

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2022

TUESDAY April 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 7pm in Culworth Village Hall

1. Present: Cllrs A. Wilby, D. Mumford, M. Rowling, J. Mullins Blyth, N. Guinness and M Koster. The Clerk Mrs JM Rowling was in attendance
2. 10 members of public present
3. The Chair of Parish Council welcomed all present to the meeting
4. Minutes of APA 2021 held by zoom were proposed by Cllr Mullins Blyth and seconded Cllr Rolt were approved by those present.
5. **Chairman's report** The Council election took place on Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 and 8 candidates stood for the 7 Council seats, the following being returned: Stuart Rolt, David Mumford, Martin Rowling, Nancy Guinness, Michelle Koster, John Mullins-Blyth and Andrew Wilby.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May at the Annual Council AGM Cllr Stuart Rolt expressed his wish to retire as Chairman, Cllr Andrew Wilby was elected in his place and Stuart was elected to be Vice-Chairman. Cllr Rolt was thanked for his years of service as Chairman and Cllr John Mullin-Blyth was welcomed as a new member. Members agreed to continue with their responsibilities as published elsewhere.

The Summer Party for the village was held on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>. It was intended to celebrate the release from lockdown but as that date moved so did the party date. Around 100 people attended and a good time was had by all. Our thanks go to the Community Team who organised it - and to thank them again in advance for the planning they are undertaking for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June during the next municipal year.

The usual public realm maintenance activities concerning trees, bins, stone walls and grass have been undertaken and we must thank the Clerk for her diligent attention to these matters. The speed warning equipment has been installed and the Bus Shelter renovated.

The members agreed to set a budget for the Financial Year 2022/23 which allowed for 3% inflation as predicted by the Bank of England at the time of setting the budget. This now looks very out of date and whilst the Councillors will continue to manage carefully it is possible that we might face a negative financial outturn next year. We will not be alone!

We must thank the Councillors for their ongoing work on behalf of the community and the considerable work that goes on behind the scenes particularly by our Clerk. Proposed Cllr Rowling and seconded Cllr Mullins Blyth accepted.

6. Financial report- draft form circulated. Councillors to approve at May meeting and for internal audit by NCalc and external audit by PKF Littlejohn from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.
7. Charity Report. Mr Rowling Chair of trustees of Culworth Charity stated that 18 households benefitted from the Christmas gifts of money. Total income for year was £2121.
8. **Report from Village Hall Mrs Julie Tinn** - We started our year with committee meetings held via Zoom and still no bookings for the Hall although there was anticipation of opening up the Hall in May. Council Elections were held in the Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> May and we opened up the Hall again for bookings from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May with Covid

restrictions on numbers and practices. The monthly Village Café, coffee and chat, film nights, Snappers photography club and Hot Shots are now back in the Hall and we have started Bridge Nights and have a talk on the Culworth Gang booked for May.

John Mullins-Blyth was co-opted onto the Committee as Parish Council representative at a meeting in June.

We held a Public Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September. The resolution put to residents of Culworth was -

“To authorise the trustees of Culworth Village Hall (registered charity number 304177), subject to the approval of the Charity Commission and conditional on the proposed new Culworth Community Centre being completed and operational, to sell the freehold property known as Culworth Village Hall, Queens Street, Culworth, Banbury OX17 2AT in accordance with the terms of the Culworth Village Hall Conveyance and Trust Deed dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 1938 AND, subject to the approval of the Charity Commission, to transfer the sale proceeds and the other assets, liabilities and contracts of Culworth Village Hall to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation known as Culworth Hill Field Trust (registered charity number 1178257)”.

There were 89 attendees and the subsequent vote was 71 for the resolution and 17 against.

This positive vote has given the Culworth Hill Field Trust more security when they go to obtain funding for the new community building.

We met with the Culworth Hill Field Trust on a number of occasions throughout the year and have agreed to work more closely together on the community hall project.

At a committee meeting in September our Treasurer reported that although the Hall was open fully, booking revenue was severely down on past years. However, we would be eligible for two grants, Restart Grant (£8000) and Top Up Grant (£1500) which we applied for and received.

