

Minutes of the Annual & Ordinary Meetings of The Council on Monday 9th May 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Rachel Dickinson, Dave Wherrett, Claire Flower

Not Present: Cllr Dav Baulch

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

031/22 APOLOGIES - none

ANNUAL MEETING

032/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

The Chairman deferred to the Clerk to conduct the process of electing a Council Chairperson for the 2022-23 year. Cllr Cannell said he would be prepared to continue in the role. No other Members put their names forward, but all agreed, without a formal vote, that Cllr Cannell should be appointed.

Cllr Cannell duly accepted the position of Chairman of the Council for the coming year.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Baulch would be happy to be a candidate for the position of Vice-Chair of the Council for the coming year and formally proposed him. The other Members said they would not be putting their names forward and, again unanimously, without a vote, came to the decision that

Cllr Baulch be appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of the Council for the coming year.

033/22 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The PCC: There has, traditionally, not been a representative appointment to the PPC.

ALCA: We have not been appointing a representative to ALCA, rather relying on the Clerk to keep close operational contact with them.

The Village Hall: Cllr Dickinson agreed to continue representing the Council on the Village Hall Committee of Management, but pointed out that as their meetings are currently held on Tuesdays, she would have to attend remotely.

NSC Standards Sub-Committee: Cllr Cannell agreed to continue to be available to this body on the 'as called' basis under which parish representation operates.

034/22 AGREEMENT TO RE-CONFIRM THE RECENTLY APPROVED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The Council reviewed its Governance documentation earlier in the year and agreed it electronically in March as the March meeting had to be cancelled due to illness. That electronic agreement was ratified at the Council's April 11th meeting under minute 024/22 and was unanimously re-confirmed by Members here as providing the approved governance framework for the coming year.

035/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman distributed copies of his report, which is attached to form a part of these minutes. The Report was formally read out at the immediately following Annual Residents' Meeting.

ORDINARY MEETING

036/22 DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters

037/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Flower in relation to the proposed new street light location at minute 40/22i below.

038/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on April 11th 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting, and signed.

039/22 PLANNING *(Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

New: 22/P/1059/LBC The Manor House replacement windows - 2nd phase. **No objections**
Appeal Dismissed: 22/00009/AT02 Breezeland New house at rear.

040/22 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** Positioning of a new light is proving problematical:
 - a. It has to be away from the walls of the listed barn so that the barn can be maintained properly.
 - b. A new light cannot be moved too far forward of the present one because it will be too close to Walton Brook.
 - c. It cannot be placed on the pavement of the B3124 because it is too narrow.
 - d. In all probability it cannot be affixed the the B3124 facing wall of the barn as it is a listed building.

A new - and potentially better - position has been proposed, on the Home Farm side of the B3124. **Clerk to arrange a site meeting with NSC, to include Cllr Flower.**

- ii. **Walton Bay Signage:** Updated costing re village entry signs awaited.
- iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC have inspected this tree for ash dieback and will check it again once it is in full leaf. Thereafter it will be monitored.
- iv. **Odours in Walton Brook:** There is no further information as to whether this issue has been resolved, or remains ongoing.
- v. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** Under watching brief via Cllr Wherrett.
- vi. **Notice Boards:** Share of Village board with Church? This is on the Annual Residents Meeting agenda and **an update will follow for the June meeting of this council.**
- vii. **Speed Cameras:** A response from NSC, re periodic use of a camera they have, is awaited. **Cllr Ashton undertook to follow this up.**
- viii. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** NSC will be asked to clear when pollution issue resolved and, therefore, the pollution warning sign can be removed.
- ix. **Bus Service 56 Clevedon – Walton Bay - Portishead:** The NSC options review is continuing. The topic is an item on the following Annual Residents' Meeting agenda, which will result in **an update to the agenda for this council's June meeting.**

041/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Wherrett

Public Footpath through The Bay & Sandbanks: The April Minute 028/22, whilst being accurate as a report of the meeting, was not accurate as a matter of fact, because Parish Councils *can* involve themselves in waymarking matters relating to public rights of way, whereas the minute reads that 'any signage that the owners or their residents feel to be needed on their land must be agreed between, and be erected by, them'.... ie: it is a matter between landlord and tenants.

