

TACKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of ANNUAL Parish meeting held on 16th MAY 2022 held at Tackley Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Liz Marshall (LM) (Chair), Andrew Lines (AL) (Vice Chair), Richard Holland-Oakes (RHO), Angus Paxton (AP), Richard Jackson, June Collier (JC) Andy Graham (OCC), Nathalie Chapple (WODC) and Cherie Carruthers (CC) (Clerk to the Parish Council),
A number of members of the public were also in attendance.

21/090:Apologies for absence: Councillors Martin Mahon (MM) and Mathew Parkinson (WODC).

21/091:Minutes of meeting held on 13th May 2019 were brought to the Council, however there was an APM on the 24th May 2020. CC will look into this and bring the minutes along to the next PC meeting.

21/092: The Chair of Tackley Parish Council's report: LM verbally read her report, she will also publish this in the newsletter.

"The first year of being Chair of the Parish Council seems to have gone by particularly quickly with a lot happening in the village.

There are so many people to thank for all the hard work they put into making our community such a pleasant and special place, so I'll start with this. In no particular order:

I'd like to say a big thank you Andy Lines and Cherie Carruthers, as vice chair and clerk for their unflinching support for me this year as well as everything they do for the Council.

I would also like to thank June Collier for her ongoing help and advice. She has a wealth of knowledge and is always happy to share it. She has been a great support for me personally and for our village as a whole. Thanks to George as well for sharing her for so many years!

And where would we be without our new Councillors: Angus Paxton, Richard Holland-Oakes, Maca McMahon, and Richard Jackson? A huge thank you to them all for volunteering for this, sometimes difficult, role. They have jumped in with both feet this year taking on different responsibilities, while we all juggle our different skills and interests into the work the Parish Council does.

Thanks must go to Mary McIntyre, who, while not a Councillor, does a fantastic job of keeping the village website up to date, runs Tackley Freecycle pages and puts out all those notices on behalf of residents. If you have not yet signed up, it really is worth it to keep up with what is going on in the village (email notices@tackleyvillage.co.uk). Thank you again Mary.

Thank you also to Martin Edwards for his enormous hard work in continuing to get out this invaluable and informative Newsletter every two months.

While Jan Read stepped down as Councillor last year, she kindly continued to be the Allotment Representative. As there were many new plot holders as of January, this has been a big job this year so we are particularly grateful.

Judy Robson was our internal auditor for many years and has now retired from the role. A huge thank you to her for all her years of valuable advice, hard work and dedication. We will miss you. Judy also stood down from organising Tackley PALs, so thanks to her and Dave for setting it up and the years they planned all the litter picking days. A huge thank you to Sue and Alan Lygo for taking on the mantle. All the Tackley PALs do an amazing job of keeping the litter in the village tidied up and making the environment nicer for us all.

The Jubilee Garden is looking amazing with all the work that the Sustainable Tackley Group have done, planting flowers for insects, building more benches and making the garden look better than ever. Thanks to Rachel Strachan, Emma Hunter, Jo O'Mahoney, and Sara Shaw for organising and planning all the work, plus the multitude of helpers from young to old.

I'm pleased to say we also have a new Heath Committee headed by Rachel Strachan with Jon Chaplin, John Reynolds and Katherine Woodrow ably assisting her. We had a fantastic turnout of 17 people from the village who joined us for the first work party back in April, to help with access on the most brambly paths. The Cub Scouts are helping with our first small area of bracken management as well.

Our District Councillors, Nathalie Chapple and Mathew Parkinson have been ever helpful this year. Especially Nathalie as the one who looks over this end of the ward.

There has been a lot of change in the County Council over the last year too. With Andy Graham becoming our County Councillor after the elections last year and he is now the new Leader of the District Council with the West Oxfordshire Alliance. Thanks to Andy for all the support we have received on flooding, Thames Water issues, roads, 20s plenty and lots, lots more.

