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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Church Aston Parish Council

Held at the Village Hall, Church Aston at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 24th May 2021

Present: Cllr Simon Stacey (Chairman), Cllr Paul Evans (Vice Chairman), Cllr John Pay, Cllr Malcolm Bennett Cllr Andy Stokes, Cllr Brian Richards, Cllr Brian Richards, and Cllr Fiona McKeown

Also in attendance: Mike Atherton: Clerk to CAPC

1	Apologies	Cllr Pat Sansom, Cllr Billie Knight, and borough Cllr Andrew Eade (all due to prior commitments)
2	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest
3	Minutes from 8th May 2019	Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 7 th May 2019 were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Richards and unanimously agreed by all Members present. The minutes were then signed by Cllr Stacey.
4	Chairman's Annual Report	Cllr Stacey commented on the challenges of the past year during the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the local community. He expressed appreciation for the commitment of Parish Cllrs and others during these difficult times. The PC had not missed a single meeting during the year – instead using virtual technology to maintain essential business. Cllr Stacey spoke of the importance to the community of initiatives supported by the PC including repairs to St. Andrew's Church following a lightning strike, the ongoing work of Hope House Hospice, improvements to the play area and involvement with the community orchard in the churchyard. He also praised colleagues for sustaining essential day-to-day services, ensuring the community was represented on planning and electoral matters, and for creating new / stronger relationships with local groups and organisations.

		<p>Cllr Stacey thanked the Clerk, Cllr Evans in his role as Vice-Chairman, Cllr colleagues and borough Cllr Eade for their support and contributions, and concluded by emphasising the importance of continuing this work towards a more optimistic future.</p>
5	Election of Chairman	<p>Cllr Stacey vacated the Chair in favour of Cllr Evans for this item.</p> <p>Cllr Stacey was nominated for the position of Chairman and in the absence of any other nominations he was proposed by Cllr Richards, and seconded by Cllr Pay with all Members present voting in favour.</p> <p>Clerk to arrange for a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' to be completed by Cllr Stacey as soon as possible.</p>
6	Election of Vice-Chairman	<p>Cllr Stacey resumed the position of Chairman for this item.</p> <p>Cllr Evans was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairman and in the absence of any other nominations he was proposed by Cllr Bennett, and seconded by Cllr Pay with all Members present voting in favour.</p> <p>Clerk to arrange for a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' to be completed by Cllr Stacey as soon as possible.</p>
7	Representatives Annual Reports	<p>Village Hall Committee: In the absence of Cllr Knight, Cllr Bennett provided Members of the PC with an overview of upgrades carried out at the village hall over the past 2 years. In summary, this includes: installation of solar power units, structural improvements, improved thermal efficiency partial remodelling of available space, and redecoration to a high standard. Cllr Bennett thanked the PC for their contributions on behalf of the village hall committee, and Members commented favourably on the improvements to this highly valued community asset.</p> <p>Cllr Bennet then reported from the village hall AGM, provided a brief financial report, confirmed return of user groups following Covid-19 and commented on the important benefits gained from socialising after such a long time in isolation. In addition the village hall now has a web-site www.ccastonvillagehall.co.uk and will be installing WiFi on a permanent basis very soon.</p> <p>Bus Users Group: Cllrs Stacey and Evans jointly reported on the limited interactions of the BUG during Covid-19 with meetings still temporarily suspended. Whilst some services had been affected by very low patronage during Covid-19 Arriva has given a guarantee that it will resume all previous services. A Dial-a-ride service had partially replaced any suspended bus services with significant uptake.</p>

		<p>Arriva are now committed to re-building services but both Cllrs expressed concerns about any services that are only marginally commercial.</p> <p>Newport Regeneration Partnership: Cllr Pay informed colleagues that NRP had been active in part at least despite Covid-19.</p> <p>Over the past year they had created a Transport sub-group to review traffic in the high street, car parking and restoration of the canal.</p> <p>Ni-Park remains a high priority with an emphasis on ensuring T&WC continue to market the site and that new business attracted to the site should be Hi-Tech / Hi-Spec.</p> <p>Cllr Pay noted that David Llewelyn vice chancellor at HAU, and a driving force behind Ni-Park, had now retired. His contribution was unanimously acknowledged.</p> <p>NRP are continuing to push the 'green' agenda especially in relation to new housing developments including Station Road West.</p> <p>Finally, NRP are maintaining a watching brief over the Royal Victoria Hotel and student accommodation at Haberdasher Adams School – ensuring any future uses are positive for Newport town centre.</p> <p>T&WC: no report in the absence of borough Cllr Eade</p>
8	Elect Members to Committees / Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Village Hall Committee: Cllr Knight ❖ Bus User Group: Cllr Stacey & Cllr Evans ❖ NRP: Cllr Pay ❖ T&WC: borough Cllr Eade <p>The above nominations were proposed by Cllr Stokes, seconded by Cllr Evans with a unanimous vote in favour of the nominations for 2021/22.</p>
9.	Adoption of Standing Orders & Financial Regulations	<p>Members considered both items together with Cllr Evans proposing adoption of Financial Regulations & Standing Orders for the year 2021/22. The motion was seconded by Cllr Stokes with all present voting unanimously in favour.</p> <p>Resolved: that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be re-adopted for 2021/22</p>
10.	Budget 2021/22	<p>The Clerk presented the final agreed budget for 2021/22 updated to include actual outturn figures. This was proposed by Cllr Richards, seconded by Cllr McKeown and supported by all Members present.</p>

		Resolved: that the approved budget 2021/22 be adopted for the coming year.
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Date and time of next meeting during May 2022 is to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date: