

Pillerton Hersey Annual Parish Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, 26 April 2022

The Church of St Mary, Pillerton Hersey, CV35 0QQ

Present

Cllr Forsyth (Acting Chair of PHPC)

Cllr Hewson

Cllr Brooks

Cllr Hitchman

Alana Collis (Clerk, PHPC)

Members of the public

Guest speakers

1. Welcome

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Forsyth who welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

3. Approval of minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 25 March 2022 were a true and accurate record.

4. Annual report of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2022

Cllr Forsyth read out the annual report of the parish council (Appendix A). Notable activities included the work by Tim Newcombe and Clive Fidler to alleviate flooding through keeping drains in the village clear. The Parish Council had also been made aware of concerns relating to low water pressure in the parish and had contacted Severn Trent. Low water pressure can have an impact on farms because they cannot use some farm equipment e.g. for washing.

5. Annual financial report of the Parish Council

The draft annual financial report of the parish council was shared (Appendix B) and it was noted that the Parish Council had received an income of £3,100 over the financial year and had an expenditure of £2,220.

6. Report from community organisations

For the annual meeting, representatives of local organisations that provide opportunities and support for residents in the parish had been invited to attend and share information about their activities.

- Ettington First Responders

Catherine Hewson, Secretary and Trustee of Ettington First Responders provided an overview of the charity and its role in providing emergency medical care in South Warwickshire rural communities. The charity is integrated with West Midlands Ambulance Association and NHS Trusts. The Ettington First Responders provide training and have a management structure to support activities.

The First Responders cover nearly sixty villages in the South Warwickshire region. Actions start following a 999 call when the First Responder is dispatched to provide support for a patient until an ambulance arrives.

The charity receives no central funding from the NHS and relies on fundraising. It costs around £1,300 to equip a single first responder and requires additional consumables.

Specialist equipment purchased includes a defibrillator, kit bag and a kit for measuring O2 saturation levels. The Covid-19 pandemic led to more people being at home and/or on furlough and some had more time to help support e.g. taking people to hospital. This continues to help.

At the start of 2020, the First Responders started fundraising for a new vehicle. Pillerton Scouts provided an invaluable £1,400 through Monty's Miles.

In 2020, the four First Responders completed 4,000 hours over 900 incidents. In 2021, with the return to work, these hours have decreased due to availability of people but the group has been fortunate to gain two new first responders. A new vehicle has now been purchased and the old vehicle has been sent to Ukraine. In 2021, the First Responders attended worked for over 4,500 hours to support incidents. For 2022, the plan is to recruit another 2-3 new First Responders and other volunteers to support fundraising and other events.

- Friends of the Church of St Mary

Jonathan Young, Treasurer of the PCC provided an overview of the church and the work of the Friends on the Church of St Mary.

The Church of St Mary has a weekly service and although there is not always a vicar, there is a retired member of the Clergy and a regular congregation of 10-20 people.

The costs of the church are covered by the congregation, this includes the Diocese cost for the Vicar (~£9,000 per annum), running costs (~£3,000 per annum) and other day-to-day costs. There is also a fabric fund that consists of donations which is used for major works. Usually, the annual deficit is around £3,000 and the Friends of St Mary work to help fundraise to support this.

Although there was no fete in 2021, it is planned to have a fete on 9 July 2022 at the Old Vicarage. Other events organised include a quiz night. All funds raised go to support major repair projects such as repairing and maintaining the bells and the clock.

- Pillerton Scouts

Tom Agiss, a Scout Leader with Pillerton Scouts provided an overview of activities for the younger generations.

The local scouts meet on a Monday evening and the Cubs meet on a Thursday. Since the pandemic, the group has struggled to get the Beavers group re-established due to a shortage of volunteers. However, there is a large waiting list for the Cubs and Beaver cohorts.

Over the last year, the group has had several awards and had numerous activities. There are currently 18 scouts (aged 10-14 years) with three full leaders. Activities have included back to basics, hikes in the community, kayaking, bowling, Victorinox survival badge, Quartermaster badge, parliament week, an incident hike and the Pillerton's got Talent event.

There are 18 Cubs (aged 8-10 years) with four full leaders. The Cubs activities over the last year have included firefighting, frisbee golf, outdoor cooking, fundraising for Dogs for Good (Banbury) and a night hike in Stratford (which led to their Local Knowledge badge).

In 2022, the group will participate in "Get In", a Warwickshire get together where 30 of the Cubs and Scouts and 12 leaders will participate in the county wide event in May 2022.

- **Shipston Home Nursing**

Andrew Revell and Gemma Roberts from Shipston Home Nursing shared a video that showed some of the work and the role of Shipston Home Nursing. The organisation will celebrate its 25th anniversary in July 2022. It was established to provide community palliative care for patients, providing care in the community and a hospice at home. In 2021 alone, the group looked after over 200 people.

Formerly, Shipston Home Nursing provided end of life care (for the last six weeks of life) but now the organisation supports anyone with an incurable illness in the last 12 months of their life. The care provided is structured around three local GP surgeries: Shipston, Kineton and Wellesbourne.

The carers work to engage early and build a trusting relationship. They work with the District Nursing Team and GPs. The community nursing team are specialist palliative care nurses on daily call. There are also bank staff and they receive referrals from health professionals and the public. When a referral is received, they aim to be there within 48 hours.

All the staff at Shipston Home Nursing are experienced nurses, many of whom are former District Nurses with a passion for palliative care.

Fundraising is vital to support the work of Shipston Home Nursing. Activities include plant sales. The annual cost of providing free nursing care is not insignificant and it is essential to be financially sustainable.

