

Northlew Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly, Northlew held virtually via Zoom at 7:30 pm on Monday 26th April 2021

Present:

Councillors:

Holly Dancer (HD) – Chair
Celia Miners (CM) – Vice Chair
Andrew Alger (AA)
Shirley Brookman (SB)
Mai Cudmore (MC)
Gillian Dixon (GD)
Bryan Dufty (BD)
Mark Rundle (MR)
Shaun Millership (SLM)
Sue Main (SM) – Clerk

Borough Councillors:

Patrick Kimber (PK) – West Devon Borough Council (WDBC)
James McInnes (JMcl) - Devon County Council (DCC)
Clare Kemp (CK) – West Devon Borough Council

No parishioners attended the Parish Assembly.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – none were received.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 16th March 2020** were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 3. Matters Arising** – none arising from the minutes from last year's Assembly.
- 4. Chair's Report**

The Chair opened the meeting with her powerpoint presentation already circulated as the basis for her report. This would also be available to download from the website post the meeting.

Unprecedented time of change – the Chair outlined what impact Covid had had on the Community and the Parish Council. Despite having three chairs and five new councillors since 2020 and virtual meetings since April 2020, the Council was working well together with a good cross section of local individuals and bodes well for a stable future.

Community Events – in spite of the pandemic, the village had continued to work well as a community with The Square Shop with its weekly Friday market and the Post Office continuing to stay open and offering a great source of support, as well as the Green Dragon Public House make an extraordinary effort to offer an outdoor and takeaway service when permitted. Added to this, the Easter Bunny, Scarecrow competition and Produce Show were warmly received and had provided a much needed feel good factor and positive local press coverage.

Responsibilities of Northlew Parish Council – the Chair reminded all of the Councillors' responsibilities to the Community which were on a voluntary basis and that the small budget was primarily be used to maintain the playing fields and playground, the trees in the square, the pump, public toilets and dog poo bins.

Achievements of Northlew Parish Council were noted as being:-

- the consultation and relaunch of the new quarterly Northlew News with a new Editor
- the publication of the monthly e-Noticeboard
- the Parish Website which was regularly updated
- the maintenance of the trees in the Square which had been recently been pollarded,
- the maintenance of the playing fields and playground
- the development of the Playground Working Party which was recently being reviewed with the recruitment of new parishioners
- maintaining the annual provision and donation of a Christmas tree and lights in the Square
- Adding additional dog poo bins in the community
- The revamp on the Parish noticeboard next to the Square shop
- The recent consultation on the public toilets and development of the area.

5. Finance

The Clerk and RFO reported on the expenditure and income breakdown for 2020/2021. Expenditure was below budget partly due to Covid which had meant the public toilet had been closed for the first lockdown and partly because the Northlew News had not been published from May 2020 until March 2021. Income was however substantially more than forecast due to a £4,648 repayment on the business rates of the public toilets (which went back several years) and a £10,000 Covid grant received which had been put into a reserve account for future community project consideration. The budget for 2021/2022 had been approved by the Council and the precept had been fixed at £10,945. The presentation provided examples of what increase that had had on individual households' precept depending on Council Tax band.

6. **Results of the Public Lavatory Survey** – the Chair thanked all those parishioners who had completed the survey which represented a response rate of c8% of the population. These results were included in the presentation and available to all on the website. It was agreed that Councillors would review the results and comments and it would be discussed in more detail at the June Parish Council meeting.

7. Future Plans

In addition to Item 6. Above, it was hoped that the new Playground Working Party would be up and running soon and that the Pump, Well and Shelter would be renovated in the coming months.

8. Any Other Matters

Further to a query by a parishioner over the ownership of the playing fields and playground, it was confirmed that this area was owned and maintained by Northlew Parish Council.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.15.

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