This had been a topic of email discussion with the Clerk this afternoon, and the Clerk obtained a copy of Natural England's brochure 'Waymarking Public Rights of Way', which defines waymarking in its introduction thus:

The term waymarking means marking objects along a public right of way. It complements signposting, which shows where a right of way leaves the metalled road and indicates its initial direction.

Waymarking enables users to follow a path accurately and confidently at points where they might otherwise have difficulty.

Waymarking benefits not only users of rights of way but also farmers and landowners. It increases users' enjoyment of the countryside and prevents unintentional trespass.

Carrying out waymarking is a simple and very practical way in which a parish council, local group or individual landowner or occupier can help to look after the rights of way in their area. This booklet explains how to go about it.

It goes on to say (in relation to NSC in our case):

A highway authority is responsible for the rights of way in its area. Its duties include erecting and maintaining signposts wherever a footpath, bridleway or byway leaves a surfaced road, and waymarking those rights of way where, in the authority's opinion, it is necessary to help anyone unfamiliar with the locality to follow the route.

Any person or group wanting to see sections of a public right of way waymarked, must contact the landowner and NSC Highways: they can also approach the council of the parish through which the relevant section of pathway runs, for their support. The Parish Council is also able to promote waymarking itself.

It is evident from the information in Natural England's brochure, that, contrary to the April minute referred to at the first paragraph of this minute, this Council *could* have involved it self in getting the waymarkers replaced. The discussion surrounding the April minute 028/22 was based on precedent, and our experience of the many landlord/tenant issues that can arise, rather than on a detailed knowledge of waymarking.

The reality is that Cllr Wherrett, not without experiencing difficulties, got the site owners and NSC together on site, where NSC provided replacement waymarkers to the owners for their use in marking out the footpath route along its roadway system. A job quickly and efficiently done, against a learning curve for everyone involved, for which the meeting thanked Cllr Wherrett.

Cllr Cannell

Truespeed: Cllr Dickinson had emailed members with a report she had received that Truespeed was not now going to provide a service in the the parish because Open Reach were going to install fibre-to-the-property broadband. Cllr Cannell checked this information against the BT website and could find no evidence of an Open Reach intention to provide us with FTTP. **Cllr Ashton undertook to consult with contacts at Truespeed to get confirmation of the actual position.**

042/22 FINANCE

- i. 2022-23 Accounts to date:** These were reviewed and noted. The Clerk reported that they have now been reconciled with the latest bank statement, which arrived today.
- ii. Online Banking:** Online banking application pending mandate update.
- iii. Bank Mandate:** to be updated to include Councillors Baulch, Wherrett and Flower.
- iv. Cheques: 818** Phillip J Smith 2021-22 Audit Fee £45.00. Approved for payment.

043/22 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

June 13th 2022 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

Chairman's Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council on Monday 9th May 2022

Well the last two years have certainly been times of great change and challenge for all of us. Firstly and probably most importantly, we acknowledge the historical Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign that the country will be celebrating in June. As a village we will be joining in with our own celebrations, which are being energetically prepared by Emma Edwards, Sue Betts, Sarah Chouglay.

As we continue to come out of the restrictions forced on us by the rapid global pandemic of Covid we look back over two years of unprecedented change and situations for the Parish Council. After over 14 years as Council Chair I felt I should stand down, and Mike Ralston, then Vice-Chair, agreed to take over as chair of Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council in May 2019. None of us would have imagined the challenges that he was taking on. Starting in March 2020 we had to conduct Parish Council meetings via remote video conference calls due to the pandemic. For several Councillors this meant upgrading their broadband systems via the adoption of mobile broadband to ensure workable reception for remote meetings to be possible. This was closely followed by repeated complaints to the Parish Council from an individual from outside the parish that resulted in the whole council being reported to North Somerset Standards sub-committee. No case was found to answer after their investigation but that didn't stop the vexatious behaviour that had to be dealt with.

