

**DRAFT MINUTES OF FIVEHEAD AND SWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Held on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 1900 – Virtual meeting held online via Zoom**

**Present:** K Beacham (KB) - Chair; J Parsons - Clerk/RFO; 5 Councillors and 5 parishioners.

**1. Chairman's welcome**

KB advised that the meeting was being recorded using the Zoom facility and the recording would be deleted after the Minutes were agreed. Attendees confirmed that they understood remote meeting procedures and etiquette.

KB welcomed everyone and introduced those Parish Council (PC) members who were present: Laura Howard (Vice Chair), Nina Cameron, Pip Brett, Ken Male and Bruce Ferguson (the newest Councillor); and Clerk/RFO, Jayne Parsons.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from R Wynn, E Balmer and F Doggett.

**3. Approval of Minutes of 2019 APM**

Subject to one amendment to the Golf Society Report (y missing from Harry's name), the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 April 2019 were agreed and signed (as there had been no meeting in 2020 due to the pandemic). Proposed by PB and seconded NC. Carried unan.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes**

None

**5. Reports from village organisations**

Reports (see annex from page 3-7) were received:

- Parish Council April 2020 – March 2021- Chair's report (KB)
- Playing Field Management Committee - read by KB
- Village Hall Management Committee – read by KB
- Drama Group – Harry Price
- Golf Society – Harry Price
- Fellowship & Leisure Club – Chris Jackson
- Litter Collection – read by KB
- St Martin's Church – read by KB
- Baptist Church – Rev Matt Cottington
- The Stable – read by Matt Cottington
- Tree Warden – read by KB

It was noted that the Fellowship & Leisure Club was currently seeking someone to replace Meg Tyler to help with booking of talks, if anyone would like to volunteer.

It was noted that the Parish Paths were now up and running, supported by volunteer Jacquie Mahoney, and that we have good contacts at South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council Paths Liaisons. There would shortly be an advert for a new Paths Monitor volunteer to support the Parish, based in the local area.

Volunteers are also requested for help with litter picking around the Parish.

Harry Price reported that Short Mat Bowls was hoping to resume on 5 July subject to Government regulations and the reopening of the Village Hall. The group was in need of fresh members, otherwise it would not be viable to continue, as the cost of the hall has to be covered.

The Secretary for Swell Church reported that the Church in Swell had been closed for services but was now open again for monthly meetings. There had been six services and one funeral during the year and Zoom had been available via Scott.

## 6. Open discussion

PB reported that Spark Somerset was running free webinars from 5 May 21 for groups restarting, to give training and guidance on Government guidelines for opening up again safely. They would also advise on financial support available, so might be helpful to organisations, especially the Village Hall. LH would pass this on.

PB had also participated on a Zoom webinar recently run by the National Association for Local Councils (NALC) and the Plunkett Foundation, who had suggested that a page on local parish websites to advertise volunteer posts available for all organisations in the area works well; so it had been agreed that this would be added to our Parish website for short-term and more permanent positions, with summary of details of what is involved. Anyone wishing to advertise their posts should contact PB, who was willing to take this on as a small project. This had been tried in the past via the Parish newsletter and website, but hopefully using the Parish social media systems to help promote the new page would increase chances of success.

A Member of the Public requested an update on planning and the phosphates situation which was causing delays to approval of applications. KB acknowledged that only minor amendments seemed to be going through and that this was having an impact on a wide range of community matters, including the Community pub, which could mean that a local group might miss out on possible grants available. KB referred everyone to the Parish Council meeting minutes for further details about the actions that were currently in progress to highlight urgent matters to the District Council, including the contentious S73 application for Glendale.

To close, the Chair thanked the PC members and Clerk for all their work this year, which had been difficult due to the pandemic and having to meet on Zoom; it would be good to return to meetings in person again. She thanked everyone again for their reports and all their efforts to look after the Parish this year.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Chairman.....

Dated.....

## Annex - reports

### **Name of organisation: Parish Council**

### **Report by: Kate Beacham (Chair)**

It is hard to believe it is over a year since we started lock down for the first time. The Parish Council has used Zoom to keep our meetings going through this difficult period and this has been proved to be very successful apart from the odd technical hiccup. This will end in May after which time we will have to adapt to meeting in public once more.

From the outset of the pandemic, our community has pulled together and supported one another in so many ways. There was a wonderful reaction to the call for volunteers for the Support Network and we know of many continuing acts of kindness. Thanks go to everyone for your support during the past year.

