

2022

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Refreshments were served at 7.15pm prior to the meeting.

Present were Chairman Cllr P Lenehan, Cllrs G. Hawkins, R. Bos, M. Gray, A. Peters, K. Walker, S. Wood & the Clerk. Also present were 13 members of the public.

1. To Accept apologies for absence – apologies received from Mr. Mrs. C Hutchins and Mrs. L. Hoare

2. To confirm minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting- having been circulated the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th April 2019 were proposed for approval by Cllr Hawkins; seconded by Cllr A. Peters.

3. Chairman's Report – as read by Cllr Lenehan.

Welcome to our first APM since 2019 due to the pandemic.

This time last year, in May 2021 we were still having quarterly meetings via Zoom, rather than monthly meetings in person, which didn't resume until July. It was at this meeting that Cllr Wood made her first appearance having been co-opted onto the PC the previous month.

Solar Farms have been a major topic this year, with three prospective proposals put forward: two on our Parish boundary and one within it. In May 2021 we had our first notification for a prospective Solar Farm at Paytherdon Farm in Clyst Hydon, resulting in a huge public response. A planning application was submitted in December to which we objected.

Only two days ago, we were notified that the Horton Solar Farm at Whimple have submitted a planning application. It remains to be seen whether the prospective Solar Farm within the Parish will result in a Planning Application.

The new Website went live on 1 July

Sandbags and sand were replenished in September and stored at Parklands Farm with Cllr Peters. (Following the flooding in 2020 to which there was a great community response)

Platinum Jubilee Committee was set up as a sub-committee with help from 5 residents.

What we do every year - Grant Giving £500; Donation to The Calendar; Village Christmas Tree; Strimming and Grass Cutting; Maintenance of Allotments & Village Assets.

4. To receive reports from representatives of the following Village and Local organisations-as EDDC Cllr P Skinner and DCC I. Chubb had to attend other meetings the Chairman asked that they be allowed to give their reports first, this was agreed,

l. EDDC Cllr P. Skinner - Cllr Skinner advised the Parish Council that EDDC will be continuing to meet remotely until at least October. He gave an update on some of the difficulties that EDDC have had over the last year, in particular mentioning the Waste and Recycling team for how well they have coped with staffing and logistic issues. D/Cllr Skinner also gave an update on the four solar farm applications that have, or are about to be, submitted and which cover nearly 600 acres of land in the area he represents. He spoke of the issues between clean green energy versus food production. Cllr Skinner answered questions put to him by members of the public regarding social housing, homelessness, potholes and solar farms.

m. DCC I. Chubb - Cllr Chubb advised the Parish Council that DCC are holding meetings in person and have done so for a little while. C/Cllr Chubb spoke of the highway's issues with 8000 miles of roads to be maintained while the funding has been cut. He also encouraged people to continue to report any issues with the roads online. He spoke of the need for fairer funding for roads and schools in Devon. The Council had to use reserve funds to balance the budget for the previous year. Cllr Chubb also answered questions from members of the public including central government funding, social care and roads.

a. Feniton School – no report

b. Payhembury School – as read by Penny Hammett, Executive Headteacher.

Payhembury Primary school federated with Awliscombe Primary School in 2015. It has grown into a successful strong partnership of schools which is governed by a single governing body. The executive leadership team comprises of Penny Hammett, Executive Headteacher and two Head of School leaders. Nick Bladon is the Head of School for Payhembury Primary school.

Currently the federation serves just under 240 children and Payhembury has currently 120 children on roll which includes the pre-school. Both schools have Governor led Pre-Schools ON site. 19 children come from Talaton. There is a school bus to provide daily transportation for those children living in Talaton.

Payhembury Primary School has four classes. Each class has mixed ages-Pre-School and Reception – Willow Class; Year 1 and 2 Children – Ash Class; Year3 and 4 - Beech Class; Year 5 and 6 – Oak Class.

We have a full cohort of children starting in Reception in September and unfortunately were oversubscribed at the first-round allocation. Currently have a waiting list for places in other classes of the school.

Our federation has 27 members of staff who work collaboratively across the two schools. This has been of huge benefit through the pandemic as we have been able to manage staff illness without consequences to the ability to deliver teaching to all classes.

We are able to provide a Breakfast Club and an After-School club five days a week and therefore provide wraparound care from 8- 5pm if needed.

We are a Church of England voluntary controlled school and work collaboratively with both the Diocese of Exeter and the local authority. Payhembury Primary School is a feeder school to The Kings, Ottery St Mary. We also work very effectively with all the schools in the Ottery Learning Community, which consists of the Kings, Feniton and Tipton Primaries, Ottery St Mary Primary and West Hill Primary School. The Headteachers meet regularly and we have a well-established sports programme that runs throughout the year for all ages in Primary School.

