

**MINUTES OF BISHOP'S HULL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE
BISHOPS HULL HUB, BISHOP'S HULL,
ON THURSDAY 6th APRIL, 2023**

Fourteen members of the public attended. Mr Taylor, Chairman of the Parish Council, was in the Chair.

1. Apologies for absence

Rev. Phil Hughes
Amanda Gallacher
Jon Lee
PCSO Marshall Bernhardt

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3. To receive the Police Report

PCSO Lyndsay Smith was present and gave a verbal report. Data capture boxes have been placed in the Parish and results will be fed back. Speed enforcement and speed watch team have been out on several occasions. Burglary very low in the Parish. Following the break in at the Post Office a few months ago, an arrest has been made. Reports have been received of anti-social behaviour in the play area. Cllr Hunt raised a query regarding speeding within the village and Waterfield Drive.

4. To receive the report from the Bishops Hull Flower Show

Report attached was read to the meeting

5. To receive the report from St Peter & St Pauls Church

Report attached was read to the meeting

6. To receive report from representatives from Bishops Hull Hub

Report attached was read to the meeting

7. To receive report from representatives from Bishops Hull Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust

Paul Bulbeck – Chair of the Trust was present and gave a verbal report. (Report attached)

8. To receive report from the Frank Bond Trust

Carolyn Bulbeck – Chair of FBC was present and gave a verbal report (report attached)

9. To receive the Netherclay Community Woodland report (attached)

David Gurr was present and gave a verbal report detailing activities of the volunteers. 50 new saplings were planted. A woodland plan is now in place. Access to the river project, has been adapted and a lower CIL fund request will now be made. Working with Taunton Green parents to develop the flowers on site.

10. To receive report from Village Agent

Did not attend

11. Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report and thanked everyone for attending. It has been a busy 12 months, clearance of allotments completed. New Church entrance completed. Kinglake area progressing for the Parish Council to take on responsibility. FBC and HUB great job. Stable bank balance, a lot of ringfenced funds throughout the village. The PC may be required to take on extra duties from the Unitary. Sensory trail with steps and slope on playing fields progressing. Looking forward to all organisations joining together. Low crime rate in Village. Encourage residents to report crimes. Small increase in litter in the Parish. The pc members are always happy to take any concerns from residents or to contact the Clerk. Litter picking team from the school. Cllr Hunt thanked the Chairman for all the work he carries out.

12. HAVE YOUR SAY

Mrs Coombes thanked Cllr Hunt for arranging the shuttle bus, complementary of the bus service, and she raised concerns about the lack of parking and inconsiderate parking around Shutewater Hill.

Action: The Parish Council to contact Highways.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Mr Tony Taylor
Chairman

Attached:

1. Flower Show report
2. Church report
3. BH HUB report
4. FBC report
5. BHVH&PF Trust report

1. Flower Show:

Bishops Hull Flower Show – 13th August 2022

The flower show was, again, a huge success and made the most of the Hub with the air conditioning! Even

though the vegetable, fruit and flower entries were slightly down due to the drought we have experienced,

there were nearly 300 exhibits including vegetables, flowers, photographs, art, miniature gardens, crochet

items, greeting cards, floral art and cakes. A big thank you, as always, to Nancy and Josie and their team for

the beautiful homemade cakes and refreshments served from the Cricket Pavilion and everyone who helped

and supported the event.

Best Exhibit 4yrs and under – Philip Stadler

Best Exhibit 5-8 yrs – Annabel Needs

Best Exhibit 9-12 yrs – Fern Robin

Best Exhibit 13-16yrs – Abi Drinkwater

Best Exhibit in the Veg Section – Allan Langford

Best Exhibit in the Flower Section – Alex Gallacher

Best Exhibit in the Fruit Section – David Gurr

Most prize cards in the Veg, Flower & Fruit Sections – Tim Pope

Best Exhibit in the Floral Art Section – Dilys Millard

Best Exhibit in the Homecraft Section – Helen Needs

Most prize cards in the Homecraft Section – Karen Dudley

Best Exhibit in the Handicraft Section – Chris Morgan

Most prize cards by an entrant – Tim Pop

2. Church

This is a report from the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Bishops Hull to the Parish Council, April 2023.

Firstly, I am really sorry I am not able to be with you tonight. I would much prefer to attend and give this report in person, but diaries did not allow this time.