We were very grateful to Dav Baulch and Dave Wherrett for stepping up and volunteering to join the Parish Council in October 2021. We'd only just settled down when Mike Ralston announced that he was resigning both as Chairman and Parish Councillor due to changing personal situations. I found myself once again as Chair – I think the first time in living memory that a Chair has come back for a second try at the post! Mike's resignation allowed us to offer a councillor place to Claire Flower who, with the Council's support, I had been lobbying for years to join the Council. Thank you, Claire, for stepping into the breach. At last, we have some more young blood in the Council that will, I'm hopeful, grow and help develop the Parish Council for the next generation of Parishioners.

I would like to record at this point huge thanks to Mike Ralston for his contributions to the Parish through the Council during his six years as a Councillor, and my personal thanks for the way that he guided the Council before and during his time as Chair when we faced challenges as never before. It was largely due to Mike's endeavours that we are privileged to have the services and varied experiences of Dav and David.

As of May 9th, Walton-in-Gordano Parish Councillors are Mr Brian Cannell, Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dav Baulch, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower.

After discussions, Councillor Brian Cannell was elected as Chairman at the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Councillor Dav Baulch was elected as Vice Chair.

Councillor Dickinson will continue to represent the PC on the Village Hall management committee. and I will continue as representative on NSC Standards Sub committee.

North Somerset Council was represented at the Parish Council meetings by Councillor Nigel Ashton, our Ward councillor with North Somerset Council. He has been a regular attendee and greatly valued advisor at Parish Council meetings throughout the year.

Whilst police budgets have not supported their regular attendance at meetings, we continue to work with the Portishead team of what is now called the Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea Neighbourhood Policing group. We have been working closely with Sergeant Marc Stephens on several issues during the year. Fortunately, during this last year, there have been only a few instances of reported crime in the parish. Neighbourhood watch schemes continue to operate in various parts of the Parish.

Due to Covid restrictions and general slow-down, the applications for necessary tree work overtook new building planning applications, if you discount those that were withdrawn.

Broadband Internet speed continues to be a problem for much of the parish. We don't appear to be significantly closer to getting fibre broadband in The Village and Walton Down than we were the last time I wrote a Chairman's report back in 2019. Hopeful noises are still being made by potential suppliers but not backed up with any tangible timetabled promises. Rest assured as soon as the Council have any new information, we will let you know the details.

Community Speedwatch is being enthusiastically led by John Jackson, who is heading a group of volunteers running the activity in the Parish. The statistics from the sessions make interesting reading every month in the Cross Tree Chronicle. If you would like to be involved please contact John.

There have been some instances of sewerage odours both on the coast below some of the Park home sites and also in the lower reaches of Walton Brook as it flows through the village. Both of these issues are being dealt with by the relevant authorities and the Parish Council is maintaining a watching brief on them. We are hopeful that resolution efforts by various parties will eliminate the problems.

As to finance, the Budget for 2022/23 was set during the January 2022 Parish Council meeting at £4583. After including provisions for future capital expenditure (£1000) the amount of the precept from North Somerset was £5583.

We continue to be in the cheapest 1/3 of all parishes in North Somerset by precept.

I would like to thank those who have shown an interest in the Parish and its Council over the last year and encourage those who have yet to do so.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors: Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dav Baulch, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower - not forgetting the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Don Hill - for their hard work and support over the last year. Thanks are also due to Bob and Val Baldwin who, despite their retirement, continue to look after the Village notice board for us.

MINUTES OF THE 2022 WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 9th MAY AT 8.00 pm

Present: Brian Cannell (Chair), Don Hill (Minute Taker), and 7 other residents

ARM22/01 Apologies: Sue Betts, James Barzotelli

ARM22/02 Matters arising from minutes of last year's meeting: *Circulated to and approved by attendees in June 2021 and appended as a part of these minutes.*

ARM22/03 Reports from Interest Groups: were received from the Parish Council, The Social Club, The Parish Church, The Jubilee Committee, North Somerset Council; as appended to these minutes.

ARM22/04 The Walton Bay Bus Service: At last year's ARM there was a call for this service to run to Portishead rather than to Clevedon. NSC want to do this, but need a bus turning point on the Coast Road for it to be possible. The service is being envisaged as an extension of an existing Portishead route, so the size of bus is fixed by that. Ideas emerged about the size of bus, where it would be able to turn, if it needed to turn or could be part of a circular route etc. One thing was understood: the service has historically only been used by a few people... but for them it has been a lifeline. Current NSC philosophy is to encourage people out of their cars and on to public transport: that will only be possible if that transport is available on a regular and reliable basis. Because the service has been altered at each new contract season and has not tended to offer enough useful time at a chosen destination, Walton Bay residents have been forced to seek alternative - less motor-use-efficient - means of travel, such as lifts with friends, taxis etc. From an investment point of view NSC must grasp this nettle if they are to succeed in getting people out of alternative transport and onto buses. This means they must fund a service that is regular and reliable - probably for a *long* time - before people will learn to trust that it will be there for them when they want it, be affordable, give them enough time at their destination, and not be chopped and changed every April. An interesting idea was the pool-purchase of a mini-bus that could be routed through subscribing 'Gordano' locations in the Portishead/Clevedon/Nailsea triangle. That logically links to the idea of charity bus services, that do tend to be reliable and to provide enough time at the destinations they serve. It was suggested that more information from potential users could be gleaned via pieces in the Cross Tree Chronicle and by involving the specialist knowledge of our Village Agent. **This is something that could be followed up by the Parish Council.**

ARM22/05 Noticeboards in the parish: As they become due for replacement they will cost in the region of £1200 each (yes, an unbelievable sum!) - do parishioners rely on them for information? There was a long discussion about who actually does - of our resident population - use them. In the days before the internet, posters and information for noticeboards would be a significant element of a parish post bag: not any more. These days, every parish has by law to have access to a website for information dissemination. In our particular case we have a long history of keeping in touch with every household in our parish - originally via the parish council run monthly 'Information Sheet' and more recently via the Social Club funded 'Cross Tree Chronicle', with its truly amazing team of publishing, production and delivery volunteers ensuring interesting and relevant information-access to all our residents. In the end, this wide-ranging review concluded that funds that would be used to replace the noticeboards

would be more usefully applied to other things, such as improved signage, village gates, traffic management schemes, community wellbeing, increasing effectiveness of our Chronicle etc. Ergo, the existing noticeboards will remain in place for the remainder of their useful lives but not be replaced. The possibility of sharing noticeboards with the church (and the social club?) was not ruled out. **The parish council will be notified if this discussion and its conclusions as it seeks a way forward.**

ARM22/06 Dog Waste Bins: Bins in the parish have been proposed. Other parishes have experienced long term and expensive management issues which we will have to budget for if they are to be a success. The minuted history of Clapton-in-Gordano was supplied (attached as part of these minutes) as a realistic scenario that will open up to us if we install bins. The obvious locations for bins are on Walton Street, in the area of the Church and at the golf club lay-by. The cost of installing and maintaining two bins would be a significant element of the present annual precept. It was suggested that persuasive notices such as 'please take your dog waste home' might be a more affordable way of stirring the consciences of the willing more effectively than 'keep off the grass' style notices. The meeting concurred and **the idea will be passed to the Parish Council to be progressed.**

ARM22/07 Open Discussion:

- i. Village Hall Car Park:** It was reported that the possibility of a car park is on the table again after planning issues stalled it some years ago. A car park is becoming an increasingly vital asset for the hall and its committee is working closely with the land managers to progress its establishment.
- ii. Cross Tree Farm Exit to B3214:** The turning right towards Clevedon is particularly hazardous. Turning left and then right to join the Walton Street exit onto the B3124 is equally hazardous, as it is not easily executed in a single continuous manoeuvre and is subject to the same hazard of fast approaching traffic making the turn into Walton Street. The white paint installed to move traffic out from the entrance works for the many, but is totally ignored by the significant few, who still slew round into Walton Street before analysing what they will meet there. A strictly engineered 'stop' for traffic moving from the Clevedon direction on the B3124 to Walton Street is still the pressed-for option. It was suggested that a 20mph speed limit along the B3124 as it passes through the Village would be a significant deterrent to the hugely excessive speeds that tend to cause the subject problem. **The meeting agreed that the parish council would be the most appropriate vehicle for carrying this issue forward with NSC.**
- iii. Footpath from Manor Drive to Golf Course:** this has become overgrown, with regular cut-backs conspicuously absent. **Don Hill undertook, in his role as Parish Clerk, to follow up this issue to solution with NSC.**
- iv. Golf Course Fence:** NSC have acknowledged their responsibility to maintain this, but nothing seems to be happening. Again, **Don Hill undertook to chase NSC for a progress report.**
- v. Gordano Greenway:** this seems to have stalled. Cllr Ashton voiced some of the real issues - cost, multiple and disparate ownership of the route, light pollution, child safety on isolated sections - that are tending to kick the project into the long grass.. at least for the time being.

The Chairman's call for other discussion items being un-responded to, he thanked everyone for attending and being so involved, and declared **the meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm.**

MINUTES OF WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021

Present: Mike Ralston (Chair), Don Hill (Minute Taker), and 5 other residents

ARM21/01 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received

ARM21/02 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MAY 13TH 2019

These were circulated to attendees and approved in June 2019 and were therefore not a formal agenda item for this meeting. There was no meeting held in May 2020 due to Covid-19.

ARM21/03 REPORTS TO THE MEETING

Due to the restrictive circumstances prevailing during the past year there were no reports from local organisations called for this meeting, which of regulatory necessity, had to be held via Zoom.

ARM21/04 DISCUSSION

Resident Involvement in the Parish Council:

Walton-in-Gordano has long been a socially vibrant parish, with a wide range of active interest groups that have been able to keep a monthly newsletter functioning over many years. There was an eloquently developed proposal that the Parish Council could do much to involve the community in *its* affairs by developing a strategic vision of where it wants to go and how it plans to get there. Many larger parishes are developing Neighbourhood Plans that are probably beyond the scope of very small parishes such as ours. However, a community consists of landowners and of residents, who will all have a sense of why they are part of the parish and how they would like to see it progress. Hopefully the Parish Council will be expanding its number of Councillors to its maximum of five over the coming months and this will provide much needed people-power for the development of some of these ideas.

The 56 Bus Service from Clevedon to Walton Bay:

There is apparently disappointment at Walton Bay that the new 56 bus service runs to Clevedon rather than to Portishead. The meeting asked that the Parish Council be asked to find out, more widely, the views of Walton Bay residents and to see what further plans North Somerset Council have - or might be persuaded to - to service the needs of this isolated population. **Don Hill noted this for action, in his role as Parish Clerk.**

The Parish Street Light at Moor Lane:

5 residents responded to the Cross Tree Chronicle piece about the light, which was phrased in a way calculated to draw responses. All respondents were strongly in favour of the light being replaced by a new light rather than it not being replaced. The Parish Council report that the necessary budget provision will be made in January 2022, so there is plenty more time for people to respond with their thoughts.

Fibre Broadband:

Truespeed is still the only company currently planning to offer a service through the Gordano Valley. They report, however, that it will be another 10 months before the service can be in operation. There is a new service from Starlink.com, currently in Beta form. This has the potential to be a significant improvement on currently available satellite broadband systems but is expensive to install (some £500).

There were no further topics raised and the Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for taking part.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

REPORTS TO THE WALTON-IN-GORDANO 2022 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING

Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council Chairman's report May 2022 - Cllr Brian Cannell

Well the last two years have certainly been times of great change and challenge for all of us. Firstly and probably most importantly, we acknowledge the historical Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign that the country will be celebrating in June. As a village we will be joining in with our own celebrations, which are being energetically prepared by Emma Edwards, Sue Betts, Sarah Chouglay.

As we continue to come out of the restrictions forced on us by the rapid global pandemic of Covid we look back over two years of unprecedented change and situations for the Parish Council. After over 14 years as Council Chair I felt I should stand down, and Mike Ralston, then Vice-Chair, agreed to take over as chair of Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council in May 2019. None of us would have imagined the challenges that he was taking on. Starting in March 2020 we had to conduct Parish Council meetings via remote video conference calls due to the pandemic. For several Councillors this meant upgrading their broadband systems via the adoption of mobile broadband to ensure workable reception for remote meetings to be possible. This was closely followed by repeated complaints to the Parish Council from an individual from outside the parish that resulted in the whole council being reported to North Somerset Standards sub-committee. No case was found to answer after their investigation but that didn't stop the vexatious behaviour that had to be dealt with.

We were very grateful to Dav Baulch and Dave Wherrett for stepping up and volunteering to join the Parish Council in October 2021. We'd only just settled down when Mike Ralston announced that he was resigning both as Chairman and Parish Councillor due to changing personal situations. I found myself once again as Chair – I think the first time in living memory that a Chair has come back for a second try at the post! Mike's resignation allowed us to offer a councillor place to Claire Flower who, with the Council's support, I had been lobbying for years to join the Council. Thank you, Claire, for stepping into the breach. At last, we have some more young blood in the Council that will, I'm hopeful, grow and help develop the Parish Council for the next generation of Parishioners. I would like to record at this point huge thanks to Mike Ralston for his contributions to the Parish through the Council during his six years as a Councillor, and my personal thanks for the way that he guided the Council before and during his time as Chair when we faced challenges as never before. It was largely due to Mike's endeavours that we are privileged to have the services and varied experiences of Dav and David.

As of May 9th, Walton-in-Gordano Parish Councillors are Mr Brian Cannell, Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dav Baulch, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower. After discussions, Councillor Brian Cannell was elected as Chairman at the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Councillor Dav Baulch was elected as Vice Chair. Councillor Dickinson will continue to represent the PC on the Village Hall management committee, and I will continue as representative on NSC Standards Sub committee. North Somerset Council was represented at the Parish Council meetings by Councillor Nigel Ashton, our Ward councillor with North Somerset Council. He has been a regular attendee and greatly valued advisor at Parish Council meetings throughout the year.

Whilst police budgets have not supported their regular attendance at meetings, we continue to work with the Portishead team of what is now called the Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea Neighbourhood Policing group. We have been working closely with Sergeant Marc Stephens on several issues during the year. Fortunately, during this last year, there have been only a few instances of reported crime in the parish. Neighbourhood watch schemes continue to operate in various parts of the Parish.

Due to Covid restrictions and general slow-down, the applications for necessary tree work overtook new building planning applications, if you discount those that were withdrawn.

Broadband Internet speed continues to be a problem with much of the parish. We don't appear to be significantly closer to getting fibre broadband in The Village and Walton Down than we were the last time I wrote a Chairman's report back in 2019. Hopeful noises are still being made by potential suppliers but not backed up with any tangible timetabled promises. Rest assured as soon as the Council have any new information, we will let you know the details. We have just heard, via a third party, that Truespeed will not be providing a service to the parish, as Open Reach are planning to do so; although there is no evidence on their website that they plan to. **Cllr Ashton - already a Truespeed customer, has offered to follow up the veracity of this report via contacts at Truespeed.**

Community SpeedWatch is being enthusiastically led by John Jackson, who is heading a group of volunteers running the activity in the Parish. The statistics from the sessions make interesting reading every month in the Cross Tree Chronicle. If you would like to be involved please contact John.

There have been some instances of sewerage odours both on the coast below some of the Park home sites and also in the lower reaches of Walton Brook as it flows through the village. Both of these issues are being dealt with by the relevant authorities and the Parish Council is maintaining a 'watching brief' on them. We are hopeful that resolution efforts by various parties will eliminate the problems.

As to finance, the Budget for 2022/23 was set during the January 2022 Parish Council meeting at £4583. After including provisions for future capital expenditure (£1000) the amount of the precept from North Somerset was £5583. We continue to be in the cheapest 1/3 of all parishes in North Somerset by precept.

I would like to thank those who have shown an interest in the Parish and its Council over the last year and encourage those who have yet to do so. Finally, on behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors: Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dav Baulch, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower - not forgetting the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Don Hill - for their hard work and support over the last year. Thanks are also due to Bob and Val Baldwin who, despite their retirement, continue to look after the Village noticeboard for us.

