

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Monks Eleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm
on Monday 9th March 2020

Present:

Cllrs Angela Forrest – Chairman, Patti Derry – Vice Chairman, Victoria Keitley-Webb, Tony Woodgate, Elizabeth Evans Will Sykes,

In Attendance:

Mrs L Rogers - Clerk

27 members of the public attended

128/19 Apologies

County Cllr Robert Lindsay and District Cllr Bryn Hurren, Cllr Alan Braithwaite, Pat Braithwaite Jenny Maynard, Chrissy Nichols and Maureen Morris

129/19 Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the meeting held on 11th March 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed.

130/19 Presentation by Phoebe Parry-Cooke from What3Words

What3words is a really simple way to talk about location. They have assigned each 3m square in the world a unique 3 word address that will never change. For example ///filled.count.soap marks the exact entrance to what3words' London headquarters. 3 word addresses are easy to say and share, and are accurate as GPS coordinates 51.520847, -0.19552100 ←→ /// filled.count.soap Our vision is to become a global standard for communicating location. People use what3words to find their tents at festivals, navigate to B&Bs, and to direct emergency services to the right place. It is a free app to download onto your phone and has a map system to help you navigate your way to a destination or help in an emergency.

131/19 SID – Cllr Robert Lindsay

Unfortunately, Cllr Robert Lindsay was not able to attend due to illness. His report was read to the meeting:

Review of school transport policy implementation highlights 19 failings Suffolk County Council has undertaken an internal review of the implementation of its new school transport policy. The report from the review group identified nineteen failings and was discussed by the Scrutiny Committee on 12 February. The report highlighted a number of concerns, including: the policy was implemented at the same time as a new IT system and staff restructure; there were insufficient staff numbers to cope with the increased workload; the policy was poorly communicated to parents and schools; the application and appeals processes were too complex; and the wellbeing of parents and children suffered as a result of the poor implementation. The Scrutiny Committee has agreed to review the policy itself before the end of 2020. **Ipswich Northern Route scrapped** SCC cabinet this week agreed to scrap the project to build a £550m road north of Ipswich. It agreed that the public support was not there, particularly for all the new houses that would be required to support it and particularly given the council has declared a climate emergency. **LED street lighting project** I know you've seen details of this project by which the county will spend £9.8m converting existing street lighting units to LED with the capability for dimming by up to 50% where there is lower traffic. About 27% of the county's 60,000 street lights were already converted to LED in an earlier project. The project is expected to begin this autumn and take about two years. The idea is to save money from power costs and save carbon emissions. I have asked and had confirmed that this will not impact on Lavenham PC's long-awaited project to replace your street lights. **Buses, replacements for 112**

which is due to be axed owing to subsidy cut I have been working with Sudbury GoStart to provide a 112 replacement from Bildeston to Sudbury. GoStart have now applied for a section 22 licence to do this. Meanwhile the county officers have informed me they are looking at running a daily service with an 8 seater minibus from Stowmarket, via Bildeston to Lavenham for onward connection to Sudbury. I have asked that they speak to GoStart so that these services do not conflict. At a Scrutiny meeting in December, the deputy cabinet member for transport announced that the council was planning to bid for around £20 million from the Department for Transport for an electric bus pilot scheme. If the bid is successful, the council has said that it plans to launch the pilot scheme within 12-18 months in the Bury St Edmunds area.