In 2022 the big events for the Parish Church were the handing over of the church building to the architect and builder to make a start on the long-anticipated (and much discussed!) changes to improve the welcome and look of the church

entrance and to improve the facilities within the church itself. To continue being a worshipping presence in this community all regular services were moved to the wooden church hall and we continued live-streaming services whenever possible.

Despite the change of venue, we were still able to provide a warm welcome and offer hospitality after services. It is really encouraging that our numbers grew

slightly as some people from the village joined us for the first time and others started coming more regularly. Alongside this there was much interest in the

initial demolition of the old porch and then the construction of the new and enlarged building. Building work often encounters its fair share of challenges and it seemed that this project was no exception. But work continued and progressed.

The initial date for completion came and went. As did the next! Eventually the project was at a stage to enable the church building to be re-opened in time for Christmas 2022 and there was a re-opening celebration in December 2022

attended by many brave parishioners who laughed in the face of a bitterly cold Sunday morning while waiting outside the church for the ribbon-cutting. Never

was a good, newly installed heating system so appreciated as when the doors were finally opened and everyone welcomed in. It was declared that this building

was done 'to the glory of God' and the first hymn sung was To God be the Glory!

Following a public-vote, the name chosen for this new entrance area is The Bridge.

The Bridge still has some elements which need to be completed and work is progressing through the architect and builder. The outside garden area will be tidied and made more useable. The wooden hall has now been removed by its new owner and will be rebuilt near Chard as their workshop area.

The remainder of the West End needs to be repainted to match The Bridge, and so on. All these things will be done in time and there is a plan in place for the outstanding items. One area where there is no plan in place is how the space left by the wooden hall (now removed) is to be used. We would love to extend the car-park. We would love to provide a community garden space. Someone even suggested a health spa and swimming pool! There are 101 other things we would love to have ideas about but we simply do not have the funds to do any of them at the moment. Our main priority is to complete The Bridge before we tackle a new project in the car park. We are really pleased to be part of this community and to be able to offer opportunities for prayer and worship, gathering and fellowship, even coffee and cake! We have an active Facebook page, a webpage which is constantly being updated and an online presence through our livestreamed services. Monthly coffee mornings are taking place on the last Saturday of each month and everyone is invited. Seasonal events happen throughout the year and everyone is invited. Even if nothing 'special' is happening I do hope everyone knows that they are welcome and knows that this is their Parish Church.

God blesses

Rev Phil Hughes

3. BH HUB

Dear members of the Bishops Hull community, I am pleased to provide you with an annual update on the Bishops Hull Hub for 2022/2023. Over the past year, we have continued to thrive as a vibrant community space, providing opportunities for residents of all ages to come together and engage in a variety of activities and events. One of the major accomplishments of the past year was to widen the breadth of groups that are using the Hub with organisations offering a wider range of activities. These have continued to demonstrate how well needed and desired the Hub is within the Bishops Hull community. We have continued to facilitate a diverse range of activities for adults, including fitness classes, hobbies and sports for all ages. We are particularly excited about our plans and opportunities for the coming years. We have gradually grown a committed and diverse volunteer team to support our works, all who are so valuable in keeping the cogs turning. In particular our fantastic team who continue their hard work to establish the community garden on the Hub's grounds, no matter the weather! The Cafe team who are committed to providing accessible and enjoyable monthly community events, and the team on the ground that keep the building running, provide a friendly face for all those who use it and ensure it remains a clean, safe and attractive venue for all to use. Our monthly cafes have continued this year offering a variety of themes and activities, but we still have a challenge of getting the word out to the community, often hearing that people hear about the events too late. We have a great plan for this year of themed events and plan that consistency will improve the visibility with the community. As always, we are grateful for the support of our volunteers, donors, and members. The contribution of time is essential to the success of the Bishops Hull Hub, and we could not do what we do without each person that supports us. Financially, we have continued to be

