



HODNET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 30TH March 2023 in the Lyon Hall, Hodnet at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Steven Freeman, John Parker, John Powell, Maryjayne Rees, Ross Underwood, Lin Sherwin, Paul Gill

In attendance: 1 member of the public, Parish clerk

1. Welcome

Councillor Freeman (chair) welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 31st March 2022 to be agreed and signed

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

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Freemans gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 1.

4. Shropshire Council Report, Hodnet Ward

Cllr Gill gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 2.

5. Lyon Memorial Hall Report

Cllr Parker gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 3.

6. Hodnet Medical Centre Patient Participation Group Report

Michelle Holland sent a written report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 4.

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7. Hodnet Primary School Report

Cllr Freeman gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 5.

8. Hodnet Charities Trustees Report

Cllr Powell gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 6.

9. Hodnet 2000 Report

Cllr Underwood stated that small grants of £1000 or less had been given out and there was approximately £45,000 in the bank. They will be in search of new trustees and a treasurer shortly. A suggestion to merge resources with Hodnet Charities has been suggested but not taken up. It is a constraint that Hodnet 2000 can only give to individuals. No fundraising had taken place due to the funds being sufficient.

10. Public Session

No questions were asked from members of the public.

There being no further items for discussion the Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.40pm

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2023

Minutes accepted and approved at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st March 2024.

Signed by the Chairman.....

APPENDIX 1

Chairmans Report:

In the time since our last meeting we have had Sarah Riley step down as a Councillor, and we extend our thanks and appreciation for her service and support for the community. We welcome new Councillors John Matthews and Emma Spenser and look forward to long service from all.

Our clerk, Jayne, has continues her professional development and continues to keep us on track.

To reflect the current cost of living problems we have unfortunately had to raise the Parish Council contribution of the Council Tax charge in line with inflation. This was required due to increases in ongoing operating costs and the cost of energy required to power the street lights.

This year we have held a volunteer litter pick across the Parish, and will look to hold further events this summer.

Going forward we are planning a village fete event to celebrate the upcoming coronation on the Recreation Ground on May 8th – all are welcome to attend.

Following the granting of planning permission for the 50 new homes behind Abbots Way this year, we expect to see the Parish grow in 2023 with construction due to begin in April 2023.

APPENDIX 2

Shropshire Council Report

I have drafted a brief report broken down into two parts; those identified local issues and those that impact the whole of Shropshire Council.

Local Level –

I have continued to attend the majority of Parish Council meetings in Hodnet, Weston Under Redcastle, Stanton upon Hine Heath and Stoke on Tern in order to understand the local issues, give updates on Council matters and support where the Parish Council feels necessary. The main issues continue to be the same with some planning applications requiring further scrutiny, highways issues including speed within rural communities and Parish residents raising personal issues of concern. I have mentioned a couple in more detail.

The use of the Fix my Street portal has continued to improve and on most occasions the problems identified have been fixed. There are examples when further budget constraints or highways planned maintenance has delayed fixes. The impression I get as a commuter and as a local member is that there is a general improvement in road condition and potholes. I will accept that the issues were considerable and that there is still a great deal of work to do.

Speeding remains on going issues for many of the local village communities and is a regular topic of conversation in many Parish Council meetings. There are a number of Parish Council's looking at schemes to reduce speed including the use of Vehicle activated sign's. I continue to liaise with local police and highways to try to support these requests.

The A41 Safety Group has met twice in the past 12 months. The last meeting held in October 2022 was attended by Shropshire Council Highways Portfolio holder and the Police and Crime Commissioner. There is an ongoing review on how to improve the general safety of a very well used road that includes issues regarding speed and diversions once maintenance or accidents occur.

General -

I would like to cover off three main points;

Shropshire Council Budget – As may people will be aware there has been considerable pressure on Council budgets and concern regarding being able to balance that budget. The ongoing impacts of COVID and broader economic conditions, particularly the effects of inflation and rising energy costs, are at the root of the budget challenge facing the council, with inflation alone having a £43 million impact on the council.

The council budget proposals went out for public consultation until 30th January 2023 and were discussed at Full Council on 2nd March 2023.. The public were asked for their views on the budget plans which seeked to make more than £50 million of savings from the

Council's budget and to bring this into balance. The plan identified that most of the savings proposed would come through a transformation and efficiency programme that would save £50.6 million in the next year, while reducing costs and protecting services as far as possible, particularly those for the most vulnerable.

The Boundary Commission Review - The Electoral Boundary Commission continues its review of boundaries and has now moved onto a review of Division boundaries. Whilst we already understand that the Hodnet Division as a whole will move to the Wrekin Parliamentary Constituency, the local government seat will still be under Shropshire Council. The current Division review is looking at the make up of Shropshire Council and options and proposals are being considered. Shropshire Council is currently arguing the case for a 75 member council. The Boundary Commission may suggest 74 members. This is a difficult job especially when trying to keep the numbers and geographical areas to a manageable size. Options include a move to a "single member division" for some and whilst the Boundary Commission may decide that some divisions need to remain as dual member it is better that we are happy with the boundaries. Hodnet should remain unaffected.

The Shropshire Council Draft Local Plan – The Council submitted the Shropshire Council Local Plan last year and we have now received the Interim Findings of the Planning Inspectors following examination of the draft Shropshire Local Plan. This is a vital document for the whole of Shropshire as without it there are significant chances of indiscriminate planning applications with only National Policy framework to guide decisions. Counsel (Mr Hugh Richards of No5 Chambers) has and will continue to support the Planning Policy team during the Local Plan Examination process. There have been further discussions with our Counsel to review the Planning Inspectors Interim Findings during March and the responses will be submitted shortly.

APPENDIX 3

LYON HALL REPORT 2023.

The Lyon Hall has experienced a reasonable year of demand from hirers during 2022/2023.

The demand is certainly better than 2021/2022 but not back to levels pre covid.

Fundraising is now more important to help with trying to balance the books.

The grants received from SCC during covid closure have kept finances solvent.

Some of these monies have been spent on various repairs and renovations. Window repairs were £3431 and external painting £2890.

Electrical testing and repairs are currently on going and are expected to cost around £500 -£600.

With the cost of heating oil and electricity recently spiralling it was agreed to increase hire rates by approximately 16%. For example to hire the main room for a session the cost will go up from £30 to £35.

The increase may not fully cover all of the extra cost of oil and electricity but it was felt that any higher increase might put off hirers.

Finally it is hoped that the hall can continue serving the community and maybe next year on a more profitable basis.

LYON MEMORIAL HALL

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30th June 2022

	2021	2022
19,728.00	Current Account	£18,025.13
3,597.41	Scottish Widows ***	£3,597.41
23,325.41	Balance including SCC grants	£21,622.54
3,331.48	Trading profit/loss	-£1,797.22

9,211.28	OPENING BALANCE	£23,310.80
3,331.48	Trading loss for year	-£1,797.22
17,431.00	Shropshire CC Grants	
23,310.80	CLOSING BALANCE	£21,513.58
£14.61	Variance	£108.96

LYON MEMORIAL HALL

PROFIT & LOSS

1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022

	2021	2022
£202.17	Income from events	£3,144.50
	Due	£3,144.50
	Paid from 2021	£192.00
	Owing for 2022	-£381.00
	Actual income for year	£2,955.50

£17,431.00	Other income (SCC grants)	
£17,633.17	Total including SCC grants	£3,144.50

£3,533.65	Expenditure	£4,941.72
-£3,331.48	Trading profit/loss for year	-£1,797.22
£17,431.00	Shropshire CC Grants	
£14,099.52	Overall Profit / Loss	-£1,797.22

APPENDIX 4

Hodnet Medical Centre Patient Participation Report:

We have had some new group members on the patient participation group but they are currently without a secretary or a chairman and we do not have capacity to cover these positions ourselves.