Social Club - Barbara Wilyman

The Social Club are an active committee, currently comprised of 12 members. We hold regular meeting (mostly monthly), our aim being to promote and sustain a parish community. We have a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, together with the necessary bank accounts. We keep written minutes of our meetings in order to provide a security trail of income and expenditure and of decisions made.

Fund raising activity and social interaction were severely curtailed during the pandemic. In September 2021 we held a Boules Evening in the village hall, which was a great success; it was attended by approximately 40 people. In December 2021 we organised a Christmas Quiz, again in the village hall, which was great fun, was very successful and was attended by some 50 people. In February 2022 there was a Wassail Evening - again enjoyed by some 30 people.

I am happy to announce the return of our Village Fete on July 9th 2022. We have decided not to hire a marquee, but instead, to invest in good quality gazebos which will provide a future recourse for villagers. The committee work hard to produce this event, but are supported by so many villagers from both the Village and Walton Bay, whose help and generosity bring the community together and underpins our stated aim of promoting social activity.

An allocation of flowers from North Somerset are received each May/June. This year the theme is a Jubilee theme with red, white and blue petunias. The committee plant them out and maintain them through the summer months. The 2 additional large tubs are maintained by us, as are the planting by Walton Bay and around the Cross Tree. NSC must have a surfeit of the large wooden 'tubs' used for marshalling traffic and people during the pandemic, and it would be great if we could locate some of these for our village. **Cllr Ashton kindly undertook to investigate possibilities.**

Volunteers in the village The Parish Council, The Village Hall, The Church, The Social Club, SpeedWatch, Litter picking, as well as the clear-up team for the Common. For such a small community, this commitment to volunteering is really quite remarkable and deserving of a big vote of thanks.

Church report - Sue Betts

Of course our church life has been greatly effected by the pandemic. One of the things we did when we couldn't go to church was to take a little bit of St Paul's out, starting with our Flower Festival at Home in 2020. We delivered a cream tea and a lovely flower arrangement to your door. We followed this success with Christmas at Home and Easter at Home.

As soon as were able to, we returned to church. To keep everyone safe we picked everything up we needed, including our music system, and headed outside weather permitted. Sitting outside in the beautiful Gordano countryside really added to our worship and surprised many walkers and runners. It was so good out in the sunshine with swallows and dragonflies flying about us and even though we can use the church as normal now, we are heading outside again this year.

Obviously we have been hit financially; we have just about enough thanks to the generous support of the parish and beyond. With our small but powerful church family we pray we can carry on providing a place of peace and fellowship in our parish.

Jubilee Committee - Sue Betts

Tickets are now available for our four day celebration from Emma Edwards, Sarah Chouglay and Sue Betts. The timetable for the long weekend is as follows:

Thursday 2nd June: Lighting the Jubilee Beacon on the old railway track, Moor Lane at 8.30pm, by Brodie Lyon

Friday 3rd Jubilee Parish Concert with Portishead Lifeboat sea shanty group and villagers showing off their talents at 7.30pm in the church.

Saturday 4th Jubilee Parish Party Music and games for all 7pm in the hall.

Sunday 5th Jubilee Parish Lunch with group photo at 12 midday followed by celebration service at 3pm with Planting a Tree for the Jubilee.

There is no charge for the tickets just let us know if you would like to come along. More details in the Chronicle.

Let's get together again!

North Somerset Council - Cllr Nigel Ashton

Cllr Ashton did not present a traditional 'report' on NSC activities during the year. As usual, the political arena within which strategic goals are argued over and developed by Councillors receives wide press coverage. What Ward Councillors find themselves doing within their wards is confronting the operational results that flow from the NSC strategic deliberations.

Whilst it may be necessary to set a policy context - NSC councillors do, after all, operate in a political environment, the ward query doesn't tend to be 'what is the best way to run a waste service?' but rather 'why do I have a problem getting my bins emptied regularly?... what can you do to fix it for me?'

