

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 15 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT:

J Gooch, N Farnden, J Hubble, R Rowley-Smith, P Martin, P Mailer. Apologies received prior to the meeting from Cllr. P Tynan.

Refreshments were served on arrival.

Jill Gooch welcomed 33 residents and speakers to the meeting.

Report from Hail Weston Parish Council Chairman, Jill Gooch

Once again, despite the pandemic, the Parish Council has been able to discuss and resolve various issues that have arisen during the year. It has been lovely to be able to finally meet face to face for meetings and thanks to those residents who have also attended either for information or to raise matters and issues of concern.

The Parish Council has remained at full membership this year and I would like to thank all of my fellow Councillors, along with the Parish Clerk Jen Abell, for all of their help, support, commitment, enthusiasm and hard work this year.

Our County Councillor, Ian Gardener, has continued to attend our meetings when his diary allows, and he always keeps us informed of any opportunities to shape consultations and wider county news. His help is much appreciated.

We have continued to focus on our two main areas of work, which are representing the parish on issues affecting the community and maintaining our open spaces. Planning, as always, has kept us very busy. There was an application for another solar farm at Little Staughton which has now been withdrawn. Redevelopment of agricultural buildings was approved. There were 5 applications for alterations or extensions to existing properties. An application for a new build bungalow was declined.

We have made some great improvements to our open spaces.

Firstly, a huge thank you to Peter Mailer, who has worked really hard to improve the Garden of Rest with "Tommy's", planted beds, benches and a memorial tree. A plaque was also installed to mark 75 years since VE day and a small service was held in the Garden in November.

Secondly, the Playing Field has had an upgrade, with new equipment being installed and some of the surfaces being replaced. There is still some more work to be done but I think you will agree that this is a great asset to the village. A huge thank you to Phil Martin for his work in making all of this happen.

A car park extension is also being considered at the Playing Field, to hopefully ease some of the parking problems in Newtown.

All of these large projects take a lot of planning, consultation and work. Jen Abell tackles all of the paperwork involved in making these projects happen. Thank you, Jen.

On a slightly smaller scale, a new memorial bench has been placed next to the village sign, there has been some tree work and the ongoing maintenance work carries on in the new cemetery.

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Rebecca Rowley-Smith prepares a report every month that documents the condition of the open spaces and any works that may be required either immediately or in the future. This is an important role that helps us to ensure safety as well as the village looking as good as possible at all times.

Paul Tynan has headed the project to update the Website to make it more of a Community Website. This is now up and running, despite a few teething problems. I hope you will all take some time to have a look at it and we always welcome comments and feedback. Thank you, Paul.

Over the last two years a dedicated group of 10 people have been preparing the next survey for a new Community Led Plan to cover the period 2022-2027. Nick Farnden has headed this project.

An online questionnaire has been developed to survey the opinions of all villagers. The survey should be launched in April with a view to publishing the new plan in mid-2022. Although it is expected that most residents will complete the survey online, there will also be the option of a paper questionnaire for those who prefer a more traditional format.

The new speed signs in the village are proving helpful in reminding drivers to check their speeds. The data recorded is proving useful, particularly on the B645, by recording the numbers of vehicles using the roads and whether speeds are being adhered to. Jeff Hubble has been very involved with helping this project come to fruition. His next endeavour is to bid for funding to install lighting along the cycle path of the B645.

My role within the council, along with keeping an eye on the finances, is to liaise with the village hall. As I am sure you are all aware, sadly we lost the pre-school as regular users at the end of last year. However, the bank account is in good shape, and we intend to keep on fundraising, which includes the return of the village fete on July 16th.

It was agreed at the November meeting to increase the precept for 2022/2023 by 2%. This will take the Band D charge to £124.75 per month.

Finally, I have a couple of announcements to make.

Firstly, this year is an election year. Any resident wishing to be considered for election can be provided with packs or search on the HDC website to download them if wishing to stand. Currently, we have no vacancies, however if we did, we are unable to co-opt until after the May elections.

Secondly, Hail Weston Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Caretaker. This is a varied role established to support the upkeep of the village. The post holder will work closely with, and under the direction of the Parish Clerk to maintain and improve standards across the village. For further information, please either speak to a member of the parish council after the meeting or contact Jen.

Report by Anne-Marie Hamilton, Chairman, St Nicolas Church Restoration Group

On behalf of St Nicolas Church Restoration Group, I would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support and, in particular for permitting us to access the church via the Parish Council Cemetery, whilst the church path to the North door is being lowered, and the north door made good. We really appreciate your help and kindness in permitting us to do this.

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

As you may have noticed, work has started on lowering the path to enabled disabled access into the church. We had hoped that it would be completed by now but, frustratingly, we have uncovered a mystery metal pipe, in just the wrong place, and are currently awaiting the contractor's plumber to come and divert it for us. Everything seems to take a long time, which is frustrating at times.