132/19 District Councillor Bryn Hurren

First of all my sincere apologies for not being able to be with you in person this evening, I will be here for your scheduled P.C. meeting at the end of this month and will be happy to answer questions then, or through clerk and Chair after this evenings meeting. **BUDGET** Regrettably the 2020/21 Council tax will rise yet again by 3.1% (£5.00) for the Babergh share of your Council Tax, although this may sound quite reasonable it has to be remembered that the B.D.C. share of Council Tax is only around 9%, when the other statutory bodies, County Council 78%, Police 12% and Parish 1.5% are factored in this will equate to a rise in Council Tax of around £65.00 per household yearly for a band D property. This is the first year that local Councils receive no funding whatsoever from the National Government and it is getting harder for Babergh to run our services, many of which are statutory from resources raised locally from our residents, New Homes Bonuses and profit that we make through various charging regimes, and also our share of business rates. While most other Councils raise money from parking charges, the councillors at Babergh have consistently opted not to do this to avoid the hardship it would cause shops and businesses in our already struggling high streets and shopping areas. In my view this situation of rise upon rise is simply untenable in the long run and calls need to be made on national government to fund local government adequately to provide a good service. **COUNCIL HOUSE RENTS** These have been raised by 2.7%, this equates to £2.38 per week across the board for our stock of 6.600 tenanted housing, this is in fact still cheaper than four years ago when government legislation forced Councils and Housing Associations to drop our rents by 1% over four consecutive years. On a brighter note the council scheme to place solar panels on the roofs of our council houses which were suitably placed, continues to perform well with close on £450.000 brought in this year in F.I.T. as well as providing cheap electricity for the tenants who were willing and able to benefit from this ground-breaking green initiative. **PARKING ENFORCEMENT** As already reported this duty will pass from the Police to District and the Borough Councils of Suffolk on 6th April this year. The consortium of councils across Suffolk will employ its own team of wardens to assist and educate motorists as to effective and safe parking across the whole county they will have powers to issue on the spot fines should this be necessary to ensure that motorists do have some regard for the Highway Code and the well being of other road users. This new duty I understand is self financing and wardens may be quite keen after warnings have been given, but hopefully common sense will prevail and all will accept that there just has to be some discipline in these matters. **ENVIROMENTAL** This is the most urgent matter of our times and Green issues should be at the forefront of all our decisions. It gives me great pride to have been the lead Councillor at the time to work on and champion along with like-minded officers, the scheme to place Solar Panels on as many of our council house roofs as technically possible. We now champion car sharing for our officers, employees and councillors alike as well and have moved into the digital age to save paper, meetings and journeys that are not necessary at all. We encourage the use of electric cars with multiple charging points at our headquarters and across the district utilising accessible grants through C.I.L. and section 106 monies. Our tree for life scheme for new-borns has also had a good take up rate and hopefully we can carry that forward on an annual basis to make all aware of our natural habitat. **PLANNING MATTERS** These have been at the forefront of my and every councillor's duties this and every year, with ever more pressure from our government to build yet more and

more houses without much consideration on what or where they are needed. Since the May '19 elections the new elected councillors have taken it upon themselves to drive the housing agenda forward and to make real efforts to build up our housing land supply and at last make meaningful strides to finally get our Joint Local Plan to final consultation, inspection and adoption. Hopefully then we can decide along with our constituents, what and where we need to build to satisfy needed growth, whilst standing up to rapid developers and government targets to decide our own needs now and for the future. **RURAL TRANSPORT** Since being elected as your District Councillor in May '19 and in the rest of the now Box Vale Ward since 1999, I have championed the issue of rural buses across my ward and indeed the whole of Babergh. The lack of rural transport leads to isolation, mental instability and lack of general well being and a sense of belonging to the community and indeed the wider area in which we all live, also the lack of independence to be able to access shops and medical facilities is a serious issue that has to be addressed. The swinging cuts inflicted upon us by the government and in our case by our County Council who are meant to be helping us are to be regretted and deplored. In Monks Eleigh our own 112 service has had its grant taken away, which having ridden on it and talked to local representatives it affects about 30 people who either have or choose to use this service disenfranchised. The good news here is that after much work by myself and local reps, including some from our own village this service will be transferred to the community bus provider GoStart from Sudbury who will provide the same service at the same times and hopefully at a similar fare to Suffolk Norse. There is still work to be done but all being well when the last Norse bus comes to Monks Eleigh on 31st March it will be superseded by the first GoStart bus on Thursday 2nd April. This will be a 16 seater minibus which could be a little small for us on Thursdays so some management of seats will be unavoidable but with practical measures hopefully should be workable. Watch this Space. I would like to conclude by thanking all the Councillors and Clerk of this parish for all their help and friendship during my first year as your councillor. I would also like to give special thanks to Robert Lindsay who is the first County Councillor that I have had a good working relationship with who in fact actually gets things done. I wish him a speedy recovery back to full health. All Best Wishes for this meeting and the coming year. Bryn.

133/19 Chairman of the Parish Council –Cllr Angela Forrest

I would like to welcome you all to this Annual Parish Meeting for 2020. Firstly, I must thank all my fellow Parish Councillors for all their hard work and support during the last year, and our County Cllr Robert Lindsay and District Cllr Bryn Hurrell for keeping us abreast with all the processes of Babergh/Mid Suffolk and Suffolk County Council. I would also like to thank Lucinda our Clerk for managing all our correspondence, accounts and generally keeping me on the straight and narrow. Last but by no means least I would also like to thank all the volunteers who keep the grass and hedges cut around the village and who maintain the causeway. Over the last 12 months there have been 6 Parish Council meetings and 2 additional meetings. The Parish Council consulted on 10 planning applications and approved all of them bar one. All of these applications were approved by Babergh bar one. At this year's precept there has been 4.7% increase by Babergh District Council only 0.2% being for Monks Eleigh on band D properties. This year the Parish Council have managed the grass cutting of the Church Hill Village Green, and I think we can all agree this centre piece of the village has looked splendid all year. We have bought 5 new grit bins. Our Community Shop goes from strength to strength and Barry will be giving you more information shortly. The Village Hall is flourishing with many new activities which is enriching the facilities available in the village. We still waiting for updates on the development on the old school site. The 112 Bus service has been of concern to the Parish Council through the year and we have supported a campaign to maintain the present service, sadly Suffolk Norse have applied to cease the service. With the relentless pressure from both our District Councillor Brynn and County Councillor Robert we are very hopeful that an alternative, similar service will replace the 112 with the service supplied by Go-Start from Sudbury. The aims of the Parish Council next year is to continue to respond to the community needs in addition to upgrade the street light to LED bulbs, (this sounds simple but some of the poles and

existing equipment are very old and so this is complicated and expensive so the aim is to either upgrade over a few years or to apply for a grant for the complete upgrade). The Parish Council are also in negotiation of moving the site of the allotments to a site where the soil is better and there is better access so that hopefully the uptake of the allotments is increased.

134/19 Annual Litter Pick – Cllr Patti Derry

This year's litter pick will be held next Saturday – Saturday March 14th we will meet at 09.30 by the bench on the village Green from where high vis vests, litter pickers and black sacks can be collected. After the end of the litter pick all sack should be put back by the bench ready for collection the following week. The church have very kindly offered to provide coffee and biscuits which is greatly appreciated. It never ceases to amaze me just how much rubbish is jettisoned in our lovely village. The village itself is relatively clean but it is the approach roads to the village where there is so much litter. Fly tipping has become a national issue and I urge anyone who notices fly tipping in our area to report it immediately to Babergh so that the appropriate authorities can deal with it. We have certain places where we regularly find fly tipping but strangely no one actually sees it happening!!!! Dog fouling in the village is much improved although I have had a report recently that there is an increase again in the village especially on the Millennium Green and along the Hampling path. There is a new dog litter bin at the street end of the Hampling so this should make it easier for dogs walkers to dispose of used poo bags. If you can spare half an hour next Saturday morning we would love to see you joining in our clean up effort again this year.

