

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 3rd May 2021 at 7.00 p.m. by Video Call

Present: Cllrs. M. Page (in the Chair), C. Parkin, V. Talbot, R. Bahu, D. Churchouse, H. Ayub

In attendance, Anna Clarke (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. C. Webber, R. Webber, Mr David O'Hara

2. Public Participation

Mr Phil Painting (**Filming at the Airfield**) – Mr Painting has spoken to the Vale and the Location Manager, resulting in them making some small concessions. He understood that the original planning application (for permitted development) allowed buildings within the development to be 15 metres high if more than 10 metres from the edge of the site. They appear to have broken the rules with the height of the marquees they have erected. He had reported this to Vale Planning Enforcement but they do not appear to be taking action. There have been a number of comments from residents with regards to noise and smells for e.g., however, these were not raised by the PC in its response. After a year of being in lockdown, people are now allowed to socialise in their gardens, however this is not very pleasant for the residents of Rookery Close due to the effects of the film set.

The PC, in its original submission, made the point that it would like the 24 metre high container wall originally proposed removed and asked that the applicants attempt to address the concerns of residents as well as they possibly could. As the filming company have now applied for full (temporary) planning permission there is still an outstanding response and the PC will consider Mr Paintings comments when formulating it. It needs to be kept in mind that the PC can only respond within the parameters of material planning concerns, although residents' concerns can be mentioned. It is also necessary to ensure that the views of the Parish as a whole are represented. It should be noted that the application is for a limited period after which the structures will need removing.

Cllr Page to speak to the Applicant and see if it is possible to arrange a site visit.

MP

Overhanging Hedges, Rookery Close – Cllr Page, at Mr Painting's request, to take a look at Rookery close and letters will be sent to any houses, whose vegetation requires attention.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Report from Cllr Mike Page, Chair to the Parish Council

'May you live in interesting times' is an often quoted curse masquerading as a blessing. I think it true for many of us that over the last two years there have rarely been more interesting times! This Annual Parish Report covers both 2019/20 and 2020/1 since we were unable to hold a parish meeting in May 2020 due to 'lockdown restrictions' imposed due to Coronavirus. Your Parish Council, along with everyone, has faced some unique challenges during the pandemic.

The initial response to the sudden imposition of lockdowns saw the Parish co-ordinating requests for social and practical support from residents and linking them into appropriate agencies able to help. Fortunately, these requests were relatively few and quickly dealt with. This was due in no small measure to the magnificent efforts of residents in organising volunteer support groups offering to collect shopping and medications or regular welfare support. Facebook and other social media came into their own imparting important information, signposting people to the support available and providing a means of social contact. The Parish Council also established its own Facebook page for those not covered by locality based groups.

The community support offered was both overwhelming and reassuring. Those who played key parts in the response are too numerous to mention by name but to all of you I offer my sincere thanks, you know who you are!

Fortuitously the Parish Council was in the process of revamping its own website (replacing one formerly shared with Wootton Parish Council) as the pandemic struck so was able to deploy this in the middle of last year. The site is at www.sthelenwithout-pc.co.uk. Our thanks go to Cllr. Ian Bristow (of Wootton Parish Council) and our own Cllr. Richard Bahu for their work in relation to this. The site provides full access to information about Council business, meetings, policies and projects.

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Our Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted in December 2019 and our thanks are due to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their tireless efforts on our behalf. The plan has proven invaluable in establishing a structure to our response to planning and development applications, giving, as it does, legal status to the wishes of our resident embodied within it. Its existence has already influenced planning decisions and ensures that the Parish receives an enhanced proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy payments.

Your Council has also undertaken a 'Strategic Highway Review'. For many years we have received complaints about poor roads infrastructure, peak time congestion and speeding. Our review pulls these issues together and explores potential solutions. By taking a long - term view, particularly in relation to the expected development of the airfield, we have been able to examine the options available and establish some actions and proposals with our partner agencies – particularly OCC Highways. You will notice, over the coming months an increased use of speed indicator displays at six new locations to identify offences and refine our data. Our use of these has been made possible by a grant through the County Councillors Priority Fund. We are due to join the new Community Speedwatch Scheme later in 2021 to tackle speeding across the parish. Full details of the Review are on our website under the 'Highways' tab. We will also be approaching local schools to seek mutually acceptable arrangements to minimise 'peak time' traffic flow.

