

Heddon on the Wall Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH MAY, 2022@ 7.00PM IN HEDDON LIBRARY

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed 1 member of the public to the 2022 Annual Electors' Meeting, together with 7 members of the Parish Council, the Clerk and the Assets Officer

The Annual Electors Meeting has not been held since 2019 due to Covid restrictions.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Each year the Parish Council gives an update on its activities for the previous 12 months in this open meeting in May. Over my 3 years with the Parish Council it has not been possible to do this because of the pandemic, so this year I am taking the opportunity to give a brief update over that longer 3 year period.

I would like to start with the purpose of the Parish Council and this we have tried to focus under the banner of "maintaining and improving the village for all".

Having a focus we think ensures that we, and the village, are mindful of the reason the Parish Council exists.

Our key strength is the people who volunteer their time to work on different aspects of village life, on behalf of all of the Councilors, I would like to give a genuine thank you for all of those who have volunteered in the village over the years, whether that be

- maintaining the planters and tubs around Heddon or
- volunteering in the library or
- lending a skilled hand in the memorial park, or
- Publishing and delivering the Heddon Gossip,

Of course special thanks go to anyone who has given their time to volunteer to be a Parish Councilor, we have had an excellent mix of experiences being brought to the table to tackle issues, look after finances and provide a range of ideas on where the Council can improve things.

Thank you to Councilors past present and departed.

Finally on people our current councilors would like to commend Louise Pringle for the work she has undertaken for the council and wish her well in her upcoming retirement.

Looking at specific projects that have been ongoing over the last 3 years, these were highlighted in the recent publication of the results of the Village Survey so I won't seek to repeat them all here, but some of those key achievements included areas like

- Refurbishment of the multi-use gaming area in the field beside the school, we are finishing that with a respray of the goal posts in the weeks ahead.
- Installation of British Legion Tommy silhouettes to show remembrance, we continue to have the Memorial Cross dressed on relevant occasions and have had the memorial park walls and the Cross professionally cleaned.
- Starting a medium to long term project of bringing Christmas lights to the village, small steps last year, more progress in the years ahead
- Engaging with our school to provide a Roman Garden in the Common, in itself this will improve the look of the Butterfly Garden that has perhaps seen better days, it may have been noticed that work has recently started on this project.

Looking back at the Village survey, it was in itself a step forward in terms of understanding the wishes and needs of villagers.

We are still formulating ideas on the results of the survey but one key aspect that we felt came out from it was that the younger voices of the village were perhaps not being heard.

To that end we are making more efforts to reach out as a Council through Social media and increase the use of areas like Facebook.

There have also been a number of reactive areas that we have dealt with recently like the aftermath of Storm Arwen, but these have also led to positive forward thinking ideas like tree sponsorships and match funding for replacement trees around the village.

We are keen to progress the Parish Council's thinking in respect of village improvements, areas like further improvements to the welfare field specifically, and climate change and carbon footprint in the village more generally.

Finally, whilst not a Parish Council project, it has also been great to see the Heddon Gossip back up and running following the pandemic

As a Council will continue to work with the village to maintain and improve the village for all, I hope this brief summary gives an idea on the sorts of projects we are trying to put in place as volunteers on behalf of the village, but also to reach out to remind everyone that more volunteers will always help.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021-2022 (attached below)

You will find the outline of our income and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2022, on the sheet that is available to all. The accounts have been audited by the internal auditor and has been sent to the external auditor and the report will be available in the Library upon completion. The chair explained that the precept is the money paid to the council by the electors via the council tax.

OPEN FORUM – Questions and from Electors

The chair opened the meeting for questions from the floor

Questions and Comments

The resident wanted to know if the Parish Council was working with the County Council to find a place for the glass recycling bins.

The council assured the resident that they were we went through all the suggestions for suitable places that we have given to the County Council. We do not seem to have anywhere that would fit with the criteria required. Space and a suitable surface for a bin wagon to get in to empty the carriers, not providing noise pollution to any residents, not being unsightly at any tourist areas or encouraging fly tipping.

The Parish council is still working with the NCC recycling officer to explore further sites any suggestions will be happily explored.

Precept Finance			Non precept finance library and Selman Park		
Expenditure	Budget	Actual Spend	Expenditure		
Salaries and admin	£ 21,820	£ 19,965	Total	£ 13,041.00	
Subscriptions and donations	£ 2,275	£ 732			
Parks, common and open spaces	£ 10,784	£ 38,911	Income		
Allotments	£ 750	£ 185	Total	£ 20,015.00	
General maintenance	£ 2,830	£ 2,411			
Total		£ 62,204	Total remaining	£ 6,974.00	
Income					
Precept		£ 41,959	Savings account balance	£ 37,192.00	
Total brought forwards 20/21		£ 13,079			
Allotments		£ 590			
VAT return		£ 8,861			
Donation MUGA		£ 30,000			
Total		£ 94,489			
Total remaining		£ 32,285			
Exceptional Expenditure					
Trees Hexham Road £4800	£ 4,800.00				
Library fascia clean £330	£ 330.00				
Village survey £3380	£ 3,380.00				
MUGA £17,440	£ 17,440.00				
Mem Park pruning £4416	£ 4,416.00				
Fascia painting library	£ 900.00				
Storm tree clearance	£ 5,640.00				
Bench Heddon Banks	£ 310.80				