

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
10 May 2022
Held at Latton Parish Hall
At 7pm

Councillors present:

Cllr P Rawsthorne (Chairman)
Cllr K Johnson

Cllr D Lloyd (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr A Slater

Cllr P Clarke
Cllr J Towner

Cllr R De'witt

Others in Attendance: Tina Jones (Clerk)

MINUTES

1. Chairman's Welcome

Councillor Rawsthorne welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Appointment of Clerk

Tina Jones was appointed as Clerk for the meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence

All Members were present.

4. Minutes

Members APPROVED the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2022. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5. Latton Parish Council Review

The last 12 months have been very interesting from a Parish Council point of view. A year of stability in strange times where myself and Councillors Lloyd, DeWitt, Johnson and Towner were all reselected unopposed, carrying 2 vacancies for most of the year which have now been filled by Councillors Clarke and Slater. We have been ably supported by our Clerk Tina Jones and Wiltshire Councillor Bob Jones. Thanks all for your service and commitment to our community and a warm welcome to our new Councillors.

We faced our usual challenges Speeding and LGV's through the village, dog mess, maintenance, and planning issues.

On the list of achievements, the Council has managed to successfully support the outline planning application for the village hall development. Successfully organised a village meeting to gain volunteers willing to support the Trust for the new village hall. The Trust is now up and running but is currently one trustee short to re-apply for charitable status.

All 5 planters on The Street have now been adopted by residents. We produced and delivered a newsletter. Many thanks to Councillor Johnson for our Community Speedwatch and Lorrywatch. We have been talking with 113 Events about safety matters when Triathlon cyclists use our village roads. Latton in Bloom was launched last year as an open trial with no entry required. This year it will run as a competition with entries.

Traffic surveys for Gosditch and Water Eaton have been commissioned. We continue to work with the Upper Thames Gravel Extraction Group to monitor behaviour and compliance issues of the Quarry contractors operating all around our area.

The Community Garden continues to grow as a valuable village resource and now has a committee to keep it running. Hopefully the lease can be renewed in June. Maintenance issues this year saw the rebuilding of the collapsed wall on Gosditch and replacement of the signs for Gosditch and Upcott. Replacement of the gates to the play park along with a new flagpole.

Planned for this coming year; renegotiate the lease for the Community Garden, continue to oppose the second Bio digester in Castle Eaton, run the Latton in Bloom competition, maximise traffic calming around our village and continue to support the residents of Latton, Eysey and Water Eaton. Finally, I would like to thank Wiltshire Councillor Jones for his support, representation and advice.

6. **St John the Baptist Church Report 2021-2022**

- We were delighted to welcome Revd Canon Debbie Dewes as of the Upper Thames benefice, her installation was held on 19th July 2021.
- We were pleased to be able to start up the Latton Café in March and hope to be able to hold one each month. The March café raised £450 which was donated to the DEC Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal, since then we have been donating any café profits to the appeal.
- The Church continues to find itself in a difficult financial position, but it is hoped that this will ease now that fundraising events can take place. The Church is very grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to pay the cost of the churchyard maintenance for the year 2022/23.
- We still need to replace the ladders to the bell tower platform and roof with approved ladders, handrails and platforms, clean the bird mess in the loft and fit mesh to prevent birds nesting in the tower. We have had some success with fundraising having received £3000 from the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, but this is well short of the amount required. We are currently looking at less costly alternatives and other grant-giving bodies.
- The Church is still eager to keep the Village Hall functional and available for the community pending the construction of a new village hall, providing that the maintenance costs are not too high. There is no central Church of England fund to meet these costs, it is supported solely by the members of St. John the Baptist, Latton.

7. **Latton Charities Report**

- The current account balance as of 20th December 2021 was £2,455. The total income for 2021 was £183 made up of rent, Charities Official Investment Fund dividends and bank interest. 9 people received a £10 Christmas payment.
- The Trustees are happy to consider applications for funds and would welcome suggestions for funding if anyone knows of a member or members of the parish who would benefit. Typical payments have been made for hospital visiting transport costs and contributions to heating bills in cold weather. Please contact Mrs June Lawrence or Mr Phil Winfield for further details. Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

8. **Wiltshire Councillor Report 2021 - 2022**

Planning and the subsequent implications have been at the top of my inbox this year some highs and lows for Latton. On the lows, firstly the application by Listers to set up a new regional office and workshop at the Old Creamery site faltered as they needed planning permissions on a very tight time scale which Wiltshire planners failed to meet due to staffing and environmental issues. Most disappointing as it would have opened up numerous employment opportunities and the site continues to remain derelict. On the upside the bio digester at Water Eaton has stalled due to local pressure but I fear will finally be approved. Hills continue to seek mineral extractions based on a thirty-year plan for the airfield at Down Ampney which is legislated by Central Government and will get the go ahead shortly.

For Latton the possibility of a new Village Hall is now a viable proposition following a long planning process all of which led to the sought permission going to committee and the case being heard in public. A case I was pleased to lead, and my thanks to the community that attended and spoke in favour of the project. The Archaeological surveys are now complete and do not show any significant finds.

The Cotswold Water Park has now been officially including as an SSSI which brings its own special considerations. On planning terms this will mean any activity in or close to the SSSI will need special permission. This will protect Latton to some extent from recreational activities on the lakes to protect the environment.

Water Eaton traffic calming has been elevated to the Community Area Transport Group. However, the traffic engineers have failed to offer a suitable solution, Unfortunately, reducing the speed limit on this road is not considered an option despite the increased volume and speed of traffic.

I continue to support the Parish Council and offer support for administration and activities in my role as the Ward Councillor

9. **Public Question Time**

There were no questions.

Meeting Closed at 7.21pm