

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Minutes of Bulwick Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 6th May 2022 at 6.30 pm in the Bulwick Local Centre. **DRAFT**

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs J Taylor (Chair), J Sanderson, L Vaughan, M Beaton, H Fisher, Clerk Disney

In Attendance: 4 members of the public.

Minute No.	
1	<p>Apologies received and approved: None</p>
2	<p>Chairmans Report 2021 – 2022 : Cllr J Taylor (Chair) Opened the meeting and explained the objective and the reports within the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman reflected over their first year in office. All the Parish Councillors were newly elected to these roles in 2021 / 22 & have had to learn as they have progressed throughout the year about the processes and responsibilities of the role. The chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their contribution and for putting in place the required governances and compliance. He also noted that as a group the councillors & clerk work well together and how this is very important to being able to deliver the requirements of the Parish.</p> <p>The Parish Council had hoped for bigger engagement from the Bulwick parish residents; however, the Parish Councillors believe that the work done in the first year in office has given a positivity to the village.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor went on to express how important the help from Locum Clerk Justina Medwell was. Justina stepped in to help the newly formed councillors whilst the Parish Council recruited a part time Clerk. Justina ensured that the due processes were followed. Justina handed the role over to Ann Disney who lives in Bulwick and it was a smooth transition with Justina remaining as a mentor to Ann who is new to the Clerks role.</p> <p>The Clerks role is very important to the Parish Council by ensuring communications and all required procedures are followed. The Clerk supports the Councillors and ensures governance and compliance. Cllr Taylor thanked Ann for her work since accepting the role.</p> <p>Planning: Over the 12 months a number of planning notices were reviewed by the Parish Council. Most of these were straight forward and the Council was able to support the application. There was 1 application where the Council gave feedback to the planning officer and were able to help to protect a heritage asset in the village. Although the Parish Council are not empowered to stop planning consent, they are able to, through strong communication to the Planning Office, give feedback to influence a decision. In the past 12 months the PC has built a good relationship with the Planning office by responding to all applications received.</p> <p>Clerk: Following due process the Parish Council Recruited a part time clerk who started in the role for 1st Dec 2021.</p> <p>Village Maintenance: Within the year a number of improvements has been made in the village, Drains emptied; Trees on Southwick Road trimmed; Beyond repair Bench removed; Village Signs being refurbished and, in some instances replaced; repair to a dog waste bin & with further items on the work schedule for Fix my Street.</p> <p>Street Lighting refurbishment project is now in progress and at the Parish Council Meeting on 6th May 2022 the Council will give direction on how to update the lights</p> <p>Village Assets have all been mapped. Those owned by the Parish Council identified and included in the Parish Council Insurance from June.</p> <p>Grants: Bulwick Parish Council have been awarded a grant to purchase a village mobile speed sign & we are currently waiting to hear if a grant has been awarded to purchase a defibrillator.</p> <p>Other: The Parish Council engaged with the Bulwick Estate on their project to become more ecological & see this as a positive step for the village</p>

Chairman

Date

	<p>Meetings: There were 9 meetings held over the year, but village attendance has been disappointing. The PC will look at ways to improve engagement in 2022 / 23 & develop a newsletter for residence.</p>
3	<p>Accounting Statement 2021 – 2022 : Cllr Beaton (Treasurer) presented a statement of financial accounts and reported that the balance as of 31st March 2022 totalled £4810.27. This is a similar reserve as FY20 / 21. In the main only the mandatory items were paid and no investment into the village as the precept amount did not allow for any other spend, so the councillors were limited in what could be achieved in 2021/ 22.</p> <p>Cllr Beaton explained that this will change in FY22 / 23 and therefore there is a rise in the Precept for FY22/23 This will allow the council to invest in the items that villagers have expressed needed to be updated and replaced to an acceptable standard. Additionally, to be compliant the Clerk is employed by the Parish Council and is a paid role.</p> <p>As the new council was elected there were some banking issues in transferring over the account and signatures to the new councillors. This resulted in the streetlights being switched off for a short period. Happily this has now resolved and banking is under control.</p> <p>The full End of Year Accounts can be found on the Parish Council website at http://www.bulwickpc.org.uk</p>
4	<p>Reports From:</p> <p>4.1 Bulwick Centre Committee: Cllr Fished & Cllr Vaughan explained that although there is a Bulwick Centre committee in place, not much progress has been made in the year. The building is owned by the church and moving forward they would like to gain charity status, but this is a lot of work and with not much engagement from the village the Church is proceeding to register the land that the building is on. This potentially would then allow the Church to sell Village Centre.</p> <p>Monthly coffee mornings have been established to a degree of success, however the rest of the time the Village Centre is not used and for it to be a success an income is needed from bookings.</p> <p>The Committee believe that Bulwick is not alone with other local villages having the same issues. Maybe the days for Village Centres and halls to be a focal point in modern times is no longer valid. If the centre is not being used it is hard to go for any grant funding to improve the facility.</p> <p>The Committee will continue to drive revenue and have had an enquiry about using it for art exhibition, but more bookings are needed.</p> <p>Cllr Fisher will prepare a village communication to highlight the risk to the Village Centre and the potential to lose this facility, as we are approaching the point of no return.</p> <p>The Chair Thanked Cllr Fisher and Vaughan & all the committee for their ongoing support and drive to try and save the centre</p>
5.	<p>Open Forum No items raised</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting closed at 7 pm</p>

Chairman

Date