



HODNET PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Lyon Hall, Hodnet on Thursday 31st
March 2022 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs Councillors Alan Cope, Steven Freeman (Chairman), John Parker, John Powell, Maryjayne Rees, Sarah Riley, Lin Sherwin, Jason Watts

In Attendance: 5 members of the public, Parish clerk

- 1. Welcome:** Cllr Freeman chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Cllrs Underwood and Gill

- 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th June 2021**

Councillor Powell proposed that the minutes be signed as a true copy of proceedings, Councillor Riley seconded this, all agreed.

- 3. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Freeman's report is attached to these minutes in Appendix 1.

- 4. Shropshire Council Report, Hodnet Ward**

Cllr Gill's report is attached to these minutes in Appendix 2.

- 5. Lyon Memorial Hall Report**

Cllr Parker's report is attached to these minutes in Appendix 3.

- 6. Hodnet Medical Centre Patient Participation Group Report**

Report attached to these minutes in Appendix 4.

- 7. Compassionate Communities Report**

Report attached to these minutes in Appendix 5.

- 8. Hodnet Primary School Report**

Report attached to these minutes in Appendix 6.

9. Hodnet Charities Trustees Report

Cllr Powell's report is attached to these minutes in Appendix 7.

10. Hodnet 2000 Report

No Report received

11. Public Session234243352

There being no further items for discussion the Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.20pm

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2022

Minutes accepted and approved at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th March 2023.

Signed by the Chairman..........

APPENDIX 1

Chair Report:

There is no denying that Covid has had a massive impact over the passed months, requiring meeting postponement (2020 Annual Parish Meeting) and shaking up the normal running arrangements. We have managed to maintain our calendar of Parish meetings via Zoom, and have recently managed to get back to face to face meetings (with some relief!). The local NHS providers have risen admirably, as always, to meet the challenge and lead the way with the vaccination rollout programmes, helping to protect the community. There have however been casualties of the disease within the community to whose families and friends we extend our condolences.

Life continues to get back to a more normal state, though Covid still makes its continued presence felt, and our condolence goes out to all who have suffered and lost loved ones.

Once again we have a need for new councilors and two of our new additions over the last 12 months have had to resign due to no longer being eligabel (moved out of area). Our thanks goes to Matt Allen and Kevin Evans for their service.

Parish plan survey undertaken – 675 households 205 return – results published on website – will use to firm up parish plan in the first half of this year for the next 5 years ahead.

Ukraine &ARRichards

In the time since our last meeting we have had an election and a change in Councillors. Once again we were not inundated with nomination, so did not have to undergo a vote. We have had three Councillors step down, Steve Aldin, Paul Nevins and Chris Mackie, and extend our thanks and appreciation for their years of service and support for the community. We welcome new Councillors Jason Watts, Ross Underwood and Matthew Allen and look forward to long service from all.

We have had a new County Councillor for Hodnet, Paul Gill, who took over the Conservative Party nomination from Karen Calder and was duly elected into office.

We have had a change of clerk, so wish Jan good luck with her expanding business and Jayne good luck in taking over and keeping us on track.

Sadly, amidst the start of the first Covid impact, one of our Councillors lost his battle with cancer and is greatly missed by the community. Our condolences go to Howard Trevor's family and is reciprocated by many members of the Parish and beyond.

Life in the Parish has continued despite the shadow of Covid, and the impact of the furloughing scheme. To reflect these times we have held the Parish Council contribution of the Council Tax charge for the last two years, with no increase.

A bit of good news for the community is the imminent reopening of The Bear following a complete renovation.

Good news – Bear reopened and going strong (despite recent concern of a chimney fire!)

Bad news – Community Speed watch unable to go ahead – but we remain on the case

This year we have started on the road to a Community Speed Watch with volunteer's nominated and Police background checks completed. We are currently waiting on the Police to complete an updated speed survey and to arrange training for the volunteers.

