

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
27 April 2021
held remotely (via Zoom) at 7:15pm

Councillors present:

Cllr P Rawsthorne (Chairman)
Cllr K Johnson

Cllr D Lloyd (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr J Towner

Cllr R De'witt

Others in Attendance: Wiltshire Councillor Bob Jones and 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 May 2019. Minutes will be retrospectively signed by the Chairman.
5. **Latton Parish Council Review for 2019 - 2021**
A challenging 12 months starting with the cancellation of this Annual Meeting, so this report covers a 2-year period.
We have had a little bit of a churn in personnel. Resignations from Councillors Lennon (Chairman), Myszkowski, Hurst and Pritchard and the Clerk Richard Rogers. I thank them for their service to the community. We have welcomed new Councillors, DeWitt, Johnson and Towner and our new Clerk Tina. All great assets! Welcome.
We have managed to function despite Covid, with the help of Zoom and Bobs account.
We faced our usual challenges Speeding and LGV's through the village, dog mess, maintenance, planning issues and apathy.
On the achievement side we managed a litter pick conducted by Councillors and residents. A substantial amount of litter was collected, and the Play equipment got a clean. We reinstated a fence on the play field to limit the dog mess left on the play area. We kept the playground open but Covid compliant. We purchased and installed a solar panel for the SID which keeps it running 24/7. 3 out of 5 planters have been adopted by residents. The Facebook page is gaining popularity support by us. We produced and delivered a newsletter and agreed to deliver supporting material for the village hall development at the same time. I feel we lost the impact of the newsletter by doing this! Congratulations to Councillor Johnson for a successful relaunch of Community Speedwatch and Lorrywatch
Planned for this coming year. A new flagpole. Work to secure the future of the community garden. Explore the idea of a Latton in Bloom Competition. Oppose the plans for another Bio digester in Castle Eaton. Support the application for the new Village Hall and residential development. Continue to support the residents of Latton, Eisey and Water Eaton. I would like to thank Wiltshire Councillor Jones for his support, representation and advice.
6. **St John the Baptist Church Report 2019 - 2020**
For the majority of the period of this report the Church was closed due to Covid 19 restrictions. The Church found itself in a difficult financial position, as it could no longer run fundraising events such as the Latton Café, the Quiz Night or the Village BBQ and there were no collections at services.
 - Although some of the running costs of the Village Hall and Church building were reduced due to reduced use, the largest costs, those of insurance, maintenance and the Parish Share (the annual amount each parish must pay to the Diocese) did not change. As a result, the Church asked its donors to increase their giving, approached the Diocese to reduce the Parish Share and appealed to the Parish Council for help with the churchyard maintenance. The church is very grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to pay the cost of the churchyard maintenance for the year 2021/22.

- A significant maintenance cost remains pending which is the funds needed to replace the ladders to the bell tower platform and roof with approved ladders, handrails and platforms, the cleaning of the loft and fitting of mesh to prevent birds nesting in the tower. The Church is currently fundraising so that this repair can be carried out, until that time the bells cannot be rung.
- The Church is still eager to keep the Village Hall functional and available for village events pending the potential construction of a new village hall. It is recognised that it is need of attention to make it a suitable community facility, the church is currently reviewing what the minimum requirements are and what the cost of meeting them will be. If the Church cannot afford the upgrade, it may be forced to close the Hall.
- Rev. Philip Bradley resigned as Vicar of the Upper Thames Group Benefice (comprising the parish churches of Cricklade, Ashton Keynes, Latton and The Leigh) in April 2020. We are happy to announce that a new incumbent has been found and Rev. Debbie Dewes, currently Vicar of St. Luke's, Brislington, Bristol, will take over as Priest in Charge in July 2021.

7. **Latton Charities Report April 2021**

- The current account balance as of 31st December 2020 was £2,361. The total income for 2020 was £181.79 made up of rent, Charities Official Investment Fund dividends and bank interest. 13 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 2019 - 2021**

Since the last annual meeting in 2019, the main items taking my time have been Planning and Traffic

The A419 road noise continues to concern residents and despite Highways England making promises the concrete road life has been extended to 30 years and the likely hood of resurfacing seems to slip away

The Community Transport Group have seen inputs from Latton on signage for the village (speed roundels, Vet sign)

On Councils behalf I met with Highways Officers to investigate traffic speed reductions on the C124 at Water Eaton. The offered scheme was poor and unacceptable to residents and Council. Further work will be researched in the coming months.

Speeding in the village has not decreased and the speed watch team supported recently by the police have been active

Planning

On the planning front the Village Hall development seems to have faltered and needs a substantial reinvigoration. Hopefully in the new Council year members will be able to drive this project forward. There has been a flurry of planning applications in the Village surround for Mineral extraction and the villages are getting together to form a group to jointly defend the area and scrutinise activities The Cotswold Water Park is looking to increase its status and rationalise the area including SSSI status for more of it. Planning for recreational activities on the lakes continues to concern me and I am constantly aware of the activities such as the recent application for the ski lake having an effect on residents

The application to increase the Biodigester capacity at Castle Eaton and the traffic increase on the C124 have led me to raise the issues with the adjoining authorities in Swindon

I continue to support the Parish Council and offer support for administration and activities such as the litter pick.

9. **Public Question Time**

There were no questions.

Meeting Closed at 7.27pm