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2022 Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Church with Chapel Brampton Parish on
Monday 25th April commencing at 7.30 pm

The meeting will take place at the Brampton Primary School.

Minutes taken by Clerk, Sarah Stock.

25th April 2022

Apologies:

PCSO Paul Miller, Elspeth May (Book Club), Cllr William Shearer, Cllr Richard Gent, Cllr Jason Stather-Lodge, Cllr Annharad Garner

10 members of the public attending

Item 1: Welcome address and introductions by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Jill Slinn

Thank you for those of you who have attended this evening. It seems that everyone is still trying to find their own 'normality'.

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Available from <http://www.churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk/web/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BPC-2021-APM-Agenda.pdf>

Item 3: Annual report from the Chairman of Church with Chapel Brampton Parish Council

The Parish Council have been able to work normally in the last 12 months with only some meetings by zoom and have carried out all statutory meetings as well as various other planning meetings in line with guidelines.

I'd like to thank the Councillors for their continued commitment and would particularly like to thank Robin Green for his efforts bringing the Chapel back to life and pushing the purchase of a defibrillator to match that in Church Brampton and his excellent support as Vice Chair.

Thank you to Richard Gent who has taken on the role of managing the newsletter along with other social media groups within both villages.

I'd also like to thank Mick Macmain for his work on the playing field and Steven Crane for his help with the pocket park and other tree matters. Their work is ongoing keeping the trees and playing field and

pocket park looking good for us all. Now the weather is nice please do take the opportunity to stroll around the playing field and visit the pocket park.

Traffic is an ongoing problem in both villages, with the accidents at the crossroads in Chapel Brampton causing us problems. We have had an onsite meeting with highways, and we hope with some input from them and pressure from us we may be able to make some improvements there.

It will be interesting to see how the new road, when ready, impacts on the villages.

We would ask that residents keep an eye on the type of heavy goods vehicles coming through the village, construction vehicles for the new road should not be coming through the villages. Take a photo and send on to the clerk if you see any.

We are awaiting on highways to confirm two new sites for portable speed cameras in Church Brampton and we will then purchase another sign.

We would ask residents if they have not already joined either the Church or Chapel Brampton WhatsApp group or the Facebook group to do so, it's a great way of finding out what's going on in the village, good and bad. We are looking to change the Facebook group to allow it to be driven and managed by villagers and then we will set up a separate Facebook page for Parish Council news only.

Please can we also encourage residents to give us feedback or highlight areas of concern by either attending meetings or emailing the clerk.

Item 4: Presentation of the accounts

Council started the year with a bank balance of £28K (councils are advised to hold one year's precept). The council raised a precept of £26,750, received WNC grants for grass mowing and litter picking (£2,236) and donations towards the Chapel Brampton defibrillator of £1,760. We closed the year with £29K remaining. Broadly, the council spent on the following:

- £ 6,719 PCSO Contribution
- £ 2,859 New notice boards
- £900 Path clearance (Chapel Brampton)
- £1,498 Play equipment repairs
- £18,927 Scheduled running costs (last year £17,149)

Council is about to submit the annual audit for YE March 2022.

Item 5: Reports from WNC Councillor John Shephard

Not in attendance and no report received.

Item 6: Community Policing Report (report provided by PCSO Paul Miller at council meeting on 21st April)

Paul has been working in the area for four years now and crime figures remain low. Crimes in the ward tends to occur more frequently in the newly developed SUE areas, where car crime and burglaries are the most frequently reported crimes. Paul's priority is to be visible around the area. Most recently there were two burglaries in Buckton Fields for which two 2 people have been charged. Paul is currently using an unmarked vehicle as his usual vehicle was seriously damaged by a lorry and written off. However, he will shortly be supplied with a Varo Van which will be very visible around the area and have the advantage of having some additional space for keeping cones or picking bikes etc. Paul will be attending off road motorbike training next week. The training will take place around the villages and

through Harlestone Firs. Increased motorbike activity in Harlestone Firs and at the Brampton Golf Course, on agricultural land and destroying crops continue to be a problem and deploying officers on off road bikes will allow the police to better tackle this problem. Riders are usually sent out in pairs, which means that Paul be abstracted to other areas on occasion although it is expected that a PCSO from another area will ride with Paul when he is this area.

Crime prevention. PCSO advises that residents going on holiday should try to make the house looked lived in while you are away, cancel the milk, lights on timers, collecting the post and perhaps visits from a friend or neighbour to check the home.

Item 7: Report from Sam, Althorp Estate

Stuart Coleman new estate manager starting end of May.

Item 8: Reports from Brampton's clubs and societies (if provided) – to receive and display

a. Brampton Primary School (John Gillet)

The last two years have been dominated by the pandemic. For the school children social distancing was a challenge, as was remote education and managing the key worker children in school. During the second lockdown, about 80% of children attended school. Overall, the school remained open throughout the pandemic.

