



MINUTES OF PATTINGHAM AND PATSHULL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25th April 2022 AT PATTINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors: R Lines (Chairman), D Billson (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Davies, N Land, J Tomlinson, N Hill

Members of the public present: Miss Carol Cadman, Mrs Alison Colin-Stokes, Daisy and Beth.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr T Mason, M Finch, A Freeman, L Billingham.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings held on the 26th July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th July 2021 were agreed as an accurate and true record of that meeting.

3. To discuss any matters arising from the previous Annual Parish Meeting of the 26th July 2021

None were reported.

4. Report of the Chairman

The Coronavirus pandemic continued to impact events and most were cancelled for the second year running including the Over 65's Christmas Lunch. One event that did go ahead was the Scarecrow Festival, and the Parish Council was a beneficiary of some of the proceeds that will go towards the installation of some outdoor adult gym equipment on Pattingham Playing Fields during 2022.

Some tree maintenance from the park along Westbeech Road and High Street was completed to assist with traffic visibility of road signs. Elsewhere on the park we replaced the zip-wire seat, and cradle swings seats, together with some ground repairs and the clearing of land in the northeast corner of the park to enable the creation of a Tiny Forest. Initiated by Earthwatch Europe and sponsored by Severn Trent Water, the Pattingham Daffodil Tiny Forest is a dense fast-growing native woodland of 600 trees, planted by local children in a small area the size of a tennis court. The site will be monitored and environmental and social data will be collected.

The street map of Pattingham was replaced near the shops to blend in with the nearby Parish Council and Community noticeboards.

In Burnhill Green we purchased a Christmas Tree for the village green, and supplied litter picking equipment for local volunteers. We also funded training for a local Community Speedwatch Group.

We took advantage of a grant to reopen the high street by purchasing two new planters for the front of the village hall, and three new picnic tables for the park, including one that provides disabled access for a wheelchair.

Finally, we are pleased to report a reduction (-4.9%) in parish council tax for 2022/23.

Rob Lines

Chairman 2021 - 2022.

5. Parish Reports

St. Chad's C of E (VC) First School

Report to Pattingham Parish Council

After two of the most challenging years in our living memory, it was an absolute joy to see everyone return to school in September. There was a wonderful atmosphere and much excitement to begin the year. We talked of positivity and hope. Our children settled well and all made a very positive start. Whilst society was being told that we were returning to normal school continued to be plagued by Covid and this academic year has been very problematic in terms of absence in pupils and staff. The change in guidance meant that whole classes no longer had to isolate which made an enormous difference. We commented, several times that some year groups would not have been in school from the second week in September until around February half term had the previous guidelines remained. Costs have been difficult to manage as we have had to cover staff and increase provision in terms of cleaning, catering etc.

Ofsted

Just as we started to get the Christmas decorations out of the cupboards the call came in to say that we were to be inspected. (The inspection begins around 1 hour after the initial call with the inspector interview. Documentation and timetables are pulled together for an early start on day two). The inspection was an intense process but we were hugely proud of the outcome. The feedback we received was high praise indeed with the inspectors quite overwhelmed by the wonderful school we have. The new way of report writing means it is quite bland by comparison to what was shared but it is nevertheless a report to be very proud of.

Staffing

Staffing is stable but for the first time in a long time we had no maternity cover for class teachers. This was a reassuring feeling although we have been fortunate to have some excellent cover support. We have one member of support staff away presently on maternity leave with the position being ably filled by another member of our support team. It has been lovely to have someone step in with such ease. More recently it has been lovely to resume face to face staff meetings. They have not taken place throughout the pandemic and the Local Authority has been keen to maintain certain rules and practices although the guidance has been changed several times.

Federation

Following a consultation period St. Chad's joined with Codsall High Federation of schools in January. This is an exciting new venture and we are looking forward to developing our work together. Already we are seeing the benefits of being part of a bigger organisation.

Christian Character

We are proud of our church foundation and have worked hard to maintain our distinctive Christian character. The Open the book team have continued to entertain us with stories but by means of recordings. We have managed to visit church although not as often as we once did. Worship has continued with new and innovative ways of delivery. Those entering school comment on the lovely feel that it has. Teaching and learning is supported by our vision and values and the outcomes speak for themselves.

Visits and visitors

We are starting to make plans for the summer term to enable the children to get out and about. We have a lovely link developing with a local farm and have benefited from the opportunities this provides. Children will be visiting next half term to support their learning on topics such as growing, water, history, farming.