As with all schools the last two years has been full of challenges and upheavals. Luckily, we have survived the pandemic reasonably well and are looking forward to moving forward with fewer distractions.

Our school improvement focus for the last few years has centred around COVID consequences and our ability to maintain our consistent positive presence in the lives of our families and to help support our school community through the tough times. The aim to keep the children learning as best they can under the ever-changing restrictions, guidance and pandemic repercussions.

One area that particularly benefitted from significant investment of finance, staff training and time was the development of our remote learning package. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were not ready to engage successfully in online learning. Managing the rurality issues around the internet effective connectivity was a serious challenge but we also had to support our families with their understanding of a new online platform which came after the first lockdown. Other areas we have focused on are Reading, PSHE and RSE.

In 2018 we expanded the school from 70 pupils to 105, with the addition of two new classrooms.

2019 we had windows replacements. In 2020 a new heating system was installed – Heat source pump. This year we hope to complete the window replacement project and internal building improvements.

Even though our last few years has been very disrupted we have still been able to provide a number of educational school trips to enhance the learning in the classrooms. Stoke Gabriel -residential trip; Kents Cavern; Plymouth Aquarium; Weymouth WW11; Tuck Mill farm trip for lambing.

We run after school clubs – numerous sporting clubs, drama, Choir, forest school club.

We are able to use the local farm's swimming pool to ensure the children meet the national curriculum expectations for independently swimming 25 metres before they leave in year 6.

Finally, we have a dedicated PTFA who continue to work so hard to raise funds for the school. Last week we had a cake sale and next week we have Bingo taking place. They have provided school with money to support new ICT hardware, they pay for coach costs for trips, contributions towards theatre tickets for all children and new resources for other areas of the curriculum.

c. Talaton Parish Hall Managers Committee – as read by Simon Spencer

The committee make up remains similar to last year with 6 members, 3 Officers, reps of village organisations and co-opted members. Since our last report circulated in May 2020 when the pandemic was at its height, the Hall was closed to all bookings all the way through until the Autumn of 2021 and one of our first events was the How do ye do, which was a lovely event and masks were slowly removed as many cups of tea and company were enjoyed. Our second Hall event was our Big Breakfast in early March which was well supported. In the interregnum we have received two Covid Grants form EDDC and this money has allowed us to do a little more to improve the Hall for its users. The new boiler was installed in mid-2021 and this includes a new hot

water system for the toilet areas, sited in the loft. This location was achieved by a massive clear out of that space. We have just had another clear out and the PO unit is now no more. The old Panto store is now empty and we are offering it for use of Tom Samsons Community Theatre 4All as secure storage.

The boiler room floor was raised to eliminate the annoying steps which are definitely not missed.

In the summer we completed the external redecoration of the hall, including this year 80% of the black line which is awaiting renewed energy for me to complete. The Halls grateful thanks to all the volunteers and helpers for this task, which included clearing the moss off the roof, and installing a PVC over fascia at the south end of the roof to cover the rotted original. We have a new regular cleaner in Emily Trimmer, and the Hall is all the better for this. Bookings are healthy and slowly returning back to pre- pandemic levels. We are presently financially stable, and we hold a reasonable amount in the bank. As for all of us future running costs are an unknown, so we will review the situation as things develop. Charges may need a review.

d. Talaton Community Shop as read by Trish Lenehan –

Well, what strange times we have all lived through since the last Shop report! One word seems to sum up the events of the last two years: changes.

January 2020 began with a major refurbishment of the shop, with new flooring, painting and decorating throughout. We were indebted to many of the Robots for all their help and decorating expertise.

To coincide with the fresh new looks, our corporate identity was also officially changed from The Village Shop to Talaton Community Shop Ltd.

Meanwhile, the pandemic was taking hold and this necessitated another huge change in the way the shop operated. Many of the regular volunteers were sheltering or shielding and we need extra help in order to achieve the highest standards of hygiene and safety for both our customers and volunteers. Fortunately, many villagers came forwards to act as doorkeepers and to take telephone orders and deliver goods to the housebound, leaving the remaining volunteers to work on the till. It was a superb effort by all. Opening hours were reduced, but sales soared as we saw long queues of customers who felt confident enough to shop in safety in the village, rather than going to their usual supermarkets. A perspex screen was put up to protect staff and only one customer at a time was allowed in the shop.

