

# **GT. BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL**

## **([www.greatbealings.co.uk](http://www.greatbealings.co.uk))**

### **The Annual Parish Meeting of Gt. Bealings was held by video conference on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Charles Barrington (Chairman) (CPB), Sally Johnson (SJ), Rob Munn (RM), Steve Condon (SC), Regan Scott (RS), Sue Prentice (SP)

**In attendance:** Dee Knights, Clerk to the Council (DPK), Peter Prentice -Bealings Village Hall Trust, Norman Porter – Fynn Lark News, Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend – Bealings Community Hub, Anthony Sheppard, Fiona Powell – Zoom host. Seven residents were in attendance.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Colin Hedgley and John Carter-Jonas

#### **2. Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

The minutes were approved for signature. It was noted that no Annual Meeting had taken place in 2020 due to the pandemic.

#### **3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising

#### **4. District Councillor's Report**

Colin Hedgley had sent his apologies for tonight's meeting and will submit a report to the Annual Parish Council Meeting due to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021

#### **5. Chairman's Report - Review of Year**

Charles Barrington expressed thanks to his Councillor colleagues and to the Clerk for their support during the year, also to Fiona Powell for hosting the virtual meetings. He expressed regret at the loss of three Councillors during the year, and welcomed the appointment of the three new Councillors. During the financial year 2020/21, 12 new planning applications were received of which 9 were supported, 2 objections were submitted and one was neutral. Some were contentious, one resulted in a complaint to ESC which was dismissed on the basis of there being no case to answer. This caused the PC to review the Code of Conduct and amendments have been drafted to improve the oversight of conflicts of interest and lobbying. He also covered more aspects of the planning process and the positive effect of the Neighbourhood Plan, and the PC's success in convincing SCC of the need to extend the 30mph from Boot St bridge to the junction with Rosery Lane. Grateful thanks were expressed to our two District Councillors for their funding support from their grant allocations. Five roads are to be included in the revised SCC Quiet Lanes scheme. Assistance was given to the PCC with a volunteer scheme to provide assistance to residents during the pandemic, and a Talking Bench has been installed in Lower Street, thanks to efforts by Sally. The full report is on the PC's website.

Anthony Sheppard suggested that a Befriending Scheme would be beneficial to the village, this idea was well supported. It will be explored further by a representative from each of the PC and the PCC, and will be discussed further at the next PC meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Steve Condon

volunteered on behalf of the PC. Norman Porter made some suggestions regarding use of the space at the church.

## **6. Community Reports**

**(a) Village Hall** – Peter Prentice presented a report for the Bealings Village Hall Trust. A major project to provide an extension and enhancements to the Hall, car park, courts and playing field had to be shelved due to prohibitive estimated costs. However, during the year the car park surface was improved, thanks to the assistance of numerous volunteers and a replacement of the flat roof was installed. As a result of a grant from the two District Councillors, Wi-Fi was installed and a large smart TV purchased. Sports Court annual subscriptions were reduced during the year due to Covid resulting in additional subscribers. Appreciation was expressed from the Trustees for the donations from the two Parish Councils, and to Margaret Wilson and Keith Beaumont for their hard work. The full report is on the PC's website.

**(b) Fynn-Lark News Report** – Norman Porter reported on the important role of the magazine during the year of the pandemic. Following financial problems the previous year, the situation is now resolved but needs to be sustained as annual expenditure exceeds £3000. Grateful thanks were expressed to individuals, the Parish Councils, churches, other organisations and advertisers for their financial support. Following an exploration of views, it was clear that FLN is widely valued by the residents of the four parishes and that hard copies are still enjoyed. Each PC now has a representative on the committee and some additional help has been secured. The magazine will continue on the same path in 2021. The full report is on the PC's website.

On behalf of all the village, CPB expressed appreciation for Norman's contribution to the magazine.

**(c) Bealings Community Hub** - Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend reported on the 2020 activities and a look forward to 2021. She said that the Hub serves not only Little and Great Bealings residents, but also other surrounding areas. She thanked all residents on the Founding Committee for their vision and their work. New heating and an emergency fire system has been installed in Lt Bealings Church, and broadband, Wi-Fi and a large screen and projector is being installed, to be followed later in the year by a permanent kitchen. It is anticipated that the Tearoom and Shop will re-open in early July, and that all previous activities can gradually be recommenced. The Hub will be pilot venue for ESC's Suffolk Cinema Club. Helen commented that although there are two Bealings and Benefices, there is one large community. The full report is on the PC's website.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Norman Porter reported on the progress of the History of Bealings project that he has been working on. It is hoped this will be published in book form before Christmas.

## **8. Questions**

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signature..... Chairman