Making memories

School has been a buzz with staff and children making wonderful memories. We have had an invasion of Vikings, been taken over by pirates, seen Victorian school children, boarded the Polar express, had Father Christmas reading a bedtime story, dressed up for world book day, raised the roof in song as we joined together in church. We watched in awe as four tiny ducklings emerged from their eggs and were amazed at their rate of growth. We have made mud pies at forest school, planted trees, caught newts, made cakes, cooked lunch, explored our village the list goes on. We are looking forward to more fun with Jubilee celebrations, the open the book team returning, a visit from a gorilla to find out about ECO solutions, sports days, performances, football matches, residential visits, school sleep overs. It really is a privilege to be able to facilitate such happy times.

Improvements

As I write there are people walking about over my head as the flat roof is repaired and insulated. We hope that in doing so we will be able to retain some heat and our clunky old oil boilers will not have to work so hard next winter. Over Easter the fencing should finally be replaced around the playgrounds. Even the children have commented on how sad the fencing looks and that they do not like looking through it. Hopefully we will look much smarter considerably more modern.

Closing thoughts

There has been a very strong sense of community within our school during the pandemic indeed within the whole village. I have said in several reports that never before have our school values been so important. Through the most challenging of times the wonderful team at St. Chad's have pulled together, gathered strength from each other and soldiered on. They are fully aware of how grateful I am to each one of them. The 'keep calm and carry on' mantra that was seen all over was certainly true within our school. The children have continued to enjoy school, blissfully unaware of the trials and tribulations facing the adults around them. We are very proud of our school and very proud of the village within which it stands. Our children are lucky to be part of a lovely community, we have much to be grateful for.

Sarah Yeomans - Headteacher

Pattingham Belles

Pattingham belles started in 2016 with offering back to netball session to the area followed by children's sessions.

There was some netball in 2021 but this has been the first year we have really got back into since covid and we have taken some of the ladies from the back to netball sessions in 2021 and formed a new team (Pattingham belles purples) and they have entered a start-up league.

We hope to restart the back to netball sessions in May (weather depending) and team training will also start at a separate time there is the potential for the children sessions again and this has always been popular.

we currently have three teams playing over four leagues and around 25 ladies out playing each week, we have the original team, Pattingham belles, the new team, Pattingham belles purples and a team from Codsall have joined us renaming themselves as Pattingham Diamonds . We also have a few teenagers who train with us, future belles in progress.

We would be grateful if we could have the slot back on a Wednesday eve for team training and hopefully back to netball sessions for the wider public.

Thanks for the support

Amy and the belles

Pattingham & Patshull Over 65 Christmas Lunch

Report to Annual Parish Meeting April 2022

The Committee would like to thank the Council, for the grant towards the Over 65's Christmas Meal that should have been held in December 2021.

Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions we were unable to hold the Christmas meal. The grant will go towards putting on this years event in December 2022.

Julie Wood and Sharon Simmons

Report on Pattingham Village Hall Management Committee 2022

The Pattingham Village Hall is an independent, privately owned facility run by a management committee made up principally of volunteers. There is one caretaker for the Hall (Anna Davies) and there is a paid booking clerk (Sharon Simmons) who also acts as Secretary at our management meetings.

Despite increases in our oil, electricity and waste disposal costs, a combination of tight financial management, and more significantly, Government grants due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have enabled us stay financially sound, and keep our rental charges competitive for the benefit of the village organisations and families that use the Hall.

In the past the Management Committee has had to arrange a number of fundraising activities to make its finances balance. As the Hall utilisation has increased, the need for fund raising has diminished. We only need to raise money for re-decoration and any major improvements and we are appreciative of Parish Council support for such projects. We are also grateful for a generous donation from the James Beattie Charitable Trust enabling us to buy a commercial dishwasher for our new kitchen facility. Finally, the Management Committee have taken responsibility for the CCTV equipment in our building, and thank the Parish Council for the annual grant to maintain the system into the future.

Rob Lines, Chairman

A presentation was made to Miss Carol Cadman – Miss Cadman has served as Brownies firstly as an assistant to Brown-owl, then Snowy Owl and Brown Owl over the past 40 years. Her service to this village has helped keep brownies alive when other similar groups have folded. During Covid she kept the group going doing meetings online. Daisy a member of her troop presented her with a Pattingham Shield to thank her on behalf of the residents of Pattingham and Patshull for her dedication and service to the Parish.

6. Matters raised by the public present None were reported.

Pattingham was pleased to recognise Miss Carol Cadman for 40 years of service to Pattingham Brownies. Many scouting organisations have folded in the village in recent years, but Carol has kept Brownies going - meeting online when lockdown restrictions prevented physical meetings. Carol was presented with a Pattingham plaque by one of the current brownies Daisy Colin-Stokes.

7. Date of next APM meeting – 17th April 2023

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.