**Todenham Parish Council**

**Annual Parish Assembly**

The assembly was held on 5th October 2021 at the Village Hall at 19.30

**Present: Bruce Eastabrook (Chair), Stephen Pannell, Jo Trice-Rolph, James Duckett, Sue Finlay (Clerk)**

**Village hall Committee members: Karen Pannell, Margaret Clark, Eve Smith,**

**Members of the public: Richard Derrington, Louise Derrington, Adam Smith, Roddy Playfair, Anne Longhurst, Alison Eastabrook,**

*APA.2021.1. Apologies.* Bill Joss, Cynnie Clifford, Valerie Cole, Diane Seymour,

Roger Wood, Brian Corboy and Karen Parkin, Christopher Seel

*APA.2021.2. Approval of minutes of last meeting (2020)*: The minutes of the las meeting were read and approved (Proposed, BE; Seconded, SP)

*APA.2021.3. Parish Council Chairman's report, 2020–2021*

Reflecting back over the year and beyond, 2020 and early 2021 will rank amongst the strangest and most challenging periods in the history of the village; arguably only preceded by the two World Wars……

Months passed by in lockdown, with no opportunity to meet and discuss topics as we normally would; Zoom and Teams were our only means of achieving some elements of normality, electronically face-to-face though we were.

Yet we managed to perform most of the tasks and duties which required discussion and actions, helped enormously by the diligence and advice delivered by our new Clerk, Sue Finlay.

May I take this opportunity to thank Sue for her professional and structured input; I am confident that if there were ever a review of Todenham’s processes and actions, we would pass with flying colours!

May I also take the opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for giving up their time and for constantly considering the welfare of the village; I think we have developed an efficient and effective group which combines different perspectives which together facilitate open and constructive debate.

It is satisfying also that we have been able to manage our financial affairs prudently and that we therefore have reserves which, as we now return to normality, will allow us to consider various initiatives knowing we can fund them to a modest degree.

In that context, we were pleased to be able to commit to financially supporting the Village Hall as well as the commemorative plaque which will be unveiled later. May I thank those villagers who made generous donations in support of that initiative, which was managed by the Deputy Chairman Bruce Eastabrook. Thanks to him for leading the project.

On our ‘to be considered’ list at the moment we currently have traffic calming/speed reduction, restoration of the village pond and one or two village events.

As we did throughout the Covid 19 restrictions, we will continue to monitor Planning Applications, supporting those which we feel enhance the village, and objecting to those which do not.

We will discuss and agree actions where we can make a difference and apply our effort and our time on behalf of our fellow villagers; we would be delighted to welcome more support from you as fellow villagers, and we look forward to seeing new faces at our quarterly meetings.

*Read by BE*

*APA.2021.4 Finance*

BE read a brief resume of the finances and let everyone know that copies of the accounts were available for viewing:

The council has maintained a healthy bank balance through what has been a difficult and unpredictable year. The precept is currently 10,815.

Our main expenses are supporting the village hall, and the Parish Clerk. The balance at the moment means that the council can comfortably cover expenses to the end of the year and our ‘to be considered’ list of traffic calming/speed reduction, restoration of the village pond, and one or two village events, and still have an acceptable back-up fund for emergencies.

The finances are attached as Appendix I.

*APA.2021.5. Village Reports*

*Village hall:* Presented by Margaret Clark Last year’s AGM was held by Zoom. The hall has been closed over COVID, but the committee has met regularly by Zoom. Thanks were given for the help clearing the car park and new pots were to be planted up for the spring. Thanks were also given to Mike Mungarvan for mowing the grass. The outside of the hall is to be painted next spring. There are two regular events planned – the breakfast club and a pop-up pub.

*Church:* Read on behalf of the Rev. Henry Curran by BE:

As the new vicar of the parish I am sorry not to be able to come to this meeting due to a prior commitment at a conference in Nottingham. I moved to Moreton-in-Marsh in July and have been enjoying getting to know the area and meeting people, and I am particularly looking forward to getting to know Todenham more and seeing how we can develop the work of the church in the area. The church is struggling financially at the moment so I am extremely grateful for everyone who supports the church and for things like the 100 club. We are also currently without a treasurer or churchwarden and are looking for people to help look after the finances and some of the work needed on the building. I am very sorry about the lack of progress on the fallen down wall and am trying to get up to speed with the situation regarding the owner of the Blacksmith’s Cottage, the diocese, and our insurers. I am aware that it needs urgent attention. Everyone is very welcome to any of our services, which are held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 9:30am.

*APA2021.6 Other reports:*

*PC Westmacott* (read by BE):

Although last year was in lockdown the crime figures are so far higher for last year compared to this year. Burglary was high last year. Criminal damage to vehicles was also high but was a short crime spree over one night. There was also a set of crime figures which were made available for viewing (see Appendix II). Due to the backlog in court cases detection rates will be low until a court outcome is made

*Rachael Coxcoon.* Councillor Coxcoon did not send a report.

*Village hall*

*APA2021: 7. Speeding in the village:*  SP had been looking into this problem and the council were considering installing flashing speed signs. However, they need the support of CC Highways in this and they are not very enthusiastic at the moment, even though the PC will be funding it. Highways have the final say over location, etc. He has also raised the issue of the state of the road off Springbank and has been assured that Highways are ‘looking into it’. The poor state of repair has already caused damage to a bike and will become dangerous over the winter if it becomes icy or obscured by snow. They were also looking into the state of the hedge obstructing the footpath at bank Farmhouse and had written to the owner.