Although many events have sadly been cancelled, it was wonderful to see and hear the village still managing to commemorate VE Day with bunting and appropriate social distancing outside. The weekly display of appreciation for our carers and key workers has also been memorable.

Although we have not been able to carry out everything we wished to do, due to the restrictions, these are some of the projects we have completed:

- We now use digital mapping software (Parish Online) for various matters including planning applications and asset management. It was very useful during the crisis in developing a Parish Support Network. We are also using it to develop maps for our Parish Paths
- The new accessible Website is live and performing satisfactorily.
- Many of you have now signed-up to the Village Messaging Service ([www.nextdoor.co.uk](http://www.nextdoor.co.uk)) which complements, rather than replaces, the existing village email group.
- One key piece of work that has been completed is the mapping of the cemetery. Thanks to many hours of work by a volunteer, from the village, plus a professional topographical survey, we now have an accurate plan. This will replace the existing map prepared in 1952.
- The Parish Map is now placed on Langford Corner thanks to the grant from SCC.
- Fivehead and Swell's Housing Assessment Needs survey was completed in March 2021. Full details will be published on the website soon.

### **Plans for the year ahead:**

- The HSA showed people in the village are interested in having a defibrillator, this will be considered by the Parish Council at a future meeting.
- Work continues on the refurbishment of the telephone box, then another volunteer will be fitting the shelving for the book exchange.
- PC is hopeful the historic Pound will be repaired/restored this year and we will finally be able to register the land for the village.
- PC is also looking to repair St Martin's Church wall and re-seed the closed part of the Churchyard. Removal of spoil from the Cemetery is scheduled for May.
- PC is also about to register the land at Langford Corner.

**Name of organisation: Fivehead Playing Field**

**Report by: Frank Doggett (Chairperson)**

- **Lockdown** - the COVID-19 pandemic has had a big effect on our committee's activities in the past year, government guidelines obliging us to lock up the MUGA and children's play area, both of which have now re-opened.
- **New fence** - the new fence around the children's play area has been installed, and we are most grateful for the financial assistance from Fivehead Parish Council and SSDC's Community Grant scheme.
- **Football** - the ban on team sports forced the local football league to cancel all remaining league fixtures. However, the restrictions have now been lifted and a 'Covid Cup' introduced on Saturday afternoons to the end of the season, with Fivehead's two teams on a winning streak!
- **Football dugouts** - the District Council has recently granted planning permission for the two dugouts to be built beside the football pitch near the stile. The football team members intend to do the work during the summer break; the pitch will move slightly left allowing a wider margin along the western edge of the field.
- **Lack of fundraising** - much of our income has dried up - no fete, no Easter or Christmas bingo, fewer football bookings and no marquee hiring - the list goes on. Let's hope things improve in the coming year.
- **Thank you to everyone** - I would like to thank committee members for their efforts through a difficult year: Michael Troutt for trimming the hedges, Parsons Engineering for cutting the grass, the Parish Council for all their support and the many individuals who have helped us during the past twelve months.

**Name of organisation: Fivehead Village Hall**

**Report by: Dave Cunningham (Secretary)**

The Hall has been closed for the last twelve months because of Covid restrictions. Members are liaising to organise re-opening as lockdown rules permit. The only things worth noting are:

- **Finance** - a £2000 Somerset County Council Business support grant has been received. The current account stands at £16,244, petty cash £274 and instant access account £15,632. The Legionella bill is still outstanding at c£900.
- **100 Club** – the Draw was made in Dec 2020 and Jan 2021; now 114 members are all paid up worth £2k per annum. Paul Narey should be complimented on his sterling efforts on this.
- **Community Buildings Membership** – as it was felt valuable input had been had from this membership, the standing order is to be continued.
- **ACRE Covid-19 survey** - a fair bit of time was spent completing and submitting this survey asking about the effects of the pandemic on our plans and activities.

**Name of organisation: Fivehead Drama Group**

**Report by: Harry Price (Treasurer)**

The Drama Group had only one opportunity to perform in 2020, which was the Pantomime. The Pied Piper off of Hambridge in January which was performed with sustained numbers in the audience, compared to the previous year. Thereafter the year was lost due to Covid restrictions. We have been unable to continue our monthly get-togethers and the closing of the Crown will undoubtedly impact on our future monthly meetings, readthroughs and general organisation.