On a happier note, I am delighted to tell you that the Platinum Jubilee Beacon Fundraising event that the Restoration Group is putting on, on 2nd June, has completely sold out. We really had not expected so much interest so soon and are thrilled to bits about it. Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets, and apologies to those who would like to have joined us. We do have a waiting list; in case anyone has to drop out at the last minute.

We will be having a stand at the Village Fete again this year, on 16th July. If anyone has any questions, or any particular suggestions for events or future use of the church by the local community, we would be delighted to discuss your thoughts and ideas. We have a list of requests already, but there is still more scope for further requests.

I will continue to send out brief reports in the Village Newsletter, and would like to thank Guy, Ruth and Dawn very much indeed, for helping me to keep the village community in touch with what is going on. Their ongoing support, the support from The Royal Oak, the Neighbourhood Café, the Parish Council and everyone in Hail Weston means a great deal to us, and we are extremely grateful to you all.

Report by Rev. Nicki Bland, St Nicolas Church

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for their support, particularly in raising funds which help to keep our church going.

I would particularly like to thank the Parish Council for allowing access to the Church through the cemetery whilst we are having the path raised. I believe that Anne-Marie will talk about the refurbishment project in a minute.

Hail Weston has three Sunday services a month at the moment:

2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday there is a Parish Communion at 9.00 and on the third Sunday Creative Communion which fits in well with the Neighbourhood Café. There is also a band which meets on a Thursday evening.

In the morning congregations are small but afternoon services are better. All special services like Harvest Festival, Christingle, Plough Services etc are incredibly well attended and you have 4 Weddings and one Marriage Blessing in the Church this year. Funerals and baptisms have also been conducted.

I would like to thank those who keep St Nicolas clean and who arrange the flowers. They are of a very high standard.

Our small team who keep this Church going are very, very dedicated but we need several more people on the team to keep it running smoothly.

Jobs up for grabs.

Someone to open and lock up the church twice a week, on a rota. A secretary. A churchwarden.

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

We were able to keep going through lockdown using zoom and we can now play any music because of a generous donation of a blue tooth speaker by Nick Holland.

The Benefice children's camp is going ahead. Registration forms are available (See attached). It is also possible to download from our website swhw.co.uk

Report by Dawn Issac - Hail Weston Village Hall Committee

I'm here to represent the Village Hall Committee which has responsibility for the upkeep of the hall you currently sit in.

I looked back and I think that the last report I gave to this assembly was in 2019... so a few things have happened since then.

Obviously, as we are reliant on hall hire, fundraising and donations for our income, we were enormously affected by the pandemic. Luckily, we were able to claim several grants, so our finances have come through quite healthily. This has been very much needed though as one of the many casualties of the pandemic was the local pre-school which had to close due to falling numbers making it financially unsustainable.

The pre-school was our main user of the hall, and this has meant a massive drop in our income. However, we have already attracted in a childminders group on a Wednesday morning as well as an additional daytime yoga class and this, alongside a number of NCT evening and weekend bookings as well as private party hire and Parish Council and HWWGG hire has helped us reach what we think is a break-even point for the running of the hall. The Village Hall also plays host to the Neighbourhood café once a month who use at least one of these events each year to fundraise for the building. In addition, we plan to invest in some advertising signage as well as using social media to try and attract even more bookings over the coming months to make this position more secure.

Obviously running costs are rising - especially energy - so we will be keeping a close eye on this. However, we will balance this with the need to provide an affordable venue to groups. For this reason, our rates currently remain at £12 an hour with villagers enjoying a reduced rate of £10 per hour. We are also hoping that our investment a couple of years ago into an Air Source Heat Pump system will allow our costs to be more manageable – and of course greener.

As well as the heat pump, we have also in the last two and a half years invested in rewiring the building, fitting new toilets, buying new kitchen appliances, and replacing the kitchen worktop and sinks.

In addition, the pre-school's cabin has now become part of the Village Hall and gives us an additional space to use – and potentially hire out.

And of course, this year will also see the fundraising event that is the Village Fete – which also raises funds for the church. It will be held on July 16th on the Playing Fields, and we hope many of you will attend and support this community event. If you would like to help run a game, serve refreshments or even have your own stall on the day, do get in touch with me or one of the brilliant committee – June Hamilton, Ann Clark, Val Moran, Jill Gooch, Elaine McCarthy, Julie Martin, Lorraine Burdett or Rosemary Huckle. They are marvellous and this hall couldn't run without them. I'd also like to thank Peter Chandler for doing our accounts each year, Kev Fisk for servicing our heat pump, and Tony Baker for

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

fitting outside lights and PAT testing – none of which they charge us for which is incredibly generous – so thank you!

Report by June Hamilton - Neighbourhood Café

The Neighbourhood Café was the original brainchild of Maurice & Sue Lee, their neighbour Gisele and friend Jane Sugars who wanted to reach out to any villagers who might sometimes need a bit of help – getting to doctors' appointments, collecting prescriptions, just even having a bit of company, that sort of thing. Whilst several people were willing to help, no one actually came forward other than one person who wanted some gardening and so the idea of the cafe was born, as whilst people might be reluctant to ask for help, they might be more inclined to come along and enjoy some company in a more social way.