- **The Monday Club**

The Monday Club is a group based in Ettington who provide activities and social opportunities for senior female residents. It is currently run by Jackie Collins and Pat Beatty. The group, founded after the closure of the Ettington WI, has participants from local residents, including in the past, Pillerton Hersey. The current group is around 40 people including two ladies over the age of 90 years, but others (including husbands) are always welcome as visitors.

Monthly activities include a two-hour meeting where there is a speaker, raffle and refreshments. Past speakers include Richard Grey, Mark Wood, Jimmy Davies and Roger Butler. Future activities include flower arranging (currently scheduled for May), a talk from

Simon Pipe about St Helena and a talk entitled *Knickers and Nighties*. There are also Christmas celebrations and a hamper.

The group is self-funded through a small subscription to cover the cost of hall hire. In addition to the monthly events, the group also meet at the Ettington Insomnia café, organise walks and have a cinema club. All these activities are an important social provision for residents, particularly those who live alone. The aim is to ensure that people have fun, are informed and are happy.

- The Poor's Lot charity

Terry Hitchman provided a brief overview of the Poor's Lot, a charity administered by four Trustees who are appointed by Pillerton Hersey Parish Council. The charity has nine acres of allotments and the proceeds from their rent is used to support local people in need and support others. The most recent financial report was shared.

7. Reports from County and District councillors

No reports were available from County and District Councillors.

8. Community engagement session – what matters to you?

There was a discussion about the challenges and opportunities for the community groups who had shared reports at the meeting. A key issue was the willingness of people to volunteer. Although fundraising can be a significant challenge, all these groups rely on volunteers to give their time to support activities. An example was the waiting list for Scouts which can only be resolved by more people volunteering to be Scout Leaders. To start to resolve this challenge, it was important for people to understand how rewarding it can be to volunteer time to support others.

9. Closing remarks and refreshments

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and invited people to stay for some light refreshments.

The meeting closed at 20:15

Appendix A.

Annual Report of Pillerton Hersey Parish Council Year ended 31 March 2022

Welcome and thank you to everyone who has joined us. The last twelve months have seen a continuation of the community spirit that has helped residents through the Coronavirus pandemic. Although we have seen our world open up there have still been restrictions on our lives.

There have been several changes to the parish council over the last year, with long-serving councillors stepping down in May 2021. It is acknowledged that the changeover of councillors has presented challenges in proactive problem solving. At times, the priorities have focused on matters where the parish council has direct responsibility.

The councillors have worked hard to develop themselves as an effective group and this will continue so that they can build on this.

A core element of the parish council's work is to consider and respond to planning applications. The councillors have worked hard to ensure they are abreast of planning issues and respond.

To be effective, the parish council is developing a rolling business plan to consider how, with limited resources, it can be as effective as possible. With this foundation in place, the council will be able to adopt a more business-like approach that is required of parish councils today. Much of the business plan will build on the outcomes of the discussion and consultation of the residents at the 2021 annual assembly that was held online. There were key themes around the environment and road safety.

Connectivity is essential in the modern world, and as a small community it is recognised that Pillerton Hersey has the same needs as other communities. This has led the parish council to consider and respond to government consultations on topics such as rural broadband and the provision of local bus services.

The parish council has worked with both District and County Councillors to investigate opportunities for the reinstatement of the roadside footpath between Pillerton Hersey and Pillerton Priors. Unfortunately, this has proved to be unviable due to costs.

The environment is of ongoing concern to residents and the parish council is considering ways in which it can support the maintenance and indeed enhancement of the parish environment. The parish council will continue to look at maintaining clear ditches in crucial places (while not compromising the natural verges), to help reduce the flood risk.

The issue of water supply has been a concern of residents, the parish council has asked, through its available channels, for residents to make the Clerk aware of times when they experience low water pressure. This will help the parish council identify trends and research if there have been other issues. If a body of evidence is produced, then this helps the parish council engage with Severn Trent to address the issue.

Finally, for many years, the ownership of the village green has been assumed but not registered. The parish council has started to resolve this issue for good. This will then ensure that access agreements can be appropriately put in place.

As we approach May 2022, there is one vacancy on the parish council. This will be filled at the next ordinary meeting.

This leads me to thank the other councillors, recent past and present for their time and effort as well as to residents who provide constructive engagement with the parish council. Also, thanks to our Clerk who has worked hard behind the scenes to support and guide the parish council.

Appendix B

Annual financial report of the Parish Council

	PILLERTON HERSEY PARISH COUNCIL			
	RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT			
	FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022			
	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1 APRIL 2021		£ 4,347.85	
		ACTUAL		
	RECEIPTS			
	Stratford District Council precept	£ 1,550.00		
	Stratford District Council precept	£ 1,550.00		
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 3,100.00	£ 3,100.00	
	PAYMENTS			
	Staff costs	£ 1,250.64		
	WALC Annual subscription	£ 105.00		
	Training	£ 106.80		
	Insurance	£ 257.60		
	Hire of Church/village hall	£ 12.00		
	Charitable donations	£ 90.00		
	Internal auditor	£ 110.00		
	Flood mitigation (sand and bin)	£ 231.54		
	Land registry searches	£ 6.00		
	Expenses for printing	£ 21.60		
	Website fees	£ 29.17		
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 2,220.35	-£ 2,220.35	
	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 31 MARCH 2022		£ 5,227.50	
	BALANCE AS PER BANK STATEMENT 31 MARCH 2022		£ 5,227.50	
Note:	Payment of £300 as contribution to ditch clearance is still to be paid.			