**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD via Zoom on Wednesday 5th May 2021**

**Present**: Peter Marsden, Chairman of Misterton Parish Council,

A. Harrison Clerk to the Council.

7 members of the public were present

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (15th May 2019)**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were provided for those present.

**Resolved**: That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

1. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman, Peter Marden provided the following report:

It has certainly been a strange year and one that nobody would have predicted. Clearly the pandemic has focussed the mind on staying safe and protecting the NHS. I think that the behaviour of our Parishioners has been exemplary and we have faired the storm very well and better than most. Our local businesses addressed the situation and provided food and provisions throughout and I hope no-one has gone without food. I include in that the food banks and thanks to all who have contributed to this essential service. Our thanks go to Hazel Brand for keeping the food banks running and also still publishing the Parish News giving us all useful information and contact details for essential services.

Thanks to all our Parish Councillors who have joined in with the Zoom meetings and we have had no change in members. All our meetings have been by Zoom and have been well attended, including some members of the public.

It was good to see that many took part in the clapping for the NHS who did such a marvellous job throughout the pandemic and continue to do so. Also, we still had our bins emptied and our post delivered throughout the pandemic which we are all thankful for.James Greenfield, our Landscape gardener, has continued to cut our grass and North Notts Landscapes have continued to maintain the sports field and the library site. We have also been able to cut back the overgrown hedges and trees around the Bowls Club and they look considerably better. Unfortunately, all the cuttings and debris that has built up over the years, adjacent to the Bowls Club, was not able to be moved before the winter and that will be cleared away when the ground conditions allow.

Unfortunately, we have had events that had to be cancelled because of Covid restrictions such as the VE Day celebrations, the 2020 Parish Meeting, the Christmas Lights Switch on and the village Gala. Hopefully we can resume some of these this year if restrictions allow.

It was disappointing that we had to cancel the Christmas Light Switch on after such a successful event last year. This year we were able to give all 200 pupils at the school a present for Christmas 2020 to compensate for not meeting Santa at the lights switch on. They were gratefully received.

The library has suffered from the restrictions but our thanks must go the all the Volunteers who helped to keep open the service when restrictions allowed. We were able to start opening the library again on Tuesday 13th April with limited opening times and thanks again must go to our Volunteers who have made this possible

We have used the past year to have some maintenance work done to the sports field and also some tree clearance to Church Meadow Gardens. We were able to replace the fence alongside the carpark at the sports field and also paint the equipment around the all-weather facilities.

We kept the precept at the same level this year as we did in 2020 so we have no major projects planned for this year other than the refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion which we are currently trying to raise funds to complete this year.

In 2019 we decided to make a significant investment in 3 CCTV cameras in the village. In 2020 the two at the Library and Church Meadow Gardens were up and working but we are still waiting for BDC to locate a suitable place with internet connections to erect the camera at the Sports Field. Hopefully this can be resolved quickly.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is now in operation and we have received the first of our CIL payments. It is comforting to know that we now have some measure of control over the development of the village. All the hard work of the Steering Group and our Parish Clerk was worthwhile and we should now reap the benefits of the Plan.

The Seniors Citizens’ Christmas Lunch was cancelled this year but the organisers arranged for a food hamper to be delivered to all those who attended in 2020. Our thanks go to Nikki Jaggard-Smith and all her team of volunteers that prepared and delivered the hampers.

We have agreed with the ‘Help me I’m Fine’ Charitable organisation that they can create a Community Garden at the bottom of the field behind the library. They have been looking for a suitable site for a while and we hope Helen Cousins can now create an area for contemplation and relaxation.

The Burial Committee has continued to upkeep the cemetery and discussions have started re the refurbishment/replacing of the wall and fence along the front of the cemetery. Stuart Moody has continued to maintain the grounds and Shirley Moody continued as the Burial Committee Clerk. There has been a recent staff restructuring with the Clerk to the Council & Burial Clerk roles being combined and the dedicated burial Clerk role being made redundant.

Our thanks go to our Staff Natalie Palmer who is our Administrator for The Misterton Centre and Library and Brian Alvy who is our Groundsman. We very much appreciate their hard work over the last year.

Thanks again must go to Angela Harrison, our Village Clerk, from myself and all of the Parish Councillors for her hard work in guiding us through another successful year including the onerous task of coordinating the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan. Thanks also for co-ordinating and setting up the zoom meetings for the Parish Council and the various Working Groups.

I hope, as we come out of lockdown, that we now can begin to resume a more normal village life and enjoy all the facilities that we have available.

1. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

**a) MISTERTON BURIAL COMMITTEE**

Chairman of the Burial Committee, Alan Stead reported as follows:

The number of burials over the last 12 months has been very much in line with previous years where we have seen between six and eight burials per annum. However, like with so many things this year the coronavirus pandemic has had its effect with a slight increase to 10 burials, two of which were confirmed victims of the pandemic.

The number of plots being reserved and memorial stones being erected has again remained as in recent years.

Maintaining the cemetery, remembrance garden and western end of the churchyard is our largest single expenditure. Our problems relating to grass cutting have now largely disappeared and all areas are now looking really good and well cared for. We have over recent years spent a considerable amount on tree maintenance but am pleased to say that this has now been reduced considerably. However, with over 60 trees to maintain there will always be some expenditure to ensure that the health and safety of all visitors is maintained and that any diseased or wind damaged trees are quickly and effectively managed.

There are approximately 100 vacant plots in the cemetery so any expansion of the cemetery into the adjoining field will be at least 10 years away. In the churchyard there are approximately 20 vacant plots in the remembrance garden.

As part of the annual staff reviews this year the Strategic Review Committee considered a staffing restructure to consider financial savings and efficient management of administrative roles within the Council. After review it was agreed that the roles of the Clerk to the Council and the Burial Clerk be combined and following consultation meetings with the staff involved it was agreed to make the position of Burial Clerk redundant.

The Burial Clerk has now relinquished all responsibilities with regards to the Burial Committee and has handed over to the Clerk to the Council.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Shirley Moody for her contribution over the last 11 years as Burial Clerk and wish her all the best for the future.

**b)** **NORTH EAST BASSETLAW FORUM**

David Pearce, Council representative reported as follows:

The NEBF is not an additional tier of local government but rather provides a platform for our local parish councils to meet collectively with officers of the District Council Local County and District Councillors also sit in.

The NEBF allows Bassetlaw District Council to brief the Parish Councils on developments and discuss those topics. It also allows the Parish Councils to raise matters of mutual interest and/or concern.

Our last meeting primarily covered the following:

• Planning enforcement, a concern raised by several Parish Councils including Misterton

• Waste dumping around the district

• Protocols to be followed upon the death of the Monarch

• Covid actions update

• Forthcoming local elections.

**c) MISTERTON COMMUNITY TRUST**

David Pearce, Secretary & Trustee of the Misterton Community Trust provided the following report:

Due to Covid restrictions the Trustees have been unable to meet in person this year.

Contact has been maintained by e-mail and phone. Insurances remain current and funds continue to be invested in low-risk charity accounts.

It is hoped meetings will resume with the easing of restrictions.

**d) MAP LTD**

Councillor Hazel Brand submitted the following report.

Misterton Area Partnership Ltd (MAP) is a charitable organisation that aims to promote rural regeneration for the public benefit in the two villages, Misterton and West Stockwith. It is a company limited by guarantee.

This is possibly the shortest report there will be to the Parish Council.

There were no MAP activities in 2020 – and the organisations that MAP supports, such as the village gala for which MAP provides use of its bank account, didn’t have events either.

Accounts were filed with Companies House, on time having been approved by trustees.

Membership of MAP is open to anyone living in the area, including surrounding villages, for a one-off lifetime payment of £1. Members are invited to attend the AGM each year and any other member meetings that are held.

The Company Secretary is Nikki Jaggard-Smith. Thanks to Nikki and the trustee directors for their input.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK**

The Parish Council started the Financial Year 20/21 with a balance of £98,878 which included a capital reserve of £3720.

Income during the year came to £119,902 including a grant for the pavilion from the LIS improvement scheme and cemetery income. Expenditure came to £94,659

This leaves a year-end revenue balance of £121,121 which includes a library reserve of £1000 and CIL receipts of £707 but no capital reserve as this has now been used.on capital projects. The rise in reserves is largely due to projects being limited throughout the pandemic and a lack of events.

In the current year the Parish Council has budgeted to spend just over £121,000 (including refurbishment of the pavilion) with income expected to be in the region of £94,000 excluding grants

The Precept for 2021/22 has been retained at £93,500 which remains the main source of income.

Payments under the General Power of Competence, in respect of matters considered to be for the good of the community, amounted to £1708. This supported the British Legion and First Responders and included the budget for the Christmas lights.

The Council have no outstanding loans but are owed VAT in the sum of £4961 to be reclaimed for 20/21.

1. **MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS PRESENT**

No matters raised

There being no other matters the meeting was closed at 7.20pm.

Signed………………………………. Dated………………………………………….