

# ENFORD PARISH ANNUAL REVIEW

## Draft Minutes

Collated by email, May 2020

### **1 REPORT FOR ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

As usual it has been a busy year for the Parish Council. In respect of benefits/improvements to the village that have been achieved we have commissioned and installed a village information board sited on the side of the central bus shelter, we have installed two new, oak notice boards (in the centre of the village and also at Coombe) to replace the old, somewhat dilapidated ones, the bench by the central bus stop has been completely renovated and is now regularly used, we have installed and lit a beautiful village Christmas tree and we have welcomed a new Councillor, Mrs Charlotte Clark who has agreed to take on the supervision of Neighbourhood Watch and Police Liaison.

In terms of on-going 'projects', we have installed private speeding signs of 20mph in the central part of the village. This will hopefully work well with the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) whom we have asked to complete the research/surveys for a formal speed limit of 20mph. This will take time (possibly 6 months) but it is all to the greater good of the village.

For the Playpark area, we commissioned a potential new layout and new equipment which came to approximately £37,000. This was based on the current site but there is the possibility of extending the area and offering more facilities for a wider age range. This requires a Land Asset Transfer from Wiltshire Council who have also offered smaller parcels of land within the parish, but these will not benefit the village as their only requirement is maintenance which would be costly. The decision on the extended Playpark area therefore is in the balance and currently we are awaiting a decision from Wiltshire Council on whether we can choose which parcels of land they are offering.

As part of Wiltshire Council's 'Paths For All' initiative, the parishes of Enford, Fittleton, Netheravon and Everleigh have established an informal body of volunteers called the 'Avon Valley Group' to promote and encourage the use and enjoyment of the many Public Rights of Way in the local area.

The Group has been working with Wiltshire Council's footpath officers to install new kissing gates where the PRowS cross field boundaries either side of the river between Fifield and Fittleton.

Additionally, the Group has catalogued and recorded several attractive and interesting walks of differing lengths ready for printing on tri-fold posters that will be freely available throughout the valley. The children of Netheravon primary school have adopted the project of designing the map and artwork for the poster advertising a local walk around Netheravon and Haxton. The activities of the Group are on hold currently but hope to resume as soon as the lock down eases.

The Council continues to organise and pay for the ground care in the Community Garden and at the Playpark site, to install/maintain/fill the salt/grit bins around the village, to install/empty the 6 village litterbins and maintain supplies for flooding emergencies some of which were used this year. Sadly, due to the Coronavirus situation, we had to cancel the now Annual Village Litter Pick in March, but we are hopeful that this may be arranged for later in the year. As the lockdown was announced the Council immediately set up a Support Network for the village co-ordinated by the Clerk. It has been cheering to see how many of the residents of the Parish have put their names forward to assist anyone in need from the Chisenburys to Fifield and everywhere in between – a real community spirit, looking out for each other which was also demonstrated by the excellent

support from both our pubs with the provision of essential supplies and takeaway meals. Another example of the supportive spirit within the village, that deserves credit, has been the initiative of some residents in making, in volume, sets of scrubs for key workers and the masks that have been displayed and made available in the bus shelter.

Financially the Parish Council continues to keep the cost of the Precept as low as possible. However, we face a potential reduction of services from Wiltshire Council which we will have to cover as well as the usual/predictable village running costs and rising prices for everything. We run a contingency fund which is ringfenced for specific future spending requirements and retain a minimum balance. The Parish Accounts and systems are run by the Clerk and are audited every year both internally and externally. These are available to see on the Newsletter website alongside the minutes of PC meetings.

I, as the Chairman of Enford PC (Cllr Richard Roberts), together with the Vice Chairman (Cllr Mark Hiskett) and one other (Cllr Peter Cliffe-Roberts) were all the subjects of an extremely detailed, malevolent Code of Conduct complaint raised against them in the manner in which they acted on very specific Parish Council business. Having reviewed the complaint Wiltshire Council dismissed it both initially and following an appeal.

Parish Councillors voluntarily give their time for the benefit of the village, I thank them for all their support and the clerk, Elizabeth Harrison, for all her efforts in keeping us and the not insignificant bureaucracy in order.

## **2 REPORT FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Firstly, a massive thank you to all the villagers who have supported the church throughout the year, either by offering your valued services, or by attending services, or one or more of the fund-raising events.