The Sandleigh Road recreation ground continues to be a valued asset. The entrance footpath has long been something of an issue for users, especially during wet weather when it became excessively muddy. We approached RingRose Tree Services who have a depot in our Parish and they kindly offered to donate several wagon loads of wood chippings. The Army offered the services of their site contractors (Amey Defence) to transport these to the site and, as it turned out, to assist Councillors and volunteers to spread them. Our particular thanks go to one unseen and unknown volunteer who spread the first two loads on their own! The refurbishment of this pathway has, therefore, been achieved at no cost for the Parish.

Whilst carrying out this work we have identified residents who expressed an interest assisting the Council in maintaining the green aspects of the recreation ground and we will be looking to formalise arrangements in the near future. As a result of comments made by parents to one of our Councillors carrying out a routine inspection, we are exploring the possibility of providing some additional play equipment suitable for toddlers.

We have steadily increased our focus on environmental issues. We are exploring the planting of additional trees, possibly 'mini forests', on the recreation ground and elsewhere in the parish. We are also in discussion with our grass cutting contractors 'Aspire' with a view to sowing some of our verges with wild flowers, which would be of benefit to birds and pollinating insects.

We continue to support local organisations, notably Friends of Shippon and Dry Sandford Primary School. If you run a group either in the Parish or supporting its residents we may be able to provide some grant funding. We actively scan for opportunities to apply for grants ourselves and are currently looking at a number of opportunities offered by the Army Covenant Fund.

Despite the pandemic we have achieved some important progress. We have considerable challenges yet to face – particularly the airfield development. None of what we have achieved would have been possible without the unstinting efforts of my fellow Councillors and their unerring belief that the Parish Council can make a positive difference for residents. There aren't that many of us and we could do with some help! If you feel you could spend a few hours a month then please join us – we are non-political and can co-opt members – details are available on the website.

Michael Page QPM
Chair

6. Financial Report by the Clerk:

The End of year accounts have been assessed and signed off by IAC, the Internal auditor, and will now need to be submitted to Moore Stephens, External auditor, by 30th June 2021. The recommendations made by the internal auditor were noted.

Current Funds

Opening Balance April 2020:	£45,009
Total Receipts 2020/21:	£25,685.16
Total Expenditure 2020/21:	£23,775.39
Balance as of 31.3.21:	£46,918

NB The following sums are due to be received shortly, but will be accounted for in 2021/22 accounts:

VAT reclaimed but not yet received:	£2,339.29
CIL due by end April:	£5,675.66

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

(The PC has five years from receipt of the above CIL monies in which to spend it. If unspent, they will be returned to the district council. CIL (Regulation 59C) requires town and parishes to spend these funds on:

• the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or • anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. Your responsibility is to ensure you spend CIL monies in compliance with the CIL)

Assets Register

The only change is that the new bus shelter is a little more expensive than the old one, so the total sum of assets has increased by £535.

6a) Internal Audit

The internal audit has been signed off by IAC and was noted and agreed.

b) Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement was addressed to the meeting, agreed by Councillors and signed off by the Chair and Clerk.

c) Annual Accounting Statement

The Annual Accounting Statement was noted and agreed and signed off by the Clerk and Chair.

d) Notice of Public Rights

The notice of Public Rights will commence on 8th June for a period of 30 days.

e) Insurance / Assessment of Risk

Councillors reviewed and agreed the risk assessment document.

Insurance – the PC signed up to 3yr deal in 2020. The cost this year will be £825.55. The insurance documents were circulated to and agreed by all Councillors.

Parish Clerk, April 2021

7).Cllrs reports and items for future agendas

None raised

8).Date of next meeting

The next Meeting of the Sub Committees is scheduled for 7.00p.m. on Monday 6th September at Shippon Church Hall, followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.35 p.m

Signed.....Date.....

Minutes & Agendas can be found on our website at: <https://sthelenwithout-pc.co.uk/>