

Minutes of Morebath Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 3 May 2021 at 8pm by Zoom.

Present: Councillors J Wescott (Chairman), T Conway, Miss L Hagenbrock, Mrs P Reed, Mrs S Shipperley, A Wilson.

Also present:
County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe

Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

1. Apologies

District Councillors A Moore and R Stanley.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2019.

Approved as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Report

Circulated and noted as follows:

Each year seems to go even faster, and here is my brief report for the last year. Aa quick summary of some points of note that have occurred during the previous year. Your council have maintained the low cost to the parish, but hopefully cover the necessary items.

A whole year disrupted by Covid, creating our current new method of having meetings. Lets hope for a return to more normal meetings face to face in the near future. We all need to be grateful to our valued parish clerk who has guided and managed the year through the rules and regulations, always with safety in mind.

Thanks are due once more Carla Dawes for her efforts to supervise the ongoing repair and maintenance of the parish footpaths.

The annual grass cutting and village maintenance costs were met and work well done. The new planting next to the village hall continues to grow, and protected by the new boarder, now being was completed. Some road repairs and improvements on minor roads have just been completed after a long time waiting, with many more being required. There have been some improvements to the speed limit sign leaving the village, as well as the major hole repaired near to it.

A few planning items have been approved, with new houses been built and sold.

Sue has completed her second year, doing a grand clerking job for the parish.

With the elections for DCC next month, I'll like to thank Polly for all her efforts obtaining funding etc for the village.

I would like to thank all Councillors for their support during the year, the parishioners who volunteered for council projects, hoping for a good year ahead.

4. Report from Morebath Village Hall. No report received due to a misunderstanding.

5. Report from Morebath Cricket Club

Circulated and noted as follows:

We trust that you are still all in good health and staying safe.

Whilst we continue to be faced with challenging times the Government's roadmap allowed outdoor grassroots cricket to resume in time for the start of the 2021 season. The ECB have provided guidance to ensure everything possible is done to prevent any risk from Covid-19.

The Club will be playing Division One league cricket this season by virtue of the Club finishing 3rd in the 2nd division during the 2019 season and teams withdrawing from the West Somerset League to play in the Somerset League. The Club also have a number of friendly T20 evening and Sunday fixtures throughout the season (fixture card attached).

Friendly cricket was played following the green light from the Prime Minister Boris Johnson for recreational cricket to resume over the weekend of the 11th July 2020. The Club were well supported on and off the field during the shortened season. Although fundraising was limited the generous support received has enabled the Club to further improve the facilities. Over the Autumn/Winter the outfield and wicket have been well maintained. The front porch guttering has been renewed, changing rooms have been painted, vertical blinds were fitted throughout the pavilion and the groundsmen's shed garage door renewed.

We would therefore like to thank all sponsors and those who have donated and continue to support the Club through these difficult times.

Subject to cost and the correct permissions being in place the Club have ambitious plans to further enhance the facilities. We will update the Parish Council as these ideas develop.

The invitation is open to hold a Parish Council Meeting at the pavilion during the summer free of charge. This would also enable the Parish Councillors to view the improvements made to the facilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information. Ian Hyde.

6. Financial Report from the Clerk

Circulated and noted as follows:

I am pleased and proud to be able to say that despite the Coronavirus pandemic, the Parish Council has continued to meet remotely (apart from one physical meeting in July) during 2020 and into 2021, firstly by teleconference and then by Zoom, allowing the Parish Council to function without faltering.

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 were approved, the internal and external audit was completed, and the budget / Precept for 2021/22 agreed.

Councillors have been very proactive and enthusiastic throughout the year and they are to be commended for their fortitude and resilience in an unusual year. The Chairman has unswervingly led us all through uncharted territory.

We have all had to get used to a different way of working in the last year and have adapted ourselves to things we never thought we would or could do and I feel privileged to be working with a group of people who continue to serve the Parish regardless of the enormous pressures put upon them, particularly not being able to meet up and discuss matters around the table.

I think we can all give ourselves a big pat on the back for carrying on as usual. It cannot be denied that this has been the busiest year so far since I was appointed Clerk in 2018 and I'm sure Councillors must be fed up of seeing my name in their inbox with never ending emails being sent either for information or attention.

In closing, I would like to thank all Councillors, including District and County, for their kindness, courtesy and respect shown to me.

7. Public Participation. None

The meeting ended at 8.11pm.