Another change that was going on at the time was the change in Post Office services. Jo Ware needed to retire and the Post Office made it very difficult for us to move forward and continue what had been the current level of service. For a while, the future of the Post Office in Talaton looked uncertain, but after a protracted wrangle with the Post Office, we were eventually offered an 'outreach service', - a mobile Post Office for 2 hours on a Wednesday afternoon.

Our Committee has seen changes too: we sadly lost Graham Bidgood earlier this year, a great loss to us all - he had brought such a wealth of expertise to the shop from his life in retail.

Sales have dropped in recent months and we are permanently short of volunteers, so we have reluctantly reduced our opening hours again to mornings only, with the exception of Wednesday afternoons to coincide with the Post Office.

During this period, we have had two new Treasurers and two new Bookkeepers. We now have Wi-Fi, a new accounting system, new card machine provider and excellent back-office support.

Hopefully this turbulent period of change is beginning to stabilize!

e. Parochial Church Council as read by Pam Weston –

Another difficult year for everyone – lockdowns continued to be disruptive for the church. Apart from not being able to hold regular services, fundraising was halted again.

However, we are fortunate to have Marc Kerlake as our rector who (with help from other clergy in the community) oversees the villages of Talaton, Whimble, Clyst St Lawrence, Clyst Hydon, Rockbeare, Broadclyst, Sowton, Clyst Honiton – and Cranbrook!. Between them, they ensure there is a service in Talaton three to four Sundays a month.

Services

These are returning to a routine and most are now at 10am. Special services at Christmas and Easter are always popular and Marc continues to post a weekly service on YouTube.

Safeguarding:

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) continues to take Safeguarding seriously, as part of our pastoral care for one another, and has complied with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy 2021.

Financial Review:

The total spent by the church was almost £34,000 or £93 a day, to keep the church going including £8,000 spent on the collapsed wall by Harris Farm, tomb repairs and a new pedestrian gate. We also supported some local, national and international charities.

Conclusion:

The church building & churchyard is in excellent condition and enjoyed by many.

f. Garden & Produce Association as read by Pam Weston –

It was good to be back in the Hall for this year's AGM but the previous year's unique Postal AGM had been a remarkable success in that we had 29 prompt replies and even better we recruited two new, very valuable and hard-working committee members, namely Richard Bos and Alan Franklin. We had suspended annual subs but were touched to learn how many of you wanted to contribute even though we had had to cancel all but one event due to Covid restrictions in the previous year. The committee bravely attempted Zoom meetings in February, March and May and despite these being sabotaged by poor or intermittent internet signals for some of us, we did organise a successful plant sale in the Church car park in June, which raised £179.50. It was the first village event for ages and a happy couple of hours spent in the gentle drizzle it was good to see people meeting again. Things improved and we achieved three subsequent meetings in the North Aisle room of the Church- the hall still being closed and our homes being out of bounds to groups of 10. The Annual Show was duly planned. In August, with much trepidation, we went ahead, it was the first public event in the hall since March 2020.

No raffle or refreshments and with only children's prizes being presented, it was never the less a great success with a good number of entries in all sections, impressive potato harvests from the children, we did not manage to generate a Covid hotspot in Talaton and the sun shone. We regretfully cancelled the pumpkin decorating competition as Covid numbers increased in East Devon.

We drew up a calendar of events for 2021/22 and Pat Rice kindly redesigned and printed these for us and distributed these at our AGM in November. Those who joined us enjoyed the talk and demonstration given by Andrea Rye of Coombe Garden Centre. And so, we launched cautiously and hopefully into our 72nd year. Our first event another talk and demonstration by Andrea Rye was nearly sabotaged by a hurricane but a hardy few joined us for another enjoyable evening. Our first trip of the year was to Wildside a wonderful garden, well worth a visit later in the year, for those who missed it.

Our plant sale on 7th May raised £149.50. Two more trips have been organised plus the annual show and pumpkin competition. Family membership is still the princely sum of £2.

g. Talaton Clay Shoot Club as read by Phil Moir-

The Club continues to thrive and our membership remains around the twenty mark. We are keen to encourage new members and like to focus on parishioners, particularly the younger ones. We arrange two competitions through the year, those being a 'Top Gun' and a 'Handicap' for those who can't quite shoot so well! Prizes are awarded at our annual dinner at the Talaton Inn, hosted by Maria and Jan and a delicious meal was had by all. As a sporting and social activity, the impact of Covid over the past three years has been significant and initially shooting ceased for the periods of lockdown. With changes in Government legislation, relating to Covid, and new guidance supported by advice from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, (BASC) new safety procedures were adopted by the Club.

Additionally, and in the wake of the killings that took place in the Southwest, though not a legal requirement, we brought in further measures relating to how we accommodate new members and guests. The Government has now introduced new gun licensing arrangements where medical health checks are sought from General Practitioners and made prior to the issue of a new gun licence from the relevant Police Authority.

