hadham.

Surgery PPG

Hugh Labram spoke on behalf of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) which ensures two-way communications between patients and doctors. The aim is to help with the well-being of all, particularly the elderly and vulnerable. PPG was established in 2012, a statutory requirement, and covers a wider area than just Much Hadham. In the last year, the PPG mainly helped with social prescribing matters and assisting with the delivery of flu jabs via Little Hadham Village Hall. Communications have been improved with the set up of a Facebook page, as well as a wealth of information available on the Health Centre website.

The PPG is also involved with the Clinical Commissioning Group which includes 5 other surgeries.

Sports Association

Fred Pavey, Chair reported on the work of the Sports Association for the last year, and its member clubs, highlighting that very little sport had been played recently as a result of COVID. Financial support had been received through East Herts Council's COVID grants. Clubs are aiming to return to playing from June. Unfortunately, there have been some instances of anti-social behaviour which have been reported to the police.

County Councillor

Cllr Graham McAndrew reported on the Herts Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership that had been established in early 2020 involving the County and District Councils in Hertfordshire. The aim is to work together to achieve climate change targets whilst respecting individual organisations' plans. Four themes have been agreed: transport; water; bio-diversity and carbon reduction and the work being undertaken in relation to each was outlined.

District Councillor

Cllr Ian Devonshire highlighted how East Herts Council had provided financial support during COVID and the grants that were now available to help businesses re-start, or for new businesses to start. Funding is also available for community groups and all information is available on the East Herts Council website. In addition, updates on the large capital projects in Bishop's Stortford were provided, relating to Grange Paddocks and the Old River Lane site. Finally, Cllr Ian Devonshire reported that he had been appointed as Vice Chair, outlining what this role would involve.

Planning Matters

Cllr Ian Hunt provided an update on local planning matters affecting Much Hadham that are considered at Planning Committee meetings. He referred to the latest position in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan, the undesirable planning applications that the Parish Council had helped to thwart, the housing development expected in the next 12 months or so, the position relating to the land at the Barn School, planning enforcement action and the subdivision for sale of some large plots of land.

Recreation Trust and Fete

John Dodsworth, Chairman outlined the background to the Recreation Trust, highlighting that it is an independent charity that supports the upkeep of the Village Hall and recreation ground, as well as other clubs/societies in the parish. The vast bulk of the Trust's income is

from the Village Fete and Dog Show. Last year, as a result of COVID, there was no Fete but some donations were received. This year, it is still not practical to hold this event, even with the easing of restrictions. However, a smaller event is being considered for the August bank holiday Monday, subject to COVID guidance, for local residents. Tony Bond will be organising and help/support from other people welcomed.

4. RESIDENTS COMMENTS

A resident thanked Cllrs for their hard work over the last year.

The meeting concluded at 8.05 pm.