Church services had(!) settled down to a popular monthly schedule offering something for everyone - full-on communion on the 1st Sunday of each month, a shared ART (Avon River Team) service somewhere in the valley on the 2nd Sunday, Breakfast Church on the 3rd Sunday, authentic sung Evensong on the 4th.

We are pleased to see Breakfast Church growing in popularity - this takes a more casual approach to the church season and offers a supervised activity 'break out' for young children as well. Breakfast (yes it involves bacon usually) is on offer at the start of the session.

Church is more than just 'regular services' - Enford hosted many weddings throughout the summer and Brides and Grooms have been delighted by the enchanting setting and atmosphere of the church and churchyard. Equally baptisms and other personal services take place as and when requested.

Talking about the churchyard, this space is enjoyed well beyond the regular church community - The PCC spends huge time and energy in keeping the grounds looking tidy and 2020 will see more outside projects to enhance the experience further - trees will be pruned and the war grave in Enford opened up a bit to give it the respect it deserves.

Please, please continue to support events such as the concerts, the summer BBQ, and the Christmas Fair so that we can keep the buildings and outside space to the highest standards.

Finances remain tight so please come forward if you would be willing to join the regular parish giving scheme. Donations ensure that the community can safely (and with some relief) hand the Church, as a centrepiece of village life, over to future generations of villagers. We are grateful to the parish council for their small contribution each year.

In closing, we are indebted to the wonderful support we get from Revd's Phillip and Gale and the rest of the River Valley clergy team. They have pivoted with great success into providing digital content online during lockdown for all to follow in place of our regular services, and we appreciate these efforts greatly.

We are hopeful to be able to re-open church soon.

### **3 REPORT FOR ENFORD VILLAGE HALL**

The Management Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support and generous donation which helps towards the maintenance of the Recreation Ground and subsidising village user groups.

Thanks are also due to the Enford Community Fund and to the organisers of the February Jumble Sale who have made generous donations towards the expenditure of replacing the car park lighting system. Both of these donations helped with the considerable cost of £10,088.

Last year the Village Hall hosted a party for the community celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the official opening in June 2009. Held on a lovely summer's evening it was attended by many residents who also enjoyed the display of photographs of the old village hall and school and the construction phase of the new hall. Also on display from the hall archive were historical documents and photographs of previous celebrations such as the Coronation, the Millennium and Royal Weddings. The Committee provided the drinks and refreshments as a Thank You for all the support shown by the village over the years – unsurprisingly the Committee was asked to organise another party this year. Plans were well advanced for a VE Day Celebration Party to be held on 8 May but sadly this had to be cancelled – it is hoped this can be held later in the year or next summer.

Following on from the Anniversary Party the summer and winter months continued to be successful and, up until January 2020, there was a small increase in income compared with the same period in the previous year. This was encouraging. Several parties and weddings had been booked and these, together with the regular classes and clubs, meant the Committee was hopeful that the Hall would break even this financial year.

The Hall closed mid-March in line with Government lockdown rules and it is still not certain when it will be allowed to re-open – perhaps in July. The Committee has taken advantage of the closure to put in place an extensive programme of deep cleaning, maintenance and repairs which is now almost completed. This has been hard work and a time-consuming exercise with thanks to all those who have been helping. Prior to re-opening a Risk Assessment has been drawn up to ensure the Hall will be safe and compliant.

Inevitably it is clear that the Hall will be in deficit this financial year with the loss of income. The weddings and parties have chosen to re-book for next year rather than cancel which is good news. However, arrangements have had to be made to draw down from the reserves to tide the Hall over financially until the autumn, when it is hoped bookings may return to something near normal and income starts up again.

I would like to thank Hamish Scott-Dagleish for continuing to mow and maintain the Recreation Ground. The grounds are looking better than ever and it has been noticeable how many local families have enjoyed playing and picnicking during the warm sunny weather.

#### **4 REPORT FOR THE PARISH HALL AND READING ROOM**

The PHMC held its AGM on 27th November 2019 and the minutes have been published. Three existing elected members of the committee were re-elected, and the fourth vacancy was filled by the election of Ms Emma Nutt. The PHMC representatives from various local clubs and organisations remained unchanged for another year.

The PHMC next held a meeting on 2nd March, and the minutes have been published. The Chairman reported that the Hall building had been demolished and the site fenced off for safety, although the demolition had not yet been completed as some structural brickwork at present remains in-situ. With the building removed, a precise measurement of the site has been carried out, enabling the PHMC to re-commence discussions with Wiltshire Planning and Highways departments, to establish an acceptable layout for the future use of the site as a garden and car parking.