The Village Hall and Shop remain the hub of the village thanks to the work of Katie Hoffman and the rest of the hall committee, Andrew Smith and the shop committee, Debbie Norton, and Steph Radda in the shop and of course the many residents who volunteer in the shop to keep it running. There are too many to name, but you know who you are and thank you all for keeping this important service going for our community residents.

The primary school continues to be a wonderful place for children to learn – not just to learn their subjects but also to learn to love learning! Lauren Murrey and all the teachers, TA's and office staff make the school what it is along with the help of the PTA. It was lovely to watch the May Day Dancing last week – if a little teary for me as it was my youngest's last year and excited to finally get to do the sword dance! This would be difficult, if not impossible, if we didn't have Tracey Harris who teaches all the dances! Thanks also to June and Billy the horse for taking the May Day King and Queen for a carriage ride around the village. Such a fabulous tradition!

It was wonderful, last year, to have the return of the fireworks and bonfire after a year without due to COVID. The Scout group put a lot of time and effort into organising the event and it was great to see so many residents out having a good time.

Also, thanks to Andrew and Suzette Peake for making available land for the new forest school area. The area has been a great asset for the both School and Scouts over the last year. Thanks to Andrew for all the clearing work done and to Rob Marshall and the Scout Group for all the work building the bridge and shelter area. This really is an amazing facility for our children.

Last year we also saw the inaugural Memorial Trophy Football Match, enjoyed by many on a lovely sunny day. This was ably organised by Dane Walker and Maca and was a great success enjoyed by everyone who took part and watched. Thank you.

The School and Church Fete was also an enjoyable community event to attend last summer with residents' stalls, activities, a raffle, events like the dog show and of course, many, many refreshing cups of tea and delicious slices of cake. Thanks to all the organisers and volunteers for planning and holding this event.

Green Scythe continue to do great work in the village with Philip Plumridge being very patient as we tweak the verge cutting regimens to suit both human and non-human inhabitants of the village.

Philip says he's received many compliments from residents who have enjoyed seeing the wild flowers and many insect species which thrive when we leave the cutting for a bit longer. Thank you. Now we move onto issues of flooding in the village. We are continuing to work with Wayne Barker at OCC, Dominic Collyer of Thames Water, and our local landowners, with the help of Andy Graham and Mark Wragg, on ways of preventing flooding within the village in times of high rainfall. Thames Water have sealed many of the drainage pipe cracks over the last year or two; the Parish Council have cleared the drainage ditch along the back of the sports field; OCC have widened and deepened the bund on Rousham Road; and landowners are looking into what they can do while we wait for the results of the Catchment Study commissioned by OCC. Will Johnson continues to help with the sewage problems in flood conditions and Thames Water. Thank you to them all for their hard work in getting this serious situation under control.

The railway crossing is still an area of concern. We were all told by Network Rail a few years ago that the subway tunnel would happen, that planning permission would be sought and work would start. The crossing was closed on safety concerns and a temporary bridge put up ... but sadly it is still there. Then last year we were told that the subway was no longer an option. Network Rail have commissioned a contractor to reassess all the crossing options, not forgetting it is a bridleway, so access is required for both horses and bikes. (This has now been completed and a meeting is to be scheduled for June). So, a huge thank you must go to Reg Cox who, along with the PC and Andy Graham, has been in regular communication with Network Rail, particularly to represent the residents who are adversely affected by the bridge. We appreciate your ongoing work with this.

We continue to chase OCC about the pot holed roads. While we understand funding issues seem to get worse rather than better, we were promised significant road repairs to both Rousham Road and Church Hill to Sturdy's Castle. We look forward to seeing repairs happen as the weather improves this year. While on the subject of roads, the Parish Council continue to work on the 20's Plenty scheme, headed by Richard Holland-Oakes and a small group of residents. We will update you as we have more information.

There are still some outstanding issues with the Barwood development, but we very much welcome our new residents who are settling in well and many are getting stuck into village life, adding vibrancy to our community, and helping in numerous ways.

Trees are ever present on our meeting agendas ... either too big, too many or the need to plant more! We will continue to assess those we have and trim or remove where necessary. We never like to take them out but due to disease, posing danger to residents or homes, or 'wrong tree, wrong place' sometimes they do have to go. But we have, with the help of residents, planted two new Rowans at the top of Chaundy Road and Richard Banbury's family will be planting a tree in Richard's memory at the edge of the playing field. There will also be a bench of thanks for all the work he put into this community over the years. If you have any other suggestions for locations of new trees, do get in touch.

Looking forward, we have the Jubilee celebrations coming up in a couple of weeks. Fingers crossed for some good weather for all the fun activities planned – thanks to Richard Jackson, the school, scout group, churches, and the pub for their organisation in planning.

There will be another school and church fete and another Memorial Football match later in the year. No doubt the PTA will organise activities for Halloween again and the Scouts will be back for bonfire night. So, there is lots to look forward to in the coming months, but if anyone else has any suggestions or would like to plan an event, please let us know.

There will be our yearly PC Footpath walks in July, organised by Angus. These are held to check the state of access to our footpaths and to pass on to land owners any areas of concern. The walks are

also open to residents to join in to discover footpaths they may not know. Please bring a pair of secateurs so that we can ensure the paths are clear of brambles and other obstacles!

We will also have a village consultation this year on how we spend the section 106 money from the two developments, so please get thinking of ideas for how to spend the money in the best way for our community. It has to fit under the umbrella of access to sports and recreation.

A final thanks go to all the residents of Tackley. You form the wonderful community we have here. Just how wonderful has been shown recently by the huge response to Gill Withers' call for help for refugees from the Ukraine. Families who had already applied to host and have opened their homes to refugees as well as those offering help in other ways. Best wishes to our new friends in what must be distressing times, I am sure our whole village will show them support while they settle in. This village really is full of kind and caring people".

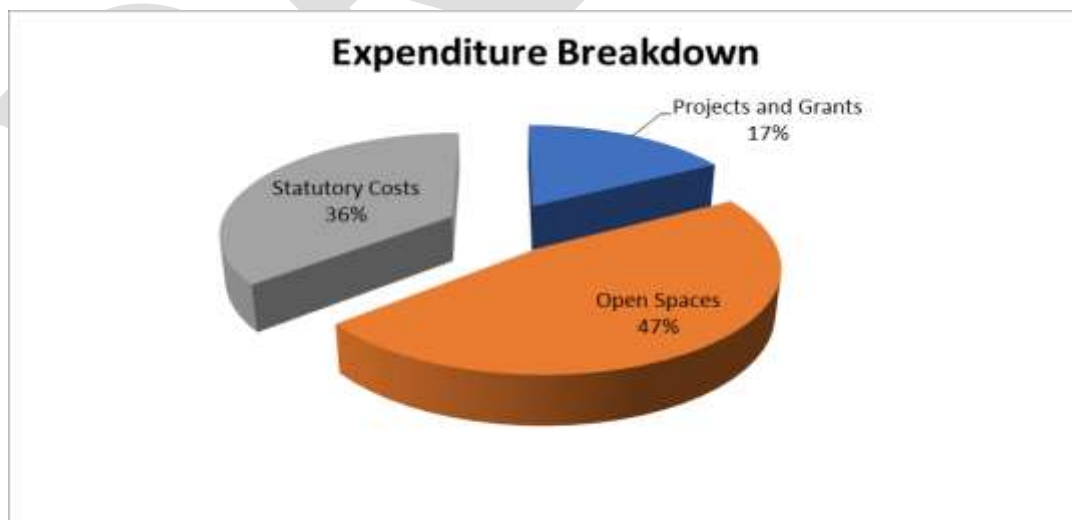
21/093: Clerks financial report: CC circulated and updated with the following report:

The Members and Officers of the Parish Council have worked hard to keep all running costs down without any effect on service to the parishioners.

We have closed the year with a small overspend on budget of £521.72, however the council has ample reserves to pick up this balance.