135/19 Defibrillators – John Naylor

Monks Eleigh has two defibrillators. The first was generously donated to the village in 2013 by Dr. Gerald Gould, in memory of his wife Leila. It is located on the end wall of the Community Shop. This defibrillator requires an Opening Code that is provided by The Ambulance Service if this is the unit nearest to the location of the patient. A 999 Emergency Call is the first step in deciding whether or not a defibrillator may be required. The second, provided by the British Heart Foundation and financially supported jointly by Monks Eleigh Parish Council, The Village Hall Trustees, Robert Lindsay (County Councillor) and Bryn Hurren (District Councillor) was installed in December 2019 and is located at The Village Hall on the wall facing the car park. This unit is accessible to the public on a 24/7 basis No access code is required. However, should it be felt necessary to use the defibrillator a 999 Emergency call must first be made so that the Ambulance Service can accurately locate where to send the ambulance or paramedics. Both defibrillators are directly linked to the East of England Ambulance Service. In order that the ambulance is accurately and swiftly directed to the patient, it is vital that the 999 call identifies the location/situation of the patient. The Ambulance Service will then direct the caller to the nearest defibrillator. So, make the 999 call whilst with the patient. The defibrillator sited at the Community Shop is next door to The Swan Pub. Both the shop and the pub attract large numbers of visitors as well as villagers so the chance of the defibrillator being required has increased. As the Village Hall is now thriving and attracting people of all ages from within the village and beyond, the possibility that the Village Hall defibrillator has risen. A free one-hour training event on 4th March aimed at raising awareness regarding how to effectively use CPR in conjunction with a defibrillator was offered to 20 participants. In attendance were representatives of groups that meet regularly in the Village Hall such as Pilates and Clubs including Table Tennis, History, Flicks in the Sticks, also the Parish Council, Village Hall Trustees, the Shop Management Committee and other interested residents. It is envisaged that there will be more training events on offer to any interested people in our village community so that the spread of understanding and expertise is increased. There is a strong

body of evidence that shows how important are Community Defibrillators. They can and do save lives. Details of the next training event will be advertised in the Village Shop

136/19 Village Hall – Cllr Patti Derry

The first year in the new hall has been a huge success – far greater than any of us imagined when we opened the doors and started taking bookings on Jan 1st 2019. The hall is now booked at some point every weekday throughout the day and evenings for activities covering a wide range of interests and offering opportunities for sport, culture, hobbies and social interaction to all sections of our small community. Who would have thought that one day we would have a cinema in our village? Weekend bookings are growing and we have now secured bookings for parties, weddings, christenings and sadly several wakes for the coming year. During the year we welcomed The Swan on board so it is now possible to book the hall with the services of the pub to run a bar if that is the choice of the client booking the hall. The hall is also a venue for our home grown clubs including the very popular lunch club, history club, flix-in-the-stix, poetry club, table tennis club, knit and stitch, bowls club and regular rock and roll dances. All of these activities are run and managed by village residents and we thank them for their support, enthusiasm, expertise and hard work. The monthly programme is advertised on the village hall web site, on the notice boards at the shop and at Swingleton Green and at the Village Hall. The village hall trustees have run a number of activities throughout the year including, music concerts, flix in the stix, drama productions and open mornings advertising the opportunities the hall presents. The meeting room is used regularly for meetings of the Shop Committee, The Millennium Green Trustees, The Parish Council, the church and in future will be our village polling station starting with the Babergh District Council elections on May 7th this year. Currently there are 10 trustees overseeing the management, operation and smooth running of the hall. These include elected trustees and trustees nominated by the village organisations who use the hall in line with our constitution. All trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting, Our thanks go to all our trustees and other friends of the trustees who work so hard to contribute to the success of the hall , but especially to the residents and friend of Monks Eleigh who support all the events and activities to ensure its viability and the important role the hall plays for the residents of our village. Before I finish please bear with me while I advertise an up and coming event for May. Some of you may remember the brilliant Eastern Angles theatre group who visited us in our old hall. Well – I am delighted to say they are back and will be performing in our hall on Tuesday May 26th with their current production entitled Red Skies _ an East Anglian story based on the fictional meeting of George Orwell and Arthur Ransome who were local to our area. As usual tickets will be available from the shop.

