

BINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Assembly held in The Village Hall, Binton on
Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Mike Flaxman (in the Chair)
Sarah Bishop, Richard Cox, Tom Lloyd and Colin Taylor
Clerk: Karen Parnell
Two members of the public were present

1) **Apologies for acceptance**

Cllr Alex Finch, District Councillor Mark Cargill and County Councillor Piers Daniell

2) **Minutes** of the Parish Assembly held in 2021

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

Matters arising from those minutes

A Housing Needs Survey will be considered in due course.

3) **Chairman's report**

Binton Parish Council Assembly Tuesday 10th May 2022

It's been another interesting and at the same time alarming year with COVID and events in Ukraine. Hopefully things are now returning to a semblance of normal in the UK as we learn to live with COVID, and we can only hope that there is some resolution for the people of Ukraine. The Village Hall was a collection point for aid for Ukraine on March 3rd 2022 and was overwhelmed by the local response.

Parish council meetings are now again in person. The Binton WhatsApp group and the Binton Life Facebook page also seem to be quite active and running well. Many events have taken place in the last year which I can say, without doubt, has been the most active 12 months for the council during my time as Chair. The Heart of England Forest charity who acquired 300 acres of land in the village at the beginning of 2021 have now almost completed the planting of the forest areas and have also, incidentally, planted their 2 millionth tree, an event which the parish council vice Chair was involved. It will be a while before we see the fruits of their labour taking substance, but the parish looks forward to it with a deal of anticipation. We have continued to maintain the Village Green as well as possible and the Council supports our local church and Village Hall with small maintenance grants.

A new Village Hall Committee was established in November 2021 and has to date very successfully revitalised the hall with a considerable number of

initiatives. The accounts and the Committee's more detailed report on the Village Hall activities follows this report. I would wish to minute my thanks again to Denise Day for her work up to May 2021 and then to Cllr Martin (as manager from June to November 21) and Cllr Bishop (from June and then November 2021 on as manager) for their input to management and support of the hall. The new committee, chaired by Cllr Bishop, must be congratulated by the Parish Council on their remarkable efforts to reinvigorate and improve the hall and for their invaluable work and efforts in such a short time. Key improvements to the Village Hall in the past year include:

- Redecoration carried out by volunteers and the installation of new window blinds (funded through WCC by our local county councillor Piers Daniell).
- The installation of a Public Access Defibrillator, 50% funded by Avon Homes, which is a major improvement in facilities for the village.
- In March 2022 the parish council also funded the installation of new hot water supplies for the Village Hall at a cost of £902.

On the subject of speeding and traffic volumes, the Parish Council acquired a second speed warning sign in November 2021 at a cost of £2,485 excluding recoverable VAT. In February we were informed that our county councillor had funding available to install Village Approach Gates at the North and South

Village entrances. The Speedwatch group has agreed the positioning and specification for the gates, and these will be installed around May or June this year. The group will monitor speeds through our signs before and after installation to try to gauge the effectiveness as a pilot for other villages. In addition, work started in February on the Shottery Relief Road with completion in spring 2023. The impact of this alternative route between the A46 and the B439 will be watched with considerable interest. Courtesy of WCC we have had our surface road signs repainted this year which is an improvement.

The parish council, in setting the increased precept for 2022/23, set aside a budget of £2,500 for unspecified village improvements. The cost of the hot water installation for the Village Hall was subsequently funded as the first part of this initiative, leaving £1,600 to be identified for project(s) this year. This will be discussed as part of the following meeting agenda and a flyer issued by me to the village to set out our finances and to begin identifying on what we would best spend our project fund.

All in all, a very busy year and my personal thanks to those residents who attended our meetings, the Parish Clerk, my Parish Council colleagues, past and present, and our local County and District councillors.

Mike Flaxman
Chairman Binton Parish Council

4) **Village Hall Committee**

Binton Village Hall - Financial Report for year ending 5th April 2022

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions still in place during the first quarter of the financial year, the Village Hall committee has managed to gain record revenue in order to service and maintain the building.

Whilst the hall hire takings of £935.50 and parking charge of £200 remains consistent with previous years, there have been alternative forms of income gained from the launch of seasonal fayres and pop-up shops which have proven to be great successes. This was instigated not only to raise funds for the tiring hall but also to unite the community of Binton.

The pop-up shops are held each month and provide refreshments for passers-by along with tables of homemade produce created by talented members of the village. We are not only experiencing good support from the community but also cycling groups from around the area who are using it as 'stop off' point. These pop-up shops make an average £200 revenue each time (c. £160 after costs) and the committee would like to thank the people who support this cause to make it happen.

There have been two fundraising fayres held at the village hall in the year. The first being a craft fayre where the residents of Binton had the option of selling their handmade items and donating 10% of their takings to the village hall funds. With a combination of the table holders, the sale of refreshments and the raffle, a healthy amount of £451.50 was raised and so it was agreed that £150 was to be donated to the church. The second fayre was held within the Christmas period however Covid distancing restrictions were put into place and poor weather dampened the event. Despite these barriers, a whopping £898.70 was raised with only £50 of related expenses.

Donations amounted to £463.62 with the parish council contributing to £400 of this amount and the balance from sources such as Amazon Smile, Easy fundraising and donations from the public at the events held.

An application to Warwickshire County Council was successful - they contributed £741 in grant to go towards the purchase of the blinds and Stratford District Council contributed £120 - for using the hall for elections.

Whilst the revenue has increased, expenditure has also increased however the majority of this has been spent on property repairs and equipment. Brewers Decorators kindly donated a substantial amount of paint and materials to assist with the redecoration of the property and so made considerable savings on these expenses. The main expense attributed to the repairs and maintenance were the blinds fitted in the windows. Due to the dimensions of the windows, these

had to be bespoke and are made from a material which will provide longevity. A new coded lock has been fitted onto the exterior door at a cost of £109.99 but will enable committee members to enter without the need of a key. Hot water tanks have now been fitted which makes the hall much more desirable to hire along with plumbing and redecoration of the rest rooms.

The hall now enjoys the use of a refrigerator, a new hot water urn and chairs at a cost of £169.00, £84.99 and £95.00 retrospectively.

Both the utility rates have increased but are down considerably in relation to the productive use of the hall.

In conclusion, the village hall committee has made tremendous efforts to rejuvenate the hall to not only make it desirable for income producing activities but also preserve the building for the villagers to enjoy in years to come. By having a surplus of £1,323.22 from the year's income and expenditure leaves a bank balance of £2,705.76 although there is much more to do with regards to the internal work of the building and also ensure that the building is structurally sound.

5) **District Councillor's report**

SDC Cllr Mark Cargill conveyed apologies

6) **County Councillor's report**

WCC Cllr Piers Daniell conveyed apologies

7) **Open forum**

Concern was expressed by a resident regarding a spate of recent burglaries. Tools have been stolen from vans and number plates from cars. The police are aware and are increasing patrols in the area. CCTV and lighting as deterrents were considered.

Planning permission regarding rendering on a residents property was discussed. This is a district council matter and the property owner was advised to speak to Cllr Cargill.

Meeting closed 7.30pm