

The Parish of Donhead St Andrew

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7pm
St Andrew's Church, Donhead St Andrew.

Present:

- 7 Members of the Public (inc 6 parish councillors)
- The Parish Clerk – Simon Pritchard

Minutes:

1. Election of Meeting Chairman:

As the Parish Council Chairman was present, Cllr Simon Luck conducted the meeting.

2. Welcome & Apologies for Absence:

Received from Alistair Stoker & John Barton.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022:

No meeting was held in 2022, Covid was still of a high concern, so nothing was arranged.

4. Report from Parish Council Chairman:

The Chairman thanked everyone at the meeting for all the efforts that they put in over the course of the year. Special recognition to the Parish Clerk as being married to the former Parish Clerk he understands just how much work goes into the role.

Thanks to all the Parish Councillors for stepping up and paying an important role in the community.

Stiles have been replaced, there will be a new bench at Wardour, public support in upgrading the Village to highspeed broadband. Lots going on.

However, sorry to say that he will be leaving the Council tomorrow, resigning due to work commitments as doing a lot of work with USA based collages now and will be having to go to the USA regularly.

5. Report from Wilshire Councillor:

Noted that Nick Errington had resigned about a month ago. It was noted that an election had been called. It was hoped that the next Wilshire Councillor for the area would be just as active as Nick and they would start to tackle some of the outstanding issues, not least the dreadful state of the roads.

6. Reports from local groups and organisations:

None

7. Reports from Members of the Parish Council with Portfolios

Rights of Way / Footpaths – Patricia Maxwell-Arnot, Parish Councillor with special responsibility for rights of way:

- In general, the footpaths are looking good at the moment.
- FP:6 gate has been mended.
- Gate on new bridge has fallen apart. Needs rehangng.
- Stinging nettles are starting to grow out of control as you would expect at this time of year,
- Still hopeful that the Parish Council will be upgrading two gates this year into kissing gates.
- FP:14 (Pile Oak Cottage) new ponies in the field and so once again the footpath is blocked off by electric tape.
- Park Gate Farm has cows and youngsters in the field the footpath runs through. Not seen this before.

Finger Signposts:

- Simon Barkham revealed that he now has agreement for all landowners for the instalment for the directional fingerposts at key location on local walks. Will be ordering the fingerpost shortly and arranging install.

Local Highways - Clive Burrows Parish Councillor with special responsibility for Highways and The Parish Steward

- The Parish Steward has been taken off normal duties to tackle the pothole backlog. Back on other duties in June.
- Seem that the Wilshire App reports are slow to update online, but an issue dose only need to be reported once, any duplication is removed by Wilshire Council.
- Biggest problem is that most of the local roads are simply not made for the size if traffic that drives on them.

Tree Warden - George Lisle:

- Wilshire Council has now withdrawn is support for the tree warden scheme. But hope to carry on locally and will help as and when they can.
- Ash dieback continues to be a big problem,

Kissing Gates:

The Parish Clerk noted that he has applied for a grant towards the cost of installing more in the parish, but as the Wilshire Council committee structure has now changed and the rules for to funding Parish Councils tightened, is was in no way guaranteed that Wilshire Council would support any installs as they had in the past.

8. Open Public Parish Forum:

Residents are invited to discuss any matter affecting the Parish

Highspeed Broadband - Nick Martin:

An update has been sent to the Parish Clerk and will be published on the Parish Council website.

- Wessex Internet are two months behind on the project.
- Overhead poles will be used to get into homes if necessary.
- The Church has been offered a connection for £1 per month
- Properties that are not part of this scheme could still be connected if a 50% sign up can be achieved.
- Have had a moan at Wessex Internet about the lack of communication with people who are signed up.

Closed 19:48