Unfortunately, no further progress has been possible due to the Covid-19 outbreak and its effect on the availability of officers, but the next meeting of the PHMC will be after progress has been made with Wiltshire Council Planning and Highways.

#### **5 REPORT FOR THE ENFORD COMMUNITY FUND**

The Enford Community Fund reported that this last year has brought changes. Amanda Farrow who has run it for many years has now stepped down and been succeeded by Richard Pettit and Gareth Holden. They had hoped to organise a Fete this year but that has been unfortunately cancelled. The other main point of organisation is the Fireworks night which will hopefully proceed as normal. These two fund-raising events give the Community Fund the ability to give grants to specific village projects, by application, in both March and September.

#### **6 REPORT FOR THE ENFORD FOOTBALL CLUB**

Until the start of the Covid-19 outbreak Steve Todd was still running the Saturday morning sessions with the help of qualified coaches from Innov8sportz.

Numbers were fluctuating between 6-10, but after handing in flyers to local schools and posting on sites like Netheravon Notice Board, we managed to get some new faces to the point where prior to the cessation of activities due to the Covid-19 outbreak, we were getting between 8-12 each week. We also had a change of Coach after the summer school break, as the existing coaches (Terry & Kane) from Innov8sportz wanted to take a break. They managed to get a colleague, Josh Hodder, to take over the coaching role for us, and the kids have really taken to him as he mixes up the training to keep it fresh.

The risk we are now facing is that Innov8sportz obviously depend on providing training/coaching activities to local schools/clubs & groups, so it remains to be seen if they have managed to survive the lockdown period.

I will update you once I know more (Steve has messaged Josh to see how he is and if he thinks they will be able to resume sessions).

The charges are still the same as when we initially started the sessions and as the Village Hall make no charge to the club for the use of the facilities there is no planned increase in prices for the foreseeable future. We still pay the coaches every Saturday morning and as long as we get 10 children attending then the cost of the coaches is covered. Steve carries out his duties on a voluntary basis and continues to do a great job, sometimes in very difficult conditions.

The club is in need of some new goals, nets and footballs and we have requested some funding from the Enford Fete Committee to assist in the purchase of these items.

We are still having problems with the rabbits on site digging holes all over the pitch. The concern here is that if the holes are not all filled in prior to training then it would be very easy for the children to injure themselves if they step into one of the holes causing serious injury. Steve arrives early to fill in the holes but it is a job which has to be done before every session.

The club would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee and the Enford Fete Committee for its continued support.

## **7 REPORT FOR THE ENFORD NEWSLETTER**

Due to the Covid-19 Lockdown we have been unable to meet in person as a Committee since March. We have instead been working remotely, discussing articles, advertising etc via email. As a Committee, we wish to say a very special and HUGE thank you to Sue Cosgrove, our Compiler, who has been so efficient and shown an extraordinary amount of patience with us!

We can only publish the monthly newsletter with the help of donations and paid advertising. We are extremely appreciative of the generous donation from the Parish Council and from the villagers who donate, plus of course organisations that support us by way of advertising.

### Advertising:

In May 2019, we had 25 Advertisers in the Newsletter. During the past year, 5 advertisers left us and were replaced by 5 new entrants. Our total income from advertising for May 2019-May 2020 was £1002.00. Additionally, The Swan has been advertising in the main body of the Newsletter during the Covid-19 crisis. Hamish Scott-Dalgleish has agreed to pay the charges for the Swan as part of a contribution to the village effort to support the community.

### Finances

Our only outgoings are to the printer each month and for the Web site.

As stated above our income is from advertising and donations and Jeni has done a good job replacing lost advertisers with new.

We try and keep enough money in our account to publish the Newsletter for a year (without donations etc) and once again we have managed to do so.

Priority is given to village matters, but we continue to include information about what is happening further afield as we know this is of interest our readers.

In 2019 we endeavoured to produce an up-to-date telephone directory for the village. Unfortunately we received a surprisingly low response. The Committee therefore decided to produce a shortened version for those who did respond and this went out inside the August 2019 newsletter.

Finally, I would like to thank our volunteers who work so hard to produce the newsletter each month for the benefit of others – that's everyone on the Committee, Kim Riche who posts on the

village website and our amazing distributors who go out in all weathers to pop it through letterboxes.

**8 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** – One year's time, to be advised

Compiled by Elizabeth Harrison, Clerk, Enford Parish Council

Date: May 2020

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