137/19 Bridge Club – Arthur Grossett

This is on every Wednesday at 7.30pm in The Swan (clearly.saints.overjoy) – we can teach you to play and everyone is welcome – usually up to 12 people come.

138/19 History Group – David Mills

The successful Local History group continues with 72 members. Monks Eleigh is an ancient village so good to learn more about history. The talks take place between October and March. There will be a social event on 30 April in the village hall.

139/19 Millennium Green Trust – Tony Woodgate

Because we do not have a chairperson, I have prepared a short report about 2019 in their absence. Firstly, the downsides. Although we have a full complement of trustees, we have not managed to appoint a chairperson. Secondly, the upsides. The trustees managed by rota to keep the Green cut. Thank you all. The dog bins are being used and regularly emptied. Thank you also Chrissie for allowing us to garage the mower. The PC made a donation to the mowers purchase and to its maintenance in return for using it to keep the Church Hill greens maintained. A vote of thanks is due the PC. Furthermore, the picnic bench donated last year has been much used this year. The PC have also covered the cost of insurance. Thank you very much PC. There was a “bring your own picnic day in August to which about 25 people attended. The weather was lovely, and all enjoyed themselves. There have been 2 work parties in 2019. The first concentrated on strimming the longer grass areas. I would like to thank them all personally. The list is too large to honour them individually but thank you all. The second work party pruned some trees in accordance with Juliet’s views tabled last year. Many thanks to the boys with their toys. Adrian KW also trimmed the hedges for which we are gratefully thankful. On a very positive note and due to the generosity of several locals, the Revenue from their granting of Gift Aid, and the hard work of our treasurer Ros, for the first time in our history we have a positive and healthy bank balance. My last observation is twofold. Firstly, the Monks Eleigh Millennium Green is continuing to be a great village community asset and also a great area to sustain all-natural wildlife, flora and fauna. Long may it continue. Secondly nature is brilliant it keeps growing. Unfortunately, I think that the trees are doing so well that in a few years we will have to resort to professional and expensive tree surgery. The first step is being made this year as the trustees are going to commission an Ash tree survey to confirm that there is no dieback present.

140/19 Community Shop

The Monks Eleigh Community Shop is now in it’s 17th year of serving the people of this and the surrounding villages. Trading over the last year has been reasonably robust – particularly over the last few months. Card machine sales, Local building works increase in passing trade. Some high expenses due to ageing assets Air conditioning broke down in summer. Water Heater requires work. Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the shop, however continuing struggle to fill shifts – weekends hardest. Core of approximately 40 people – 50+ is ideal Desperately need new volunteers Shop committee and management undergoing period of change and sustainability of shop is at risk. From May we will need new Treasurer with Bookkeeping skills, Payments, Legal, tax and insurance, Accountancy and account management, Payroll management and Cash control. Janet Mackie retirement, Urgent need replacement shop manager paid and superannuated role. Next 4 to 6 weeks c. 30 hours per week, Manage stock and purchases, Manage rotas for volunteers, Retailing and merchandising skills a distinct advantage, Job share considered Two long-term volunteers are stepping down at the same time as Janet. Covid-19 concerns: Shop needs to integrate with village emergency plan? Committee will discuss possible need to provide doorstep drops of essential items to residents who are in self-isolation. Assistance needed with this as shop may be struggling for sufficient numbers of volunteers to staff full shift pattern