We have focused this year on spending your money on the open spaces within the village, with lots of tree work and repairs to paths and the playground, totalling an expenditure value of £4,078. We have also upgraded the solar lights in Jubilee Gardens and added a new one by the hardcourt, and gave out a few grants to local groups and sports clubs.

Below is an outline of our expenditure lines for 2021-22 with a levied precept of £27,122. At the Council's budget setting meeting it was agreed that there would be no increase in the precept for 2022/23.



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The closing bank balances of the council were £17,655.26 as at 31st March 2022. The funds are represented by:

FUNDS REPRESENTED BY: Barclay Bank Accounts	£
Community Account	16,063.39
Business Reserve Account	1,591.87
TOTAL	17,655.26
RESERVES REPRESENTED BY:	
General Reserve	17,005.26
EMR Tackley Choir (holding funds)	650.00
TOTAL	17,655.26

21/094: County Council report: AG had circulated his report but verbally touched on the outstanding issues of Rousham Road resurfacing, flooding, and the railway. He confirmed that the resurfacing is still in hand and that he was hoping it would be within the next few months. He will chase up the catchment survey promised by OCC regarding the flooding as no further action can be taken until the survey is done. He was arranging a meeting between NR, OCC and TPC re the railway and would invite TPC along once he has a date confirmed.

21/095: District Council report: NC updated that the election had taken place and new Cllr's to the District were taking up their posts. She agreed to look into the S106 money for the Barwood playground, as it was agreed the PC would receive the money instead of a new playground.

She is hopeful that now AG is the new leader of WODC, there will be much better cohesion and result for the villages within the district who have been forgotten with no voice for many years.

21/096: Head Teacher Tackley School: Lauren Murray attended the meeting noting that the school role was increasing with 112 children now enrolled in the school, back up to the numbers of some 5 years ago. The growth has been mainly in the early years with 14 new reception children and 6 nursery stage starting in September. The after school club is popular and seems to be a draw for some parents.

The school works in partnership with Wootton school and have enjoyed doing joint classes and ventures such as Forest School, which has been very successful.

She commended the staff and pupils of school that although it has been an extremely difficult time with absences and sickness, the school has remained open and never shut.

LM thanked Ms Murray for coming.

21/096: Police Community Support Officers report: PSCO Ben Hallam sent in a report as he was unable to attend. He introduced himself as the new PCSO for Tackley and he will be joined by Helen Duffield on the 20th May 2022. He was hoping to have more of a physical presence in Tackley and passed on the police.uk website details for anyone who is interested in looking at crimes committed in the area.

21/097: Village Hall: Katie Hoffman, Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee, kindly came along to update the hall was doing well, with the private and club hires returning to normal following Covid. She was glad to note that the Village Hall and the Village Shop were working cohesively and successfully with the shop possibly extending into the café area permanently. She noted that Les Summers and Barbie Vaughan are greatly missed, but a new member of the committee Chris Holbrook has joined the fold.

LM thanked MS Hoffman for coming.

21/098: Village Shop report: Andrew Smith was in attendance to update the meeting that the shop has survived Covid quite nicely under the circumstances, although a not-for-profit organisation and surplus funds were spent on extra staff. There had been a recent dip in income which the board were aware of and looking into to try and recuperate. They have agreed to permanently take on the coffee shop area of the hall.

The status of the shop is changing to a Community Interest Company which provides an asset lock for the shop, fixtures and fittings and funds. This means that it cannot be resold to a private company unless it is agreed by the whole village and it must be a full market rate/value.

Andrew will slowly be phasing out of the board and will resign as Director by the end of the year, but two new Directors have taken up post, James Wylde and Tony Perry, who he is confident will do a wonderful job.

21/099: Matters from the floor: Vi Banbury personally thanked the PC agreement of purchasing and installing a bench in memory of her husband, Richard Banbury. She thought the idea of placing it near a tree was very fitting.

Meeting closed at 7:57pm

Signed as a true record of the Tackley Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2022.

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