

Tollard Royal Annual Parish Meeting

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting **Monday 25th April 2022 at 6.30 pm in The Old Cart Shed**

1. Informal gathering.

2. Formal welcome:

Cllr Jackie CC welcomed everybody to the meeting and said that the local spirits were high and the village was starting to socialize again, starting with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee lunch next week.

3. Update from Unitary Councillor:

Nabil Najjar started by saying it was about one year since he was elected as the Councillor. He updated us on the Wiltshire Council budget of £418m for the coming year, which he had happily voted for, which was designed to preserve vital services in the county.

He was taking forward issues of road safety & speeding by trying to incorporate multiple parishes where possible into one scheme. There has been progress with the police speed checks in as much that the police were now investing in mobile hand-held speed checking equipment to increase the number of checks carried out.

Improving mobile broadband in rural areas was another of his remits, but the first year was looking a productive one, even with a lot of learning and frustrations.

Cllr Mitchell related the problems Tollard Royal had with speeding traffic and the lack of SID, due to work on the unit to convert it to mains electricity being hampered by lack of a chip from abroad. Discussions were held about the traffic problems and the SID, with issues like could the Council buy another SID or maybe acquiring a transformer to power the existing one, rising. Another point raised was the possibility of priority signage being installed. Pothole repair and white line repainting were also discussed, with Nabil said he would raise these issues with the relevant people, but could not promise the outcome.

4. Pond Update:

Cllr Marston had planned to start work on the pond last August, but the offer of a grant delayed this. When the grant was turned down it meant we had lost the window of opportunity. Bob has planted some water lilies in the pond and sown wildflower seed around the pond area. It now needs a decision whether to dig the pond deeper and re-puddle it, or to leave it as it is and maintain the plants. It was suggested to have a survey of parishioners to gauge local opinion.

5. Social Committee:

V S C notes 2022

Your Village Social Committee headed by Bonny, has continued working with meetings outside in gardens or by Zoom. One shock was that HSBC decided that as our activities bank wise had ceased, they would close our account. This happened to thousands of small clubs and societies who were unable to function because of lockdown restrictions. Luckily Barclays welcomed us and that problem was solved.

It is a real blow that we are losing our very efficient Treasurer as she moves from the village. We are so grateful to Jackie Jones who has been on the committee since 2017. Keeping tally of bookings and payments for Friday meals in the Cart Shed was no simple task. She and Adrian have been really great in supporting and initiating events. We will remember delicious curries and fun film nights. Thank you both.

Despite all the restrictions of the last 12 months the VSC managed to fulfil its aim of holding at least 3 events during each year. Each one necessitating a different way of thinking and planning.

In early July we held a free Pimm's evening by the Cart Shed. Despite the rumbles of thunder it was well supported by over 30 guests and it was so good to see friends and neighbours again and especially to meet some of our new residents. The sound of laughter and chat was a delight after our months of isolation.

Later that month we had Fish & Chips in a box delivered from Shaftesbury- This had less support but was

enjoyed by those who came along. There were a few hiccups re the delivery and order but the VSC sorted those with their usual quick thinking.

The Scarecrow Festival was the event of the year. 17 scarecrows with one real live one!) appeared around the Village. What skills and imagination our residents have. It was great that they even featured in a Police report- well done Nurse Toli. An even longer lasting memorial to them is that many still appear if you look carefully at Street View of Tollard Royal on Google Maps

The next planned event that you all should know about by now is the Platinum Jubilee Celebration Lunch at the Cart Shed Green at 1.00pm on Sunday 5th June. You still have time to book your residents free ticket and to buy a £6 ticket for other guests. We want to make this a special and memorable event and to do that we need your support. Please check that your neighbours are aware that we hope they will be there. Please book your ticket soon as the stress level of the committee members and their band of helpers is already rising. As ever we need ideas for events where you will all feel safe. Please share your thoughts and if you would join our team, it would be especially good.

6. Church Warden's report:

The Church has been kept open during the pandemic, and now it needs to help people who are struggling with their confidence in coming out and mixing again.

The Church accounts are on the noticeboard if anybody wishes to see them.

Jackie CC said that the bell ringing team are hoping to practice more regularly now, as they like to ring given any excuse.

7. Church flowers report:

The flower arranging team numbers ten at present, but one is leaving. Hopefully there is somebody who wishes to join to make up the numbers. The flowers are always appreciated. If anybody wishes to join the team and learn, whether male or female, they will be welcome.

Parish Council Report. The Parish Council AGM will take place immediately following this meeting. Jackie CC thanked people for coming and requested continued support for the Council. Jackie CC then asked the Councillors to take their seats and closed the meeting.