**Notable points of year:**

1. Apart from the Pantomime, unfortunately there were none.

**Aims for 2021:**

1. To reactivate the group and rekindle the enthusiasm of the young folk.
2. To prepare for a new Pantomime and full activities in 2022.
3. To resume our donations to local causes.

**Name of organisation: Crown Fivehead Golf Society****Report by: Harry Price (Chairman)**

In 2020, the Crown Fivehead Golf Society, despite the ravages of the Covid pandemic, managed to organise five trips during the year: in March to a wet and reduced course at Lyme Regis; and resuming in July, a trip to Dainton Park; August saw us return to a full and splendid Lyme Regis; and September a weekend away at Elfordleigh, near Plympton. The season was concluded with a visit to Taunton and Pickering Golf Club for the Chairman's outing. Unfortunately, we were unable to have our Charity Golf day, so this will be carried over to 2021.

**Notable points of the year:**

1. All the outings were well supported.
2. Membership numbers increased still further.

**Aims for 2021:**

1. To hold a successful Charity Day.
2. To maintain full membership
3. To carry out a full programme of activities

**Name of organisation: Fivehead Fellowship & Leisure Club****Report by: Chris Jackson (Chair)**

Due to the Covid Pandemic there is very little to report for the year 2020. The club held only 3 meetings in 2020 before we had to shut down. All the trips were cancelled as well. The January meeting was our AGM while the February and March meetings were talks. The February talk was by Sue Applegate and was entitled From Plant to Plate and the March talk was about the Glenda Spooner Organisation which is a charity looking after horses.

So far this year we have not been able to meet and as I write this report there is no plans to restart the club. We have lost our Treasurer, Meg Tyler, as she has moved away, but I am glad to say Gordon Balmer has agreed to take over as Treasurer.

**Name of organisation: Litter Collection****Report by: Viv Fouracre (Litter Champion)**

All the historic litter has now been cleared from the parish; what you see now is new litter, virtually all of this thrown from vehicles. I set up a Facebook group, Levels Litterpickers, to try and link up the few individuals in local villages tackling the litter and, working together, seven of us have now removed over 160 bags from the surrounding area. We also worked along the A378 from Thornfalcon to Curry Rivel, mostly on Sundays, and cleared all the historic stuff. Sadly, this is being littered again now.

South Somerset DC Streetscene are very supportive, delivering bags and some more robust litter pickers to me and quickly collecting up the result of our labours. I had a visit last week from a member of staff from SSDC Locality department to discuss the ongoing litter and fly-tipping problem and now have some of their signs to put up locally to try and address this. These may or not be successful. I have also written to our MP, David Warburton, who tells me he is aware of the situation, but made the standard response of stating what enforcement action is available to the councils. Unfortunately, this is never going to address the problem, as litterers are rarely seen and it costs quite a lot of money to pursue them even with evidence of the crime.

I have to report a degree of disappointment at the response from villagers on tackling the issue, despite repeated postings on the Nextdoor website and chatting to those that I meet. Quite a number of people say “thanks for all your work” and “like” the posts but there doesn’t seem to be more than a handful of people in the village prepared to actually do something about the problem. I have asked regular walkers if they would carry a plastic bag and collect up the newly dropped litter but very few do so. I’m not sure what they think will happen to it. It’s unfortunate as there is quite a proactive group nearby in North Curry making a difference, so what it is about Fivehead I just don’t know!

CPRE is also promoting the issue and giving out free litter picking kits, but again, no response from Fivehead residents.

**Name of organisation: St Martin's Church**  
**Report by: Ellen Balmer (Church Warden)**

St Martin’s has come through 2020 with many thanks to our vicar, Scott Patterson, the PCC and congregation as well as the huge amount of support from the Village.

We have seen changes on the PCC, said thank you and goodbye to several members and welcomed new. We managed 16 services in church as we went in and out of lockdowns and the Zoom services have proved invaluable.

Our services are now more or less back to the regular pattern of First Sunday of the month, a Family Service, Second Sunday Evening Prayer, Third Sunday Morning Prayer, Fourth Sunday Holy Communion and a Fifth Sunday rotates between Swell, Curry Rivel and Fivehead. You will be assured of a warm welcome to St Martin’s at any of our services. A list of the services can be found in the Parish Magazine and on the church door/notice board. The church is now open 7 days a week.

Our fund raising has continued with a pre ordered and then delivery service for the Plant Sale in May. The support was incredible. Our regular team of fund raisers ran three Tea Deliveries and again, thanks to all their hard work and the support received, we have managed to keep our finances in a reasonable state. There are always some unexpected bills; in November we had slipped tiles replaced to keep our wonderful Grade I church in good repair.