sustainable in our operations to balance being affordable and accessible whilst also meeting the growing financial requirements. As headline figures, for the 12 months to April. The Hall Hire income: £25,033.33 Cleaning costs of -£3,729 Bills: - £5,745 Maintenance: Expended -£23,853 and raised £9,936 (Mostly due to the carpark and lighting works, supported by the PC grant) (Total cost of - £13,917) 100 Club raised £1,741.45 Cafe income of £3,121.85 Expenses total - £3,801.58 (including hall and cafe expenses) Finance costs (Loan repayments and insurance) £9,249 For the year, this has resulted in an opening balance of £15,012 in April 2022 and a closing balance of £17,124 as of 3rd April 2023. Here is a graph showing all of the Expenses and Incomes over the year (Note car park and lighting work in April/May 2022) Looking into 2023 we hope the maintenance costs will be substantially less, although work is needed to the entrance way which we are working with the Village Hall and Playing Field Trust on finance arrangements. We anticipate the hall hire profits will remain similar, however we have increased the hall hire costs of on-off events from £16/hour to £17/hour to cover additional electricity and operating costs. We are now monitoring the electricity usage and generation and looking into electricity storage installation costs and grants available. I would like to thank the Parish Council unreservedly for the support you have given us over the years as this would not have been possible without your continued support from the beginning. I would also like to thank the Village Hall and Playing Field Trust for the collaboration and support they have given to the Hub to provide a centre of the village that provides great value to the community. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another exciting year at the Bishops Hull Hub. Sincerely, Jon Lee and the Hub team

4. Bishops Hull Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust

Bishops Hull Trust continues to be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the playing field, pavilions, and playpark as well as shared responsibility with the school in the Community Centre. Whilst our relationship with the school continues to work well, the issues relating to the County Council have proved to be very difficult with little heed paid to the rights of the Trust as per the legal agreement. Whether by inefficiency or incompetence, the Trust has not been helped by decisions or lack of them relating to maintenance of the building. Major projects are understandably done out of schooltime which is always to the detriment of the Trust finances. This has been exacerbated by decisions to do work in Trust time, only to find out at very short notice that the work will not take place. At present, the floor of the main hall is being replaced and this was confirmed a week ago, which meant cancellation of hirings and a loss of income. The whole of the summer holiday will be taken up with substantial roof repairs, which has already caused the cancellation of regular and casual hirings. It is little wonder that our income has dropped, and we are having difficulty in attracting hirers. We will have lost many hundreds of pounds through no fault of our own. Once our treasurer and booking secretary have supplied me with costings, I shall write to the County Council seeking compensation or at the very least a reduction in our annual service charge. BISHOPS HULL VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD TRUST Due to vandalism and anti-social behaviour in and around the building we agreed with the head teacher to lock the gates in Trust time, and this has substantially reduced the incidents. I have agreed that there will be a phased reopening of the gates and we shall monitor the behaviour. This will allow the

community to use the facilities including the tennis court. If the issues return, then we shall revert to gate closure. The school and the trust are jointly paying for the field to be cut on a regular basis. The quality of cuts has been good and at a reasonable price. We have been very fortunate over the last few years to have Alan and Maggie (local residents) pick up litter on a regular basis around the field. Sadly, they left the village after Christmas and there has been an increase of litter evident on the field and in the play park. If anyone would like to volunteer for this, please contact the trust as it would help to keep the area free of litter. Sadly, the issue of dogs on the field being exercised is continuing and there has also been an increase in mess not being picked up. I am grateful to John Hunt for his comments in the community news, and hopefully it may have some effect. Our Car Boot Sales, which are a major source of income, start next Monday and all the dates for this year have been publicised. All money raised goes to supporting our village facilities. Finally, as the Coronation draws near, it would be great so see the village coming together and enjoying the range of events taking place. Paul Bulbeck Chairman BHVH&PFT

5. Frank Bond Centre

FRANK BOND CENTRE Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

The Frank Bond Centre continues to thrive with membership numbers rising and new activities increasing.

The Trustees are concerned with the effect increased energy costs could have upon the finances of running the Centre, so have reluctantly had to ask members to make a small contribution each time they attend a group. This enables them to enjoy their activity and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake.

At the Centre we have been delighted with the addition of several new activities, Mahjong, Flexercise, Pétanque and Crafty Coffee. These new activities epitomise the ethos of the Frank Bond Centre, offering members the opportunity to remain physically, mentally and socially active even as we get a little more mature.

We have also enjoyed talks by some of our amazing local residents with a range of topics, Women in the Police Service, the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal and Women in the First World War.

Our Friday Cafe is proving increasingly popular, where lively conversation covering a range of topics where laughter and friendship are guaranteed. The Big Table monthly lunches are also well attended and enjoyed.

The Centre strives to continue to be a positive force within the wider community, joining with all village celebrations.

For the Queens Platinum Celebration we held a fabulous cream tea enjoyed by over 100 and were well entertained by the Taunton Deane Morris Men. We very much look forward to being part of the Coronation Celebrations by holding a Big Lunch on Sunday 7th May.

Members are able to enjoy the wonderful facilities at the Centre, and Trustees will continue to work to maintain and grow this unique facility within our community.