*APA2021:8 Questions from residents and AOB*

JTR, on behalf of the village, thanked Bruce for his work on the installation of the memorial stone; he, in turn credited JD for coming up with the idea.

Richard Derrington asked if there was any likelihood of the village pub re-opening. No information was currently available on this. He asked if there was any possibility of a community buy-out, but was told that this would necessitate a community group being formed, who were willing to raise funds and run the pub.

JD praised Councillor Coxcoon for all the work she had done in trying to resolve the problem of Blacksmiths Cottage/ old Forge. Unfortunately, as this is involved in a police investigation and therefore sub-judice, no further progress can be made here at the moment.

*APA2021.8. Unveiling of war memorial*

In view of the inclement weather, it was decided that a glass should be raised indoors, rather than outside and the meeting was closed at 19.50.

*Refreshments*

# Appendix I

## Todenham Parish Council accounts for 01/04/2021 to 28/09/2021

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 01/04/2021 |  | Balance brought fwd |  |  |  | 11,863.68 |
| 01/04/2021 |  | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & Exp | FPO | 416.87 | 11,446.81 |
| 01/04/2021 |  | P. Luker | Fitting memorial stone | FPO | 570 | 10,876.81 |
| 19/04/2021 |  | C. Bonwitt | Memorial donation | BACS | 50 | 10,926.81 |
| 19/04/2021 |  | S. W. Lunn | Memorial donation | BACS | 50 | 10,976.81 |
| 22/04/2021 |  | CDC | Precept | BACS | 8112 | 19,088.81 |
| 30/04/2021 |  | D. Seymour | Memorial donation | Cheque | 25 | 19,113.81 |
| 30/04/2021 |  | A. Lycett | Memorial donation | Cash | 50 | 19,163.81 |
| 04/05/2021 |  | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. | BACS | 315.63 | 18,848.18 |
| 04/05/2021 |  | Ken Dunn | Internal audit | BACS | 75 | 18,773.18 |
| 05/05/2021 |  | HMRC | VAT refund | BACS | 284.38 | 19,057.56 |
| 05/05/2021 |  | C. Seel | Memorial donation | cheque | 30 | 19,087.56 |
| 12/05/2021 |  | Alison Eastabrook | Pond Signage | BACS | 92.53 | 18,995.03 |
| 13/05/2021 |  | Zurich | Insurance | BACS | 385.45 | 18,609.58 |
| 28/05/2021 |  | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. | BACS | 101.53 | 18,508.05 |
| 01/06/2021 |  | Todenham Village Hall | Donation | BACS | 2500 | 16,008.05 |
| 25/06/2021 |  | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. | BACS | 191.54 | 15,816.51 |
| 08/07/2021 |  | TechTonic | ESET renewal | BACS | 39.99 | 15,776.52 |
| 13/07/2021 |  | BWP Creative | Email hosting | BACS | 72 | 15,704.52 |
| 15/07/2021 |  | Bonus print | Thank you cards, via Bruce | BACS | 20.45 | 15,684.07 |
| 26/07/25021 |  | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. | BACS | 188.8 | 15,495.27 |
| 26/08/2021 |  | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. | BACS | 175.93 | 15,319.34 |
| 02/09/2021 |  | Community Heartbeat | Defibrillator battery | BACS | 282 | 15,037.34 |
| 02/09/2021 |  | Community Heartbeat | VETS fee to 91/06/2022 | BACS | 120 | 14,917.34 |
| 09/09/2021 |  | Sue Finlay | APA Catering | BACS | 28.14 | 14,889.20 |
| 23/09/2021 |  | CDC | Precept | BACS | 2703 | 17,592.20 |
| 28/09/2021 |  | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & Exp | BACS | 184.59 | 17,407.61 |

## **Todenham Parish Council: Receipts and payments accounts for the year 2021 to 28 September 2021**

**Receipts**

Precept 10,815

VAT refund 284

Donations (Memorial stone) 205\*

**Total 11304**

**Payments**

Staff Costs 1263

Insurance 385

Village hall donation 2500

Administration exp. 147

Defibrillator exp. 402

Audit 75

Village Pond Signage 93

Memorial stone expenses 570

Computer sundries 112

**Total 5547**

**Balance currently in bank 17,407.61**

**\*Memorial stone totals**

Total donations 1136

Total expenses 1510

# Appendix II

## Crime Comparison Statistics For Parish Council. Period : 01JAN2021 - 11SEP2021 Compared With 01JAN2020 - 31DEC2020; Parish : 212 (Todenham)

| **HO Band** | **HO Category** | **Crime 01JAN21 11SEP21** | **Crime 01JAN20 31DEC20** | **+/-** | **% Crime Diff** | **Detect 01JAN21 11SEP21** | **Detect 01JAN20 31DEC20** | **+/-** | **% Detect Diff** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Violence | Stalking | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Violence | Malicious Communications | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Violence | Public Fear, Alarm or Distress | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Violence | Assault w/o Injury | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Sexual offences | Sexual assault on female 13+ | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Burglary | Burglary - Residential | 1 | 5 | -4 | (80.00%) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Burglary | Burglary - Business and community | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Theft | Profiting from/Concealing Knowledge of the Proceeds of Crime | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Theft | Other theft/unauth taking | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Criminal damage | Criminal damage -vehicles | 1 | 3 | -2 | (66.67%) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Criminal damage | Criminal damage -other | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Other notifiable | Possession of Firearms Offences | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Other notifiable | Blackmail | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Other notifiable | Obscene Publications, etc. | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| = |  | 8 | 15 | -7 | (46.67%) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |

Detections Exclude Administrative Disposals ( NFA, Investigation Complete - No Suspect, Evidential Difficulties).

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