

ROOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held by Zoom at 19.30 on 7 April 2021

Present Chairman Ian RigaudBarrett
Six members of the public; M. R. Taplin, Parish Clerk;
Cllr S. Hastings, Isle of Wight Council

Apologies Mrs E.A. Wills

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 April 2019 were tabled and agreed. There was no meeting in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report

The Chairman read his report for 2020-2021, which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

Questions from the floor

A member of the public, and keen cyclist, raised the issue of Rookley being linked to the cycling network. The only link, along A37, was very muddy, and deterred all but the keenest cyclists. To be pursued through Cycle Wight.

The same member of the public commented on the increasing amount of litter being deposited on the roadside, particularly fast-food containers. Cllr Hastings said IWC Council recognised the problem and had set up a Task & Finish Group to combat litter and fly-tipping, involving Island Roads, and Rights of Way, who jointly had the responsibility for clearing litter and fly-tipping on non-private land. He also praised the work of the IW Wombles Association voluntary litter pickers.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 19.50

Chairman's report

Last year the scheduled Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled due to restrictions imposed during the first national Covid-19 'lockdown'. Since then, the whole world has learnt how to adapt to such restrictions by using electronic systems to hold virtual meetings. The Parish Council held its first meeting using the 'Zoom' system on 7th October 2020 and has continued to do so. We expect to resume normal, but socially distanced, meetings in May

As there was no meeting last year, this report covers the events of the last two years, since I succeeded Liz Wills as Chairman on the Parish Council. I have been fortunate to have had a full complement of six members on the Parish Council over this period, but am sad to announce that Stephen Vail has decided not to stand at the upcoming round of elections. Our thanks are due to him for his five years of service, and particular for his successful efforts to re-hang the tree lights that had been increasingly buried by growth. The circulation of occasional newsletters has been suspended to avoid any risk of Covid contagion but items of interest to parishioners are posted on the Village Association Facebook account.

Over this period there has been a steady flow of planning applications for consideration which were largely non-controversial. The design and layout of the proposed development adjacent to the Post Office was revised and refreshed following the involvement of Captiva Homes as developers and was endorsed by the Parish Council, subject to a few conditions.

We were delighted to host an open meeting held by our MP, Bob Seely, who was seeking support for his efforts to reduce the government-imposed target for new housing developments on the Island

Thanks to the efforts of two parishioners, James Morton and Tom Baker, the benches on the village green have been cleaned up and repaired, and a number of stiles on our footpaths have been adapted to make them easier to use by dog walkers. Thanks are also due to all those who stepped up to provide support to those in need during lockdown as part of the island wide army of volunteers - in Rookley this was led by Gemma Sizer-Green, Sue Willis and Tammy Faithful.

Poppie Faithfull received the Child of Wight award, and an award from the High Sheriff for her efforts to help the community during the pandemic.

For many years the village has supported the Mountbatten Hospice with a fund-raising 'Carols on The Green' event in December. Whilst this could not be held in 2020 because of the pandemic, the Parish Council continued the tradition of making a donation to this most worthy cause as well as re-hanging the lights on the tree, which had grown-in over recent years.

We have maintained our close association with the Rookley Village Association. Many years ago, the Parish Council paid for the various items of play equipment installed in the corner of playing field in Highwood Lane and continues to pay for inspection and maintenance each year. We jointly fund the cost of lessons on the skate park during the summer months.

Ian Rigaudbarrett