



2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notes of meeting held on 18th May 2021 in Urchfont Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Day (GD – Retiring Chairman), Botham (MB), Hollyman (MH), Stevens (DS), Rotherham (PR), Bamber (SB) and Turner (MT)

Clerk to the Council: Lunn (BL)

Councillor for Urchfont & Bishops Cannings: Whitehead (PW)

Members of the Public (for all or part of the meeting): Mrs M Kemp, Mr. R Kemp, Mr. L Cowen, Mrs C Cannon, Mr. T Hill, Mrs G Hill, Mrs B Potter, Mrs L Turner, Mrs V Day, Mr. D Kinnaird, Mrs F Botham, Mr. M Smith, Mr. R Day, Mr. G Creasey, Mr. P Newell, Mr. B Donald

1. Introduction by the Retiring UPC Chairman – GD welcomed all to the meeting which is the first of its kind to be held since 2019. COVID legislation prevented a meeting in 2020 and unfortunately COVID restrictions / measures still apply for this meeting.

2. Review of Parish Council activities April 2019 – May 2021 – A slide show presentation was given by GD, retiring Parish Council Chairman, supported by the Clerk for the financial slides covering:

- Councillor changes May 2019 – May 2021
- Providers of Support
- The Triangle
- Winner Best Kept Village 2019
- Urchfont Pond
- Crookwood Lane Lay-By Project
- More Achievements (COVID Response, Highways Achievements, Environmental Initiative, Small Business Grant, New UPC Website, UPC Tree Survey, Farmers Field, Refurbishment of the telephone box, Redhorn News deal)
- Latest News (Speed Limit on the B3098 East of Urchfont, Crookwood Lane)

3. Open Forum and Q&A session

GD invited members of the audience to speak.

Mr. Newell asked for the new Council members to be introduced, Cllrs Bamber, Botham, Hollyman, Rotherham, Stevens and Turner stood up and briefly introduced themselves.

Mr. Newell noted that a significant amount of patching work had been undertaken by WC on the A342 recently, but wondered why the seriously eroded road surface outside the Grist re-cycling transfer station had not been included. This presents a significant danger for motorists using this main road into and out of Devizes. PW agreed that the road is in a very poor state, but repair requires substantially different machinery to that for patching the top surface. It is also very difficult to close a road outside a very busy transfer station business and needs consultation. PW gave an assurance that the repair is on the WC list.

Mr. Day who lives in Wedhampton, but previously lived in Urchfont up until around 1976, commented on the increased traffic in Wedhampton which in many cases drives without proper care for the narrow conditions. A recent accident which injured a dog could have easily injured a child. He had been incensed by comments from a former Urchfont Speed Watch operative that it would not be appropriate or cost effective to install a 20mph speed limit in Wedhampton with a proliferation of signs which the residents may not like. (NOTE: It had already been mentioned in the presentation that arrangements have been made with WC to measure speed and volume of traffic with the view to informing what measures could be taken to improve the perceived situation.) Mr. Day also asked what Wedhampton gets from the PRECEPT each year? **

Mr. Smith paid tribute to GD for his chairmanship of UPC meetings, although he did not always agree with decisions. He suggested that it would be a benefit to members of the community if the email addresses for councillors could be published as is the case for some other local councils.**

Mrs Potter expressed her thanks to the retiring members of the Council for all they had done during their term of office.

GD then read out the following from Mr. Richard Hawkins who could not attend this meeting but had sent an email to BL asking for his remarks to be read out:

"I would like to thank the retiring councillors for all the good work undertaken during the past few years for the benefit of the Urchfont community. The past 12 months have been particularly difficult with meetings having to be conducted via 'zoom' but they were excellently managed by the Chairman Councillor Day with assistance and direction provided by the Clerk Bob Lunn. The Planning applications and associated matters were well presented and managed by Councillor Hill.

Once again, my thanks to all the Councillors."

There being no further input from the audience, the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

** mark questions that will be answered by the new Parish Council in due course.