John Rance from Phoenix Rural Cinema wrote to tell us that they were no longer operating their film hire; a big blow. However, Anna Hayward suggested contacting a projectionist who had worked for Phoenix, Simon Hopkins, and he agreed to bring the films to Culworth in the meantime. We showed ‘The Courier’ in November restricting the numbers to 30 for Covid compliance. Since then, we have held two more film nights, ‘The Dressmaker’ and ‘West Side Story’ with an average of 35 people attending.

As we were unable to hold an AGM in 2020, we presented two sets of reports and accounts for 2020 and 2021 at our AGM in November. All the Trustees agreed to stand again and the officers were re-elected. Hiring rates were kept the same. We brought in a Code of Conduct for all Trustees to sign and adhere to.

The Committee has kept up the Village Hall – new fire doors were fitted and the flat roof of the front porch repaired. Some repairs to the roof of the hall will be carried out in the coming months.

9. Report from St Marys Church Mrs J Howse - filed

10. CHFT PROGRESS 26th February, 2022

- a. Following the VHT public meeting, which approved the sale of the existing village hall site, we need to decide on the best way forward. The reality is that although the funding situation has improved, the continued economic impact of Covid variants is likely to mean that raising the required funds to build the new facility will remain difficult for some time. Realistically, the best way to deliver the new facility, is in phases. It is our intention to start on site with the first phase, in the Autumn of this year, prior to the expiry of the existing planning permission on 19th December, 2022.
- b. We are advised, that the minimum works necessary to constitute a start on site, to implement the existing planning permission, will consist of the following:
  - c. The establishment of a new entrance;
  - d. Modification of the existing entrance;
  - e. New gates in the style of the old gate for both the entrance and the exit;
  - f. The establishment of a two-way drive (consolidated hard core);
  - g. Car parking for the new facility (consolidated hard core).
- h. Once we have made a start on site we will apply to the planning authority for a 'Certificate of Lawful Development'. When we have received this we will have the certainty that the existing planning permission will have been implemented and cannot be challenged. If, in the future, we wish to materially change what we want to build, we will need to submit a new planning application.
- i. The total estimated cost of the Phase 1 works, including the discharge of pre-commencement planning conditions, to be agreed with the planning authority, is £75k. When the scope of the works is finalised, we will go out to tender for the Phase 1 works to at least three contractors, to determine the cost and obtain quotes for the work necessary to discharge the agreed prep planning conditions.
- j. We will need to start on site in the Autumn to complete the works by the year end. The Phase 1 works will bring real benefits to the Village Hall Trust, the Cricket Club, The church, the school and the village by providing much safer access to Hill Field than the existing access via Banbury Lane and will provide much needed 'off road' parking for events, which will help to relieve traffic congestion.
- k. Funding possibilities:
  - i. We have had constructive discussion with the Sport England, who want to do what they can to help us. They currently have money available which has to be committed and spent before the end of December this year. In order to be eligible for consideration our current application for £150k would need to be amended. We understand that that if the cricket pitch was realigned, the cricket nets moved, and a limited amount spent on repairs to keep the

current cricket pavilion in use, a contribution, in the order of £30k, could be made towards our proposed Phase 1 works, for the access road and improvement of the entrance and exit to the site. It is estimated that around £100k, in total, could be available from SE.

- ii. We have appointed STRI, a leading sports turf consultancy, to carry out a feasibility study and cost estimate for the for the improvement to the cricket facilities. SE have confirmed we can use the balance of their original grant to pay for STRI's costs of £2,460.
  - iii. We have £10k available from Culworth Parish Council, previously approved and we make a request for a further £10k.
  - iv. Culworth Village Hall Trust and Culworth Cricket Club will be asked to make a contribution.
  - v. There are at least four other potential sources of funds which, we can apply to for between £10k and £15k each.
11. All other reports were noted.
  12. Timeline discussed and plans drawn out. Church agreed to maintain the timeline.
  13. No other business
  14. Meeting closed 805pm