

BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2022 at 7.15pm. at Bickington Village Hall

Present ; Cllr Briddock, Chairman Bickington Parish Council & Karen Gilbert - Clerk
Cllrs Lawson , Cox , Tunnicliffe and Warren were in attendance - Dist Cllr Cox
and 2 Members of the Public
Cllr Briddock welcomed everyone to the Meeting

Apologies - Cllr Meek , Dist Cllrs Parker-khan and Nutley

Chairman's Report April 2022 - Bickington Parish Council

Since legal restriction on our meeting in person were removed in May of last year, we have resumed a regular face-to-face meetings . During the past year, we have purchased a defibrillator and cabinet . The parish council also contributes towards the maintenance of the churchyard and continues to support the work of the Village Hall Trust . In the past year we have responded to Teignbridge District Council's local plan and it remains our hope that our proposed sensible revisions will be accepted.

Looking forward the Parish Council has taken the lead in the planning for the Queens Jubilee celebrations and I thank Councillor Lawson for heading this

Thanks go to our County and District Councillors for their support during the past year - also my thanks go to my fellow Councillors for their continued service to the Parish - a sometimes thankless task

Finally heartfelt thanks go to our Clerk , Karen Gilbert for her calm efficiency and for keeping us on the straight and narrow - not always easy when it comes to myself

CLERKS REPORT

This year has seen the return to Face to face meeting and I thank the Hall Committee for ensuring the safety of both Councillors and Public attending the meetings

It also sees the return of the Annual Parish Meeting - the first since 2019

We have a full Council - and face the prospect of Elections in May next year

It has been a quiet year for the Council . From the Clerk's perspective it has been frustrating and difficult to obtain results / answers from Authorities / institution as they slowly get back to a so called normal way of working . I would like to thank the District / County for assistance given in this respect

This frustration has also be felt in trying to obtain and fit the Defib to the Village Hall - I often wonder if Parishioners understand the red tape and hurdles which the Council faces .

Communication nowadays is so important - so I was pleased to see a Village Facebook page through which we could get messages out . The PC FB page was a bit dull to say the least and hence did not attract a huge audience

The Council is in a healthy financial state - I seem to recall just a few groats in the bank when I started in 2009 . Work has finally started on the Toby Jug - which should help to smarten the Village .

I would like to thank the Councillors for the consideration they show to me and look forward to another year of progress !

DNPA Ranger - Bill Allen

Bill spoke of the challenging behaviour experienced on Dartmoor during Lockdown and repairs to Tracks and paths after several severe storms . It was also reported that damage by 4 x 4s had occurred at Ramshorn Down

Bill also commented on the highly successful Ranger Ralph programme and the excellent works done by the slightly older Volunteers

He mentioned the programme for improved disabled access to the Moor which he had been heavily involved with over many years

Looking forward , the Rights of Way were to extensively surveyed and signposts replaced

John Cox - Bickington Village Hall Trust

On behalf of the Trust , John thanked the Council and also the District Cllr Cox for the financial and moral support over the past years . There was still a great deal to be achieved - and emphasised that all grants , donations and forms of fund raising would all be welcomed

The Hall remains the only asset for the Village and is greatly supported by Parishioners and Hall users alike

Katie Collins - Flower show

Katie confirmed that the flyer for this year's show had been distributed - well in advance to allow time for exhibitors to consider their entries . The Show would form part of the Queens Jubilee celebrations and contribute to what will be a great weekend for the Village

Peter Warren - - PCC

Peter explained that the services had returned with some extra added in the near future

A quinquennial inspection was imminent - with a suspicion that works will be required

He thanked everyone for their support - which he hoped would continue to keep this valuable Village asset open and functioning

There were no other reports from Village organisations

The Meeting closed at 7.50pm