

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF FROXFIELD AND PRIVETT

HELD ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021 AT FROXFIELD VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Members of the Parish Council, Peter Doyle, David Rymer, John Ellis, Teresa Brown, Phoebe Hiscock, Mark Griffiths, Robert Smith and Chris Skinner. In attendance Nick Drew, the Clerk and 1 member of the public. Apologies were received from Mr Martin Luke

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were approved
3. **Caulfeild Bequest and the Love and Beckford Charity** The accounts for both charities were still in preparation. Joanna Farrell and Charlotte Bevis offered to continue as trustees for the Caulfeild Bequest and were duly re-elected.
4. **Chairman's Report** As the meeting attendance was low the Chairman gave an abbreviated version of his report. Peter Doyle said that these were unprecedented times and we are all suffering, one way or another, from the impact of Covid 19. Indeed because of Covid there hasn't been a parish meeting for 2 years. For the last year parish council meetings have been held by Zoom which are not as effective as face to face meetings in the exchange of thoughts and ideas.

We lost Philip Madgwick a few months ago and Richard Moss in November 2019, a parish councillor for 50 years. The parish also lost two of its stalwarts in Admiral Sir Brian Brown and Ronald Graham Clark. Memorials are being put in place.

In June 2019 the shop was on the edge of closure. Following meetings involving Joanna Farrell, Chris Skinner and Phoebe Hiscock with EHDC, an agreement was reached and the shop continues to trade.

The Dellfield playground had to be closed.

Last year Hampshire County Council cut the verges in May and as a consequence there was an enormous backlash. He arranged a Zoom discussion with a large number of parishioners and County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer with the involvement of Plantlife, a wild plant conservation charity. The outcome was that this year's May cut was postponed and the Parish Council hope to take control of a majority of the grass cutting subject to a list of demands from HCC.

The parish council is continuing with playground repairs and to rebuild the website. For the future we are looking at a planning committee, possibly a finance committee and the establishment of community conferences or workshops to bring people together to talk about the parish. To resurrect the affordable housing scheme, instigate a survey in order for residents to express views about where they live and attempt to break down

barriers to make the parish more cohesive and look to set up committees to involve members of the public thus opening up the parish council to more people.

There are two new parish councillors, Robert Smith and Mark Griffiths, although Phoebe Hiscock, Chris Skinner and Teresa Brown have joined us since the last APM.

An unprecedented number of planning applications have been considered. As always, the PC is firmly intent on maintaining this wonderful area in which we live as unspoilt as possible. I must comment, in particular, on the hard work and long hours that Dave Rymer continues to put into this.

I would also like to thank Nick Drew our District Councillor who put in a lot of unsung work at EHDC on behalf of the parish. Russell Oppenheimer, our recently re-elected County Councillor also puts in much work to help solve the parish problems.

Finally, I would ask you all to extend your appreciation to the Parish Councillors, almost all of whom are self-employed or run their own businesses and yet still manage to find time to work tirelessly for the good of the parish.