The Club's tenure on the shooting ground has changed and the Proprietors of the site are now members of the Club. The Club's usage of the site is more formal than before and operations at the site are on a termly basis. We have good relationships with our neighbours and Shooting on the site generally takes place monthly with

shooting sessions occurring on Saturday mornings for about two hours. We have formal arrangements for our ground maintenance that is operated through our membership.

h. R.O.B.O.T.S as read by Phil Moir –

The Objectives of the club are to foster and encourage social interaction and events for retired and semi-retired men. The Club is open to all, being non-political and non-sectarian. The Club enjoys a membership approaching thirty old boys and continues to be popular, with meetings and events being well attended. Our regular lunchtime meetings are held at the Talaton Inn, on the last Thursday of every month. We try to ensure that all voices are heard and to aid this process, have a committee of six members. We encourage a 'can-do' approach to any suggestion; each member has full voting rights.

Along with the lunchtime meetings we aim to undertake other events on a monthly basis that include walks and visits, including fairly regular trips to Exeter races.

The Chairman and committee are delighted with the way in which the club continues to evolve. Our members are involved in many other village groups and activities and the Robots become involved, by default, with their aims and ambitions. We would like to thank all Villagers for their ongoing interest and support.

Finally, we would like to thank Maria and Jan at the Talaton Inn for kindly hosting our noisy lunchtime meetings.

i. Talaton Neighbourhood Watch as read by Andy May - Status of our scheme

This year little has changed. We have a one-to-one dialogue with all levels of the local policing team although it's clear the attention of the Ottery Rural team is focused on busier parts of their patch stretching from Cowley to Feniton. The scheme is still managed by Andy and Jan May with the help of local co-ordinators and we have been in touch with: Police Crime Commissioners office (OPCC);

D & C Rural affairs team; D&C Ottery local policing team. There have been no changes in ward boundaries but the co-ordinators for Escot have changed to Mike and Carol Needham.

Our page on the Parish Website is constantly updated. 6 events have been posted in the appeals section. Links to relevant reporting sites, crime or policing related resources are regularly checked and updated. The Calendar is still used to publicise events, crime prevention advice and points of contact. TNHW still offers direct contact with households and businesses by email, in person, by phone or in writing.

Statistics-This year has seen a reduction in advice given and matters dealt with, and reported crime is the lowest in 5 years. Figures for 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021 (Figures in brackets show previous year). TNHW have dealt with 19 (25) incidents and made 7 (23) referrals to the police. We have reviewed 178 (167) separate Alert notifications of which 15 (16) were passed on either to a select portion or all of those who have requested our enhanced service. Using the crime mapping service on www.police.uk for the calendar year 2021 there were 16 crimes recorded, in 2017 and 2018 it was 20, in 2019 it was 24 and 2020 it was 18. The information is very general with no clear pattern other than that centred on Beautiful Days with a very low "peak" of 6 in August. By comparison for Cranbrook in 2021 just the monthly figure varied between 22 and 49, and in the small London district of North Walworth 326 in August 2021 alone. Crimes across our parish remain even lower than normal possibly because of Covid-19 restrictions on public life. With restrictions ending it seems likely that the previously slightly higher figures lay ahead.

Councillor advocate scheme- TNHW have performed this role for the Parish Council since 2017, forming a link with the Office of Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC). All seminars at police HQ during this period were suspended owing to Covid-19. Various online interactive meetings, mostly live Q&A sessions, were conducted but none covering topics that were specifically relevant to life in Talaton.

Despite the lack of relevant content this year, TNHW have concluded that continued membership has potential benefits for this community, giving us early warning of changes in policing that may affect us. We will continue to attend select events that appear to have a relevance to Talaton, remain on the mailing list of the OPCC and will pass on information to the Parish Council relevant to.

j. Talaton Calendar – as read by Simon Spencer

Our last report must have been in e mail form in May 2020 when the pandemic was at its height. Our deliveries were stopped then and we moved to emailing to as widespread area as possible. This has continued

throughout the pandemic, and we resumed the deliveries in paper form in November 2021 much to the pleasure of many readers.

During this time Rosemary Glanville retired and had a lovely sending off in front of the Village Shop with a presentation from the Parish Council. She had delivered the Calendar for upwards of 30 years, and we have now got a distribution system with 10 people replacing her. We are all grateful to Rosemary and to our new distribution team.