The Cafe wasn't intended as a fundraiser, but after hearing a speaker talk about dementia and other age-related problems, the idea came about of raising funds for a defibrillator. During the 4 years they ran it, twice a month, Maurice, Sue, Jane and Gisele managed to raise over £6,900 for a number of charities and the purchase of two defibrillators.

I honestly can't tell you now Norman and I got involved; I think we came along one day and saw that Maurice was struggling a little with setting up the tables and chairs so, we pitched in and ended up helping each session. Unfortunately, Maurice and Sue decided to step down during the pandemic, and Gisele is no longer involved due to family commitments but Jane is still very instrumental in running the cafe with us.

Once we were able to re-open, following lockdowns, we got our heads together and slightly tweaked the format to not only fit our own commitments, to be honest, but also, we had to bear in mind that Covid has not gone away! We, therefore, decided to open just once a month on a regular Sunday (the 3rd one each month) and, as we reopened in the Summer, we set our stall outside and called for volunteers to help with table service to restrict movement and keep everyone safe. This proved so popular and our helpers seem to really enjoy themselves, that we've carried this on as we feel it gives a real sense of "community" which, at the end of the day, is still the main purpose of the cafe. We organised some new signage, we send out a timely reminder a few days before and a follow-up email just after. We have a small regular core of villagers who bring cakes along for us, and these days we seem to be reaching not only those who have been with us from the start but also a slightly different cross-section from the village; in fact, we have also had people who are just visiting the village who have just seen the sign and wandered in!

Ideally, it would be nice to get some help with accompanying people who might like to come along but feel unable to do so on their own due to physical limitations. Jane, Norman and I are unfortunately not able to do this ourselves as we are busy with the setting up.

However, thanks to all our volunteers and donations of some wonderful home baked cakes, we are delighted also to have been able to carry on our fundraising activities and we are always happy to receive suggestions for charities which might appreciate our support. Indeed, Since re-opening in July last year, the lovely people of Hail Weston has donated a further £1776 to our causes. I think the Cafe is here to stay for a while.

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Report by Cllr. Ian Gardener, County Councillor for Alconbury & Kimbolton

The outcome of the County Council Elections held on 6th May 21 was Conservatives 28 seats, Lib Dem 20 seats, Labour 9 seats and Independents 4 seats. As a result, the council has gone into No Overall Control. Which has led the Lib Dems, Labour and Independents to form a pact to run the Council.

In the Alconbury and Kimbolton division I was returned with 67.9 % of the vote and a majority of 1874. Which was very humbling, to know that I had received such a large vote of support from the electorate of the division. I look forward to working with everyone over the next four years for the benefit of residents and businesses.

One of the Pacts early decisions was to abolish the Health Committee, which is somewhat strange when it along with the Communities committee has been driving the County Councils work on the Covid 19 pandemic. This decision to merge the Health Committee with the Adults Committee, has led to Children's Health issues being neglected such as Mental Health. Which the administration appears to be now recognising, we wait to see how they will tackle this issue.

This year the Lib Dem Lead Administration including Labour and Independents voted to increase your General council Tax by 1.99% and The Adult Social Care Levy by 3% giving a total increase of 4.99%. Which will result in a Band D property's County Council's proportion of the Council Tax being £1469.61. The administration are not spending this additional money raised from you on better services for you and I. Instead, it will be putting almost Seven million pounds into Reserves. The Conservatives alternative budget would have seen the General Council Increase of 1.99% removed and at least 4.1 million pounds spent on Flood prevention measures in our villages such as Kimbolton and Alconbury.

The Combined Authority has set up a Demand Responsive Transport Trial Scheme for West Huntingdonshire, serving St Neots & Huntingdon, as it is now the Authority in charge of Buses.

DRT is a totally flexible service, known locally as Ting so it does not have to stick to a specific timetable or route. Using either an App or a phone call to the travel hub customers will be able to book a journey from a location of their choice. The technology will tell passengers where to wait at their virtual bus stop for pick up and drop off points. This makes it the perfect solution in Rural Areas where a normal bus service would struggle to reach the necessary passenger numbers to remain viable.

The cost of the service is £2 one way or £4 return. If a resident wishes to go to Cambridge for example – You buy your return ticket on the Ting bus for £4 to St Neots the onward journey to Cambridge and return will cost an additional £4. All you need to do is show your Ting Ticket to the Stagecoach driver of the Cambridge Bus (905) from St Neots

If you are a Bus Pass holder then all trips are free.

Under the proposed Parliamentary Boundary Changes, we will see an additional seat in Cambridgeshire. Hail Weston will remain within the proposed Huntingdon Constituency,

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

which will lose St Neots but gain all the parishes within my County division not already included such as Brington, Molesworth, Keyston, Bythorn, Catworth & Old Weston for example. St Neots will be in a new Constituency extending from St Neots to Girton in Cambridge.

The A428 