The school is under some financial pressure due to the provision of additional hand washing facilities and increasing utility costs. Children have not needed academic catch-up as such but have needed some re-socialising. However, BPS is one of the top performing primary schools in the area and is oversubscribed. School has recently reconnected with the church and other community groups, the Pilates group use the school, and school has a minibus which is available to community groups.

b. St Botolph's (Marion Peel)

2021 was again much affected by the Pandemic and the restrictions that were imposed. For much of the first part of the year, the church building was closed even to clergy, so Zoom services were conducted from home and were well supported. Our Rector, Andrea, was able to resume her duties gradually following her serious illness and was ably supported by our curate, Kathryn, who has now reached the end of her training and will be moving on some time over the coming year. We shall be sorry to see her go but wish her well for the next step in her ministry journey.

From September onwards, a new pattern of services was established, with St Botolph's having a Communion service on the third Sunday of each month, and a lay led Worship for All on the fourth Sunday.

Despite the Pandemic, we were able to hold some events during the year; in May there was a tea in the church, and in September a Village Walking Quiz was held, finishing in the church with refreshments available. We were blessed with a wonderful day and the event was well supported.

There were four weddings and a Baptism during the year.

Nicole Smerin again organised a collection of Christmas gifts. These were gathered and then passed on to the Salvation Army to be distributed to families.

The five-yearly survey of the church was carried out in March 2021 and highlighted repairs in three levels of priority. We have carried out all the urgent Priority 1 repairs and there are of course further repairs which are likely to require some fundraising. The organ also required some major repairs during the year.

Churchyard tidy-ups have taken place twice a year and help are always welcome with this and other tasks, such as the rota for opening and closing the church. Thanks go to those who responded to the appeal for more volunteers to help with the church cleaning and to those who have been doing it for years.

At the Annual Meeting held in March, Alison Gent retired as churchwarden, and Jane Shearer and John Milne were elected for the current year. We are sad to report that since then Alison has died. We remember with thanks her many years of service to the church.

Looking ahead, we have a concert on 14th May by the Cantare Singers and tickets are priced at £10 each. If you would like a ticket, I have some with me this evening. From 12th May we are holding Coffee/Tea and a chat in the church on the second Thursday of every month. Please come and drop in and join us.

c. Footpath Warden (Jill Slinn)

Although the occasional overgrown hedge does occasionally impede progress, the footpaths are generally in good order. The council is aware that dog owners are not clearing after their dogs as they should, and the council will look to provide some additional bins.

d. Neighbourhood Watch (Cllr Richard Gent)

NHW communications are circulated by email and if you have would like to receive updates, please contact the clerk.

e. Discussion Group (David Buxton)

As our Group meetings are held in member's houses, fortnightly throughout the winter months and normally involving speakers there have been no meetings for some two years due to Covid.

We are to hold our much-delayed AGM next month to decide upon the Group's future format.

It has become abundantly clear that lifestyle changes brought about by successive lockdowns and their implications need addressing. Demographics are changing our membership base and with it our ability to act as hosts and in some cases to attend meetings. The AGM will undoubtedly be the most important the Group has held since its inception.

f. Spencer Club (Bill Rose)

Not active over the last couple of years.

g. The Book Group (Elspeth May)

There really is nothing new to say about the book club: we continue to read a great variety of books and to have our meetings in each other's homes on a rota basis. When Covid made in-person or indoor meetings impossible, we used Zoom or met in gardens.

Item 9: Open Discussion. Parishioners are invited to raise items relating to the parish, district, or county.

John Cutler: Raised concern that council may not be paying enough attention to biodiversity, particularly around the playing field. Cllr MM addressed concerns – nettles removed so that hedging would establish and then eventually establish wildflower. More native species hedges have been laid but brambles will have to be trimmed to allow the hedge to thrive. Mr Cutler mentioned the importance of biodiversity over

neatness. However, some areas do need to be kept neat for visibility or as facilities and the council is increasingly thinking about the natural environment and an appropriate mowing schedule.

Brian Coles: Reported to the council that the hedge in Jacks Lane is in very poor state but Sam was able to reassure council that the works taking place over the next couple of days to make the tree safe.

John Cutler: Highways and transport meeting, traffic noise has not been addressed. More recently some vehicles seem to sound like a 'defective' exhaust which makes a lot of noise. Cllr MM offered to bring this to the attention of Sgt Munroe at the SPOC meeting. Mr Cutler raised concern about diminishing bus service. Council confirmed its commitment to finding alternative means of transport for those struggling to get into Northampton. Mr Cutler noted that the provision of cycle route is insufficient. Chicanes do make progress for cyclists more difficult.

Lesley Smith: Council asked about planting trees for the platinum jubilee. Council has obtained licences to plant near the entry to Jacks Lane and one on Cedar Hythe. Council asked Sam to chase up replacement Black Pines.

Council was asked to provide an update on the plans for the road.

Marion Peel: Jenny Ward opposite the steps from the Church on Church Lane overhanging brambles and branches needs tidying.

William Smith: Asked about traffic survey, which is taking place this week, last week of April to get robust data sample.

Next Car Rally, September 10th. Last one raised in the region of £1,500 for local charities
14th May village litter pick taking place. Volunteers needed.

Item 10: Meeting closed 20:30