We look forward to more normal times this year and the church is there for all.

**Name of organisation: Fivehead Baptist Church**  
**Report by: Rev Matt Cottington (Minister)**

Whilst the past year has seen so many changes, most of our activities have continued, but frequently in a different form. The church buildings may not always have been in use, but the Church is not the building! When the country first went into lockdown during March, Laurie was up and running with Zoom within the week, so that we were never without Sunday worship. There are just a few without access to Zoom/internet and we are thankful to Steve Cutts who has provided recordings for those who wished to receive them. Of course, technology and Zoom has been a lifeline, but nothing is the same as meeting together. Hence, when we were allowed to meet again, we put in place all the guidelines to safeguard our congregation and we met again in the building from August. However, we continued to zoom our services too and used a camera in the church. On occasion, we have had readings or prayers from those zooming, whilst preaching has been in the church. One major frustration for me has been the prohibition of singing in the church building! In the third lockdown the government did not close the churches, but the considered and strong advice for BUGB and other church leaders was that we refrain from meeting in person. So, with sadness, the Deacons felt it necessary to follow that advice.

During this time, we have had other changes: Rev Laurie Burn retired at the beginning of July 2020 (with a presentation via Zoom!) As we had been aware of this planned move, we were able to start the process of searching for another minister early and were very pleased to welcome Rev Matt

Cottington and family in January 2021. Once again, we had to use the internet and Matt's induction service was a first on Zoom, with only the absolute minimum in the church building. Matt has had a different time meeting the congregation, sometimes via Zoom, sometimes over the 'phone and sometimes socially distanced on the doorstep! Laurie & Karen have only moved to Ilminster and remain active members of our congregation.

The contact lunches provided by the fellowship had to stop in the usual form, but Karen Burn and others have continued to deliver a monthly afternoon tea, keeping in touch with all those who had attended prior to the pandemic. Laurie also helped the St Martin's Close residents with groceries, prescription collections etc.

**Name of organisation: The Stable**  
**Report by: Judy Male (Manager)**

The Stable has been open and shut during the year according to the various regulations. When we were allowed to open for just take away service, we chose not to do this, as a community café, takeaway is not really our prime purpose.

About seven years ago we had been approached by the Post Office (PO) asking about a mobile Location. The discussions came to nothing at that time and we were surprised to hear from the PO again in late summer 2020. Since October 2020 we have accommodated a mobile PO counter on a Thursday afternoon (1.15- 3.15). This continued during the latter lockdowns as an essential service and we did provide a takeaway service just for PO hours. The PO uses a mobile phone signal (they are not permitted to use our internet for security reasons) and the signal is weak and therefore service can be slow. However, we are pursuing a mobile hot spot (thanks to information from Pip Brett). The PO is becoming well used by the village and can provide most of the services that a standard PO can provide.

In recent years, as well as gifting £500 per year to projects in developing countries, we have been able to make an annual donation of £500 to various village causes (playing field equipment, secure storage, bench by the war memorial). This year, with reduced income, we have approached this differently and have improved our outside space for the use of the village customers at the Stable. This space has already proved useful as we are currently allowed to be open serving outdoors only.

One disappointment has been the halting of Youth Café during the restrictions, as it felt irresponsible to encourage young people to mix in potentially contradicting bubbles from those they were in at home and school. However, Youth Café started again from April 22nd using our outdoor space and we look forward to providing a welcome and a safe meeting space for the village teenagers.

As restrictions ease, we look forward to welcoming our customers back. We are grateful to all our volunteers and we are always keen to hear from more potential helpers.

**Name of organisation: Tree Warden**  
**Report by: Barry Knox (Tree Warden)**

As Tree Warden, I report a quiet year with no approaches for advice or assistance. Our vaguely associated survey activity for the National Plant Monitoring Survey has also been on hold. I have received informal comments regarding the alleged breach of the Glendale Planning Permission but have been told the PC has this in hand. From a tree warden's point of view, it is plainly too late to do anything constructive! Nothing has resulted from various attempted contacts with the major woodland resource holder [RSPB] which may be partly to do with the Covid restrictions.

**Reminder:** The Tree Warden is a parish resource for the village. By its nature the role is substantially advisory, facilitatory and reactive, so don't forget it as a resource when considering planning application and planned activities.