The Calendar has always been an information service for the community and has run since the late 1970's when it was a single sheet of yellow A4, to the present editions in booklet form which were started in the mid 1990's, supported by advertising. Many editors and compilers kept it going until John Carter, who passed away recently, Dennis Oakley and myself instigated the new form in the late 1990's, and we have continued ever since. Our compiler Arnie James has been putting together each edition with me, carefully each month 10 months a year constantly ever since he took on the job with Dennis in the early noughties.

Presently the Calendar received advertising money on an annual basis. Costs are kept to a minimum as far as we can and the income usually matches expenditure each year. We do benefit from donations from time to time, and have a good buffer in the bank presently, in case of lean times.

Arnie and I are not a closed shop, and if there is anyone out there who would like to take over, do please let us get chatting. We are not getting younger!

k. Community Theatre 4 All as read by Tom Samson –

The last twelve months have been a highly productive period. Following the long, Covid caused, lay-off the company reconvened in October 2021 and this report covers the work of two groups that now work under the Community Theatre 4All banner.

Young Community Theatre 4All - The group was formed following the success of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" that had performed in March 2020 and had involved 20 children in the cast of 50. After only one children's session Covid forced the temporary closure of the group. The group was reformed in October 2021 and consisted of 13 children aged between 7 and 12 years old. The group met on a weekly basis with Tom and Frances Samson. Initially sessions were drama skills based but it very quickly became apparent that the children need more than this and wanted to develop a piece of theatre. We, therefore, took the children's storybook "Where the Wild Things Are" as a starting point and through discussion and improvisation explored the ideas contained within the story. This developed into a 35-minute performance with costumes, sound effects and lighting. "Where the Wild Things Are" was performed on a Saturday afternoon in mid-February to an audience of 60, consisting parents and friends. This performance raised £100 for Children's Hospice Care Southwest. Next year we are looking to at least double size of the Young Community Theatre 4All as the group will be working with Frances, myself and Julia Green on the children's musical "Rats!" – a modern retelling of The Pied Piper of Hamlyn. "Rats!" will perform in this hall in the Spring of 2023.

Community Theatre 4All - Following a fourteen-month period of research and writing (one of the few good things to come out of 'lock-down') and further period of publicity the play that I had written entitled "Talatan – A War- Time Refuge" was launched with a day Drama Workshop at the beginning of October. Casting and rehearsals followed and the play was performed in a barn at Cotley Farm over five sell-out nights at the end of April 2022. In total the play performed to over 450 people. On the final night's performance 60 people closely connected to the stories re-told in the play watched the performance having attended a special reception that had been held earlier in the day. Amongst the 60 guests were three people who had first been in Talaton in 1939/40 as Kindertransport children. These very special guests were the brothers Gerd (94) and Manfred Korman (90) who had come over from America especially for the performance. They were accompanied by relatives from America and Israel. The third very special guest was Isa Webber (née Schneider) aged 92 from Ivybridge and her relatives. The play and thus the village, gained wide publicity with three local radio broadcasts and two detailed ITV Westcountry news reports. Words cannot really sum up the success of this project or how it felt to be part of something which grew and grew and became so very special..... an experience which all of us involved with will remember for the rest of our lives. All that now remains to be done, in the coming months, is create a village archive of all the research material to ensure that this important local and national story remains 'known' village history for all time.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Talaton Parish Council for their continued generous financial support and Talaton Parish Hall for their continued support, on this occasion providing additional stage lighting and the seating that was used at Cotley Farm.

Looking forward the adult group will be working on a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" for performance in May 2023. The direction team for this production will be Emma Palmer and Daisy McLauchlan.

n. Knit and Natter Group as read by Karen Walker –

The group was set up by Judith Colin in spring 2020 to encourage people to get together and to help combat loneliness. Initially, due to COVID, a Facebook group was established in March, and an email group for non-FB users. During this time, we knitted baby hats for the neonatal centre at RD&E hospital and Innocent Smoothie hats to raise money for Age Concern.

We had our first in person session at the Talaton Inn in September 2021. We now meet every two weeks, alternating between Wednesday and Thursday to allow as many people to attend as possible. We bring our own knitting, crochet, sewing or craft projects, or just pop in for a natter and a cup of coffee and cake. Some of us stay for lunch too!

As well as knitting several hundred baby hats and about 200 Smoothie hats, raising £50 for Age Concern, we have also 'Yarn Bombed' the village with knitted paper chains and a snow scene on the post box, and made about 50 little teddies which are taken to Ukraine for refugee children. Our next group project will be seen in the village very soon!

5. Open Forum- Tom Samson announced that following news coverage of the production, he was going to be interviewed on Radio Devon and to choose a piece of music to be played on the following Sunday morning.

The meeting closed at 9.56pm