141/19 St Peters Church – Ann Perry

This time last year I reported that our Priest-in-Charge, Carol Mansell had just left and we were waiting for a new person to take up the Vacancy. This has not happened as yet and we are waiting

and praying patiently. However, we had encouraging news that there is a bumper crop of newly ordained priests who have just come through and we may be blessed in securing one. This means that we have a range of visiting clergy who attend and their talks are very wide and varied and this is something we are enjoying. On Wednesday morning at 10am we have Prayer Service which runs for half an hour to 45 - just right to set some of you up for Pilates in the Village Hall. In spite of our not having a Vicar, St Peter's Church has been very busy. We have been doing all the necessary things in preparation for installing a tea-point and a lavatory. The work is expected to start after Easter and it should be completed by the end of July/beginning of August. This means we will be able to host more social events and activities given the nature of the building which is both spiritual as well as historical. Perhaps we will be able to host a Mother and toddlers group as well as many other things too. A member of our PCC, Di Bell, arranged an afternoon tea with a speaker from (TWAM - Tools with a Mission) following the Village Lunch Club. This charity is a way for us to give all those tools we don't use anymore and that are sitting at home to a good cause as the Charity prepares them for use in African communities. Our Organ will be moved and refurbished soon after the tea point has been installed and we have been raising funds for that. Our Summer Fete raised £5,032 towards this and we are grateful for all those involved in making it possible. It was great to be able to make use of the Village Hall for this event. Our Summer Fete this year will be held on 6th June 2020 so we hope you will be able to join us then. On a side note - if anyone is interested in learning to play the Organ, there is funding available for Organ lessons with the Diocese paying half the fees. Please ask any PCC member if this is something you would like to do. Whilst on the subject of the Organ Repair Fund we held a silent auction for a painting of Monks Eleigh Village Green by Reg Youell which I see is now pictured at the entrance of the Village Hall entrance. We held a Puzzlefest here recently which raised £151 so we are well on our way to paying for the repair of our Organ and when it is complete we will throw a grand Organ recital so you can all hear the lovely sounds and value of the contributions you have generously made towards mending it. As mentioned earlier we are hoping that St Peters Church may be a heritage focus for the Village. With the help of Simon and Jan Kelsall we now are proud owners of Commonwealth War Grave signage highlighting the fact that we have 2 Commonwealth War Graves in our Church Yard. It was very moving this past Remembrance Sunday to be able to lay wreaths on these graves at the end of the service. The History Group held a social event in St Peters Church in honour of hanging the Bell Ringers Guild signage. During the year we have had a number of visits from Bell Ringers from near and far (one group from America) - so if you heard some lovely peals being played midweek during the day, it may have been them. St Peters will be hosting the Good Friday service from 2pm to 3pm. It is an hour of devotion for Jesus last hours on the cross. On Easter Sunday there will be an Easter egg hunt in the Church. On 14th March there will be the Village Litter pick up. St Peters Church will be offering Tea and refreshments for all those taking part in this event so perhaps we will see some of you there then. On 30th March we will be having our Charity Lunch in Lent at Monks Eleigh Village Hall from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. We hope to raise money for the Parkinson's Association. Our Church AGM will be held on 22nd April at 4pm and we will be offering tea and biscuits. We hope you may join us to find out more about us. You are also more than welcome to visit our Church for quiet reflection and if you need a prayer to be said, there is a prayer box at the entrance of the Church where you could post your prayer.

142/19

Speed Indicating Device – SID – Chris Eames

- Equipment shared with Whatfield (for 6 week sessions)

- 2 Locations - Opposite the Orchard looking towards Hadleigh, and near Millennium Green looking towards Lavenham
- Averages from last 2 years
- Average speed = 29.4 mph
- Maximum speed = 75 mph from Lavenham
- 85% percentile = 34.4 mph
- % percentage speeders (≥ 35 mph) from Lavenham = 14.2%
- % percentage speeders (≥ 35 mph) from Hadleigh = 8.2%
- Results relatively stable over the 2 years, except small increase over the Christmas period of 2019

Community Speed Watch - CSW

- Equipment shared with Hitcham and Bildeston (for 4 week sessions)
- Thanks to the 10 trained volunteers
- Frustrated by equipment problems, now resolved. In future, Suffolk Police Speed Watch department will fund new and replacement equipment
- Operating at the same locations as SID
- Operating since June 2019
- 16 sessions, mainly at the top of Mill Lane (more speeders!)
- 3499 vehicles monitored
- 45 caught doing ≥ 35 mph (1.3%)
 - Much less than the 14.2% recorded speeding from SID!