APPENDIX 2

Shropshire Councillor Report

Hodnet Parish Council – 31st March 2022

Good evening and apologies for my absence tonight. I have prepared a short report outlining the main activities across the Hodnet Division over the past 10 months. It has been an extremely busy year since my election to Shropshire Council in May 2021. In that time I have had to undertake a great deal of compulsory training as well as identifying the key Officers within the Council who I can call on for support. On a personal level I have continued to work in my full time day job and I have had to balance the needs of the two roles which has been challenging at times.

I have endeavoured to attend the majority of all Parish Council meetings at Hodnet, Weston, Stoke on Tern and Stanton upon Hine Heath in order to understand local needs, share Council information and support where necessary.

At Council level there have been some core topics which are important and effect the Division including the ongoing Boundary Review, the recently approved budget for 2022 23, the allocation of funding to roads maintenance and the approval of the 3rd free recycling bin that residents are currently ordering.

At a local level I have responded to many residents concerns regarding planning applications, road safety, noise and flooding to name a few. Where I can I have requested Officer support or arranged to meet residents and officers on site. Other key local issues that I have been involved in include;

A41 Safety Campaign which is looking to improve signage and reduce speed on the A41 at Ternhill and the immediate area.

Speeding and heavy vehicle usage of rural roads across the division much of which is caused by diversions off A41 following an accident or during maintenance works. There is also a campaign for a Residents Speed Awareness group.

I have promoted the Fix My Street portal as the place to log all road maintenance issues and across the Division we have seen many of these issues being put right. Some have required an extra chase from myself.

I expect the coming year to look broadly similar but the knowledge I have gained already will help me in responding to issues raised.

APPENDIX 3

LYON HALL REPORT 2022.

The Lyon Hall reopened during May 2021 and bookings have gradually increased during the year.

During most of last year demand was quite low but is now picking up and is currently being used on most days of the week.

The accounts for last year show only a small income from hirings but the SCC grants in total amounted to £17,481 and have bolstered the bank balance.

Some funds are to be used to repair/replace window frames and to repaint the exterior of the hall, it is expected this work will cost £5000 to £8000.

Some boiler repairs and heating system work will also be required this summer.

Fund raising events are soon to restart with a quiz in April and a Cheese and Wine Evening in October.

With the hall now back in regular use we can look forward with confidence for the future.

LYON MEMORIAL HALL

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30th June 2021

2020	2021
£5,617.48	£19,728.00
£3,593.80	£3,597.41
	£23,325.41
	-£3,331.48

Balance including SCC grants

Trading profit/loss

OPENING BALANCE

Trading loss for year

Shropshire CC Grants

CLOSING BALANCE

Variance

£14.61

LYON MEMORIAL HALL

PROFIT & LOSS

1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

	2020	2021
Income from events	£8,268.73	£202.17
Other income (SCC grants)		£17,431.00
Total including SCC grants	£8,268.73	£17,633.17

£7,981.38 Expenditure

£3,533.65

£287.35 Trading profit/loss for year

-£3,331.48

Shropshire CC Grants

£17,431.00

£287.35 Overall Profit / Loss

£14,099.52

APPENDIX 5

Hodnet Compassionate Communities (Co Co)

Unfortunately this project will cease to operate, as of the end of March this year.

Several factors contributed to our decision, and it was not taken lightly. Much thought and deliberation went into it amongst the volunteers, plus discussions with the Practice and investigations on my part into other possible ways we might continue.

About a year ago, Severn Hospice informed all Co Co project co-ordinators that they would no longer be able to administer DBS checks for volunteers from the end of March 2022. Further, they then told us in January this year that they would also be unable to provide insurance cover from the same date.

I had been in regular communication with co-ordinators from other projects, but realistically speaking, the administrative requirements of keeping the project like ours going in the present climate had risen to a level impractical for a small group of volunteers to handle on their own, particularly when we were not receiving a large number of referrals/requests.

The volunteers all very much enjoyed the visiting they did, and are really sorry to see things come to an end. We have informed our 'clients' of the position, and it may be that some of the connections forged are able to continue purely on a friendship basis. We hope so.

Mary Hardy

(Volunteer Co-ordinator, Hodnet Compassionate Communities)

APPENDIX 4

Hodnet Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

There has been very little activity on this front over the last two years. The group last met face to face in January 2020. Since then the Practice Manager has sent me occasional updates for circulation to PPG members, and we have been able to follow developments via the Practice News tab on their website.

