

Gulworthy Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th April 2021

Notice

Due to the current Government restrictions relating to public meetings, the Parish Council held a virtual Annual Parish meeting. Members of the public and press were invited to attend the meeting.

Agenda No 128

Meeting opened 7.33pm

Present: Cllrs Royston (Chair), Eve, Kemp, Miller and Porter

Apologies Cllrs Lister, Sellis (DCC) and Crozier (WDBC)

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Members of the public – 13 members of the public were present. Positive comments relating to the Newsletter were voiced, suggestions that it could also be emailed were raised. A suggestion that a 'Facebook' page could also be useful in providing more immediate information.
3. Update on Broadband – Two guest speakers from Airband attended, they provided a summary of their installation and services for the parish, work commenced in March and it is anticipated to be completed by December 2021. Subscription to their services start from £38 + installation fee of £99, a special deal maybe available when the new service commences. Numerous questions were raised by the public, these were all answered by the representatives.
4. Update on key Parish Council initiatives
 - 4.1. Safety and parking opposite Gulworthy Primary School – Cllr Eve provided a summary update on the progress that is being made. Funding for the project is still a problem with quotes starting from £12,500 to complete the work, additional grants are being looked into. A possibility of providing electric charging points in the parking bays is also being considered. The head of school Melody Sterry suggested that teachers would park at the playing field if this was possible. Cllr Eve also suggested better use of the public transport including the school bus for their children could help to ease some of the current problem. Reverend Judith Blowey and the Chair of the Parish Hall Mr Jim Chalcraft also supported the initiative, they confirmed that the traffic at certain times of the day did give cause for concern and sometimes problematical for their parishioners and customers
 - 4.2. Cemetery ecology area – The council has now set aside a managed area, it is anticipated that wildlife and wildflowers will gradually benefit from this initiative. Native wildflower seeds will be encouraged to be sown in the designated area's. The council is looking into a request for a designated 'Green' burial area in the cemetery.
 - 4.3. Gulworthy clean-up litter picking – Cllr Eve gave a brief summary of how she and 8 volunteers had started to do some informal litter picking around the parish, 56 sacks of litter were collected by 2 volunteers alone, there is also an active group in Mill Hill. Litter picking equipment has been sourced however more is still required for which funding has been applied for. Much praise for the work done has been received from passers by.
 - 4.4. Newsletter – see item 2
 - 4.5. 'Gulworthy Together' – This was not discussed.

Parish Councillors

George Lister (Chair); Kate Royston (Vice chair)

Sue Eve; Jim Hamilton; Matt Kemp, Wendy Miller; Suzanne Porter.

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5. Parish Survey and responses – The recently published survey had not yet received any responses
6. Climate & Biodiversity
 - 6.1. Parish's declaration & what it means - Cllr Royston provided some details of useful links for information including 'Action on Climate' published by Teighbridge D.C. and D.C.C's Devon Carbon Plan. The council was looking at various aspects of Bio-diversity and how that could be useful for households and businesses in Gulworth parish.
 - 6.2. What's important to you and what you think we should all be doing collectively. Parishioners were asked what their thoughts were, responses included; more housing for younger buyers in the parish, what opportunities there were for new housing that included solar power units. Electric car charging points.
 - 6.3. Next steps (towards Parish climate & Biodiversity action plan & targets). Cllr Royston suggested that small working groups could be set up, they would share knowledge and formulate best practise.
7. Parishioners' feedback and councils summing up – Cllr Royston thanked all the parishioners and speakers who attended the meeting and welcomed their feedback.

Meeting closed 9.05pm

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday 5th May, 7.30pm, this will be a virtual zoom meeting.

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