We have met a few times over the last twelve months and during our last meeting we discussed the significant increase in patient registrations to the medical centre. Our current practice list size has already increased to 3658 due to patients who are within our practice area but have been registered elsewhere. We will also see an increase in patient registrations when the Station Road development is completed, this could rise by possibly a further 123 patients (based on 2021 statistics of 2.4 people per average household) . There are new developments underway at Crudgington and Tern Hill Barracks with a total of 986 houses which could potentially add around another 2366 patients to our list. Over the last two and a half years we have been actively seeking to employ another GP without success. We have now widened our search to include an Advanced Nurse Practitioner but again, without success. We do not have the staff, space or facilities to accommodate this possible increase in our list size. Trying to provide services to the anticipated number of patients would not be safe or practical, therefore we are applying to change the boundary of our practice area to exclude the developments at Crudgington and Tern Hill Barracks so that we can continue to provide the high level of service without being considerably overstretched. If we are granted permission to alter the existing boundary any current registrations would still stand but we would not accept new registrations from these areas.

We have explained the current pressures within GP practice to the patient participation group and our concerns that other local practices have closed due to these pressures. Our main challenges being managing patient expectation and recruitment in all departments. The patient participation group are trying to find ways where they can support us.

In March 2022 we were inspected by CQC and were given an overall rating of "Good".

The National GP Patient Survey in 2022 showed a national decline in patient satisfaction. However we remain above the national average in 16 out of 18 questions and ranked 929 out of 6418 surgeries putting us in the top 14% nationally.

APPENDIX 5

School Report:

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting there has been no new building works, just ongoing maintenance. The school is hopefully due to have a new roof over the next 12 months, if local authority funding is secured.

Over the past year school results remain good achieving the required standard in all disciplines of reading, SPAG and maths. Achievement at all years continues to be either above or comparable to both Shropshire and national levels.

The Chair of Governors, Ian Yeadon, has stepped down after 7 years in post, due to work commitments and has been replaced by Steve Freeman.

PTA events continue with the annual bonfire night making a record profit thanks to the 850 people who attended. A summer fair was replaced by a circus this year, proving to be successful and more fun for the kids. The circus is planned for a return in 2023.

Looking ahead the school is expecting another visit from Ofsted in 2024, where they are aiming to maintain or improve upon their current 'Good' rating. The school is also currently consulting parents on a proposed move to become part of one of the local academies within the next 12 months, with a drop in meeting planned on 20th April. This is inline with current government plans and current white paper.

APPENDIX 6

Hodnet Charities Trustees Report 2023

The trustees have met three times over the last 12 months, during which time we have received the balance of the proceeds of the sale of the charity's land at Market Drayton, amounting to some £330,000. With the current volatility in the investment markets, I cannot be sure of the return, but there is likely to be an annual income of at least £35,000.

The usual Christmas Vouchers were sent out to some 115 residents, redeemable at the Hodnet Stores. The Trustees find the additions to the list a difficult exercise, given that the aims of the Charities were to support the poor, when the only support to the needy was in the gift of the Parish Overseers, but in general retired people of at least 5 year's residency in the Civil Parish ^{are} offered a voucher, with younger people considered if there appears to be a great need. The current value of the voucher is £25 for a single person, and £35 per couple. This will likely be reviewed again given the current inflationary situation.

The trustees have decided to support the Hodnet Parish News, which has previously been wholly funded by the Church, and also will be buying commemorative Coronation mugs for the schoolchildren.

The now very outdated Scheme for the Hodnet Charities is under review, to make it relevant to the needs of the Parish today.

The trustees are currently:-

James Mehta

Ann Taylor

Michael Morgan

Janice Parker,

Gill Roberts

Nicola Willicombe

John Powell.

The Trustees are Parish Council appointees, and should be appointed every three years. I propose that the current trustees are re-appointed.