From what the Manager has told me, it seems she is keen to get things started more proactively again. The last two years have been extremely demanding for all medical practices. In addition to keeping normal services running, they have had to field the restrictions and the extra requirements caused by the pandemic, alongside staff absences. Hodnet Practice recently had a CQC inspection too.

As far as membership of the group is concerned, one cannot automatically assume after such a long time that all previous members are still in a position to continue their involvement. And in the meantime, others may have become aware of the existence of Patient Participation Groups, and be interested to know more about their local one.

From our latest conversation, I understand that the Practice Manager was thinking of arranging an informal meeting to update members and take stock of the present situation. If anyone is interested to know more about the PPG, they could leave a message to this effect at Reception, along with their name and contact details.

Mary Hardy

(Secretary, Hodnet PPG)

Going forward we will continue to push to improve road safety in the Parish, with Paul Gill promising to fight our corner, and fingers crossed, hope to see the back of the Covid restriction by the end of Summer.

APPENDIX 6

School Report:

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting there has been no new building works, just ongoing maintenance.

Covid has been an unrelenting presence, with continued absences of children and staff, but thankfully, due to the great efforts of the teaching staff the school has remained open and all classes have been taught. Covid precautions and separate start times have been wound down, though separate entrances and one way schemes have remained in place around pick up and drop off to mitigate mixings.

Despite the huge disruption over the past year SATS test results were fantastic, over 93% achieving the required standard in all disciplines of reading, SPAG and maths. In fact, achievement at all years continues to be above both Shropshire and national levels.

The annual bonfire night made a welcome return, though a slightly smaller than normal affair due to controlled numbers (ticketed to 600 people only). The event raised over £1800 to help with school funding for the year ahead. Current plans are for a circus to replace the summer fair, whilst plans to commemorate the Jubilee are underway.

APPENDIX 7

In 1694, at Weston, the Reverend Richard Price MA married Sarah, the sister of Sir Richard Hill of Hawkstone, which I imagine secured his financial future. He became Rector of Hodnet in 1702, and is recorded as also Vicar of Drayton. In his will of 1730 he left certain land in Drayton for the benefit of the poor of both Drayton and Hodnet, and directed that £5 per annum should be distributed in bread every Lord's day, and the remainder for the schooling of poor children.

The Hodnet share of this land has been administered by the Hodnet Charities Trustees, along with other land at Hodnet and Wem, together with invested money from some 10 other benefactors. Over the years, the rents from the land holdings, and interest from capital invested with the Charities Official Investment Fund has been distributed to the elderly and needy parishioners of the Parish in the Christmas Vouchers, along with support to the educational needs of the children, and other specific requests for assistance.

Richard Price's prescient gift of a portion of the Drayton land to the parish has, after some 10 years of sometimes difficult negotiation, now paid a huge dividend. In collaboration with the other two families who owned the remainder of the site, the land on the town side of the Drayton bypass has now been sold for development. This places the Parish Council-appointed Trustees - depending on one's point of view - in either the luxurious position of having much more income to distribute, or the worry of dealing with such a large investment. The funds are currently invested with the COIF, which has over the years produced better than average returns on capital.

At a recent Trustees' meeting, following a request from the School, an interim donation of £10,000 was made towards the complete upgrade to its IT system. Also assistance was given to

the Guides and Brownies, and to the Senior Citizen's Luncheon Club, and towards a defibrillator at Wollerton.

The pre-school playgroup have plans to replace their demountable building with a permanent structure, with which the Trustees expect to assist in financing.

The Trustees are now looking into revising the Order agreed with the Charity Commissioners which is felt to be somewhat out of date, having been signed in 1916, since which there have been a number of land and property sales and other changes to investments.

The Trustees, which represent all areas of the Parish, or have knowledge of possible specific needs, are at present:

The Rector. Ex-officio.

Dr Mehta Chairman

Ann Taylor

Michael Morgan

Janice Parker

John Powell

Gillian Roberts

Nicola Willicombe

and Wendy France is paid an honorarium as Secretary and Treasurer