

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY 2023 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chair), Cllr C Harper, Cllr H Sutton, Cllr G Dominey, Cllr S Husher

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Cllr E Heron (HCC), Cllr J Richards (NFDC), Mr A Foreman, Mr N & Mrs S Cumming, Mrs S Locock, Mr C Cobb-Smith, Mrs J Inman, Mrs C Thompson, Mrs J Kinsey, Mr E Hale (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly

2. Previous Minutes

The Chairman asked for approval of the Minutes from 23rd May 2022. Councillors approved these and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

3. Annual Report by Chairman

1. I would like to start my report, as last year, by saying a few thank yous. Firstly I would like to thank David Bellini who has served on the Parish Council for at least two terms and who has made a significant contribution to our village. If Councillors agree I would like to write to him on our behalves to say this.
2. Secondly once again I would like to say a big thank you to our County and District Councillor Edward Heron and also to our very efficient and helpful Clerk, Edward Hale.
3. Lastly I would like to thank all of those in the Village who give their time to help make our village the special place it is. In particular I would single out the Harper family who do more than most of us will ever know about.
4. This last year has been the first post Covid year when we've been able to have the full normal range of events. We've seen the return of our wonderful Village Show under the leadership of Steve and Elaine and two excellent Royal events - the Jubilee and Coronation - under the leadership of Marcus and Sara respectively. Thank goodness Sara has decided to build her house and stay in the village. The Village Hall events team have provided a full programme including bingo, coffee mornings and the superb free winter lunch initiative which was incredibly popular. It's very encouraging that newer members of the village are coming forward to help organise these events. Alongside all of this Paul and Annette have built a reputation at the cartwheel for outstanding hospitality.
5. Communication within the Village - a combination of WhatsApp, the website and the seasonal newsletter - have all helped to keep us connected.
6. Lastly this year saw the production of a new Village Plan - the first for 15 years. It has been an invaluable exercise that should give us confidence that we live in a happy and cohesive village

and also it gives us a blueprint for those areas that villagers want us in the Parish Council to focus on in the future.

7. In the context of the Village Plan I would like to make 3 observations on issues I believe we as a village might want to also focus on which the plan didn't particularly highlight. I stress these are personal views and I'm not offering any prescription for them

These are:

- How we should manage the **effect of wider development** around us in Fordingbridge, Alderholt etc and its impact on **infrastructure**
- What steps we as a **community** can take to increase our resilience in the face of the Climate Crisis
- Lastly like many small country villages we have a church that is struggling to maintain relevance in an increasingly secular society and while there may be few who attend services many more would miss it hugely when weddings, baptisms and funerals were wanted. How do we ensure our church is preserved and relevant for future generations?

4. Annual Financial Statement by Clerk

The balance in the Council Accounts has increased by £452.21 overall during the financial year.

The Parish Council had £12,601.25 at the start of the year and now has £13,053.46.

The income for the year was £2,542.73 in total comprising £2,200.00 from the precept, £338.00 from two grants from Cllr E Heron, and £4.73 of interest on the bank accounts.

The expenditure for the year was £2,090.52 in total which includes £156.93 for insurance, £329.89 for Village Plan printing, £720.00 for grass cutting, and £398.84 for the new notice board.

The Parish Council has only issued 11 cheques during the year, which are listed in the Accounts.

Edward Hale – 26.05.23