In that apolitical vein, Cllr Ashton said he was approached within his ward on a wide range of topics, including for example, Road Maintenance - Access to NSC Staff - Housebuilding Targets - Protecting the Greenbelt - Waste Services. He invited residents, at any time, to contact him if they feel they have a problem, and he will do his utmost to help in getting it resolved.

Clapton-in-Gordano Minutes re Dog Bins

Dog bin would be useful somewhere near the path up to the Common. Lots of bags left there. Some may be collected later but a lot aren't. I did overhear a child explaining to her grandmother that "mummy leaves pooh bags by the car when there isn't a bin!". Tom Chown

Clapton Experience

Jan 2019

Dog Waste Bins [Minute 6(g)]: Councillors consider that it would be a proper service to the village for the parish council to provide dog waste bins, to avoid bags and dog mess being left on trees and verges. They agreed to purchase three bins, at an approximate cost of £500, funded from the 2018/19 year-end surplus [see Minute 5(b)]. It is hoped that the surplus will also cover any installation costs, although considered it should be possible to minimise these by undertaking the work ourselves.

The Clerk has obtained quotes from two contractors for weekly emptying and disinfecting of three bins (located at Tynings Wood, and either end of the track between Cadbury Camp Lane and Wood Lane). NSC is unable to take on any additional bin servicing; a third contractor who was to have been approached has recently been dropped by other parish councils due to paucity of service. The need for weekly servicing, at least in the colder months, was not evident: this might be unnecessarily frequent. The Chair will liaise with the contractors about this, and whether any moderation of costs might be possible, bringing a proposal for appointment to the next meeting. ACTION: Chair

March 2019

(c) Dog Waste Bins: As reported at the last meeting, two quotes for dog waste bins servicing are being considered. When setting the 2019/20 budget, £1k provision was made for this contract, which necessitated raising the precept. As it is now proposed to install fewer bins than originally intended [see Minute 7(f)], the total costs may be significantly lower than budgeted. Councillors agreed that any year-end surplus should be carried-forward and set against servicing costs for 2020/21.

The Chair has liaised with the preferred contractor, whose advice is that these bins must be emptied and cleaned weekly; however, a reduction in cost was agreed, and there will be further liaison to establish the charge for servicing fewer bins. ACTION: BG

The parish council agreed to award the contract to K&E Property Maintenance, provided that the total cost falls within the budgetary provision.

May 2019

Dog Waste Bins [Minute 7(f)]: Councillor George advised that Mr Kevin Weekes is able to supply and install a dog waste bin for £150, and then to service this for a weekly fee of £10. As agreed at the last meeting, the bin will be located on the north-side of Cadbury Camp Lane, where the track from the end of Wood Lane emerges. Councillor George will liaise with Mr Pat Wood [of the Cadbury Camp Lane residents group] and Mr Weekes to agree the exact location and installation arrangements. ACTION: BG

Sept 2019

(e) Dog Waste Bin [Minute 7(e)]: Mr Kevin Weekes installed a dog mess bin on Cadbury Camp Lane at the end of July 2019, and has been servicing it weekly since then. Feedback will be sought from Mr Weekes and Mr Pat Wood [of the Cadbury Camp Lane Residents Group] about how much the bin is used, and whether it has addressed the problem.

May 2020

(c) Dog-Bin Servicing Contract: At the end of March 2020, the council's dog-bin contractor advised that he was compulsorily shielding for twelve weeks, and so unable to service the dog-bin. With assistance from North Somerset Council (NSC), an offer of temporary servicing (at a weekly fee of £8.40) was found. By email, councillors endorsed the Clerk to accept this (using the powers delegated at the last meeting). The temporary contractor has now advised that the arrangement will end in the first week of June, as changes to the coronavirus restrictions now allow them to resume their usual business. The council's contractor has advised that he intends to resume work in early-July. With no prospect of another temporary contractor, councillors agreed, with reluctance, that the dog-bin must be sealed after its final cleaning. Councillor George will prepare an explanatory notice for display on it. [Post-Meeting Note: An alternative contractor was found to service the bin for four weeks (at a weekly fee of £10); councillors agreed, by email, to accept this offer.]