143/19 Monks Eleigh Walking Group

In the past year, in addition to very local walks, we have walked to Lavenham and Bildeston and we have gone by car and walked at Kersey, Shimpling, Thorpe Morieux and Hadleigh Railway walk. The number of people has varied from 4 to 14 and we are usually very fortunate with the weather, although sometimes we have definitely needed waterproof footwear for boggy areas. It's great to get out in the fresh air and do some exercise in "the green gym" and also have a natter at the same time! Newcomers are welcome to come along on the 1st Wednesday of the month 9.30 at the Swan. Contact Maureen Morris tel.01449 741644 or email at maureen@arisaig.net

144/19 Wildlife Group

We are a small group of Monks Eleigh residents interested in the natural environment who organise monthly trips of interest. Some, but not all, are guided. Last year we started with a guided walk around Minsmere. A small group of us visited ancient Captain's Wood where we spotted a galloping herd of about hundred Roe Deer. Simpson's Saltings by Hollesley prison with an RSPB guide in May was very interesting. We braved the pouring rain but were rewarded when the sun came out and we witnessed the arrival of swallows. In June we were given access to a private newly planted wood by the extremely enthusiastic and inspiring owner. We also visited Market Weston Fen, and Dunwich Heath where we were pleased to see Dartford Warblers. We ended the season with an open boat expedition on The River Deben. We are now planning for 2020. Our programme will include: Bird watching at Mistley, The possibility of booming Bitterns, Bluebells and tea and cake, A visit to a substantial Medieval common at Mellis, Possible sightings of water vole at Church Farm Marshes, Foxearth Meadows for dragonflies, Wrabness and another Deben adventure. If you are interested in any of these trips car sharing can be arranged. If anyone wishes to be included on our email list please contact one of us. Jenny: 01449 740465 Maureen: 01449 741644 Ros: 01449 741837

145/19 Knit & Stitch – Jean Gatewood

A new group that has quickly grown to 18 members who meet monthly to knit and stitch with a lot of chatter, cakes and tea. We raised £220 at the Christmas Bazaar which was donated to EACH

146/19 VE Day Celebrations – Diana Reynolds

This will be on Friday 8th May – the moved early bank holiday. The village celebration will be an afternoon tea at the village hall. Please bring a plate of food to share

147/19 Grass Cutting Volunteer – Don Reynolds

Don confirmed he is happy to continue to cut the grass on the village green by the Swan and do the strimming in the village. He is pleased that Adrian K-W will continue to cut the recreation field. However, the Causeway needs to be tidied each year by shovelling the dirt away and this takes him 4 hours so he hopes that younger men living closer could make a team of 4 and do this in an hour instead.

148/19 Village Person of The Year

Cllr Forrest presented the the Community Award. "We are constantly indebted to the volunteers in our village but there is one who proves invaluable, he cuts the grass, maintains the causeway, builds notice boards and cycle sheds and never wants any thanks or acknowledgement, so tonight we both acknowledge and thank him for his contribution to our community. Of course, I am speaking of Don Reynolds who I hope will accept this award, elected by the Parish Council as recipient of Monks Eleigh Community Award for 2020 which goes to the parishioner who the Parish Council believe has gone above and beyond for the good of the community."

149/19 Public Forum

It was asked if the parish council's emergency plan could be used to deal with coronavirus. It is a plan for different scenarios. You should follow government advice. If you are ill you can phone the shop for deliveries and as neighbours we need to look after one another. The Lent Lunch is on 30th March 12.30-1.30pm to raise money for Parkinson's disease. The church is not using the chalice for wine nor allowing handshakes for peace.

The Chair thanked all for attending especially those who had put together and delivered presentations to the meeting. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm. Cheese and wine were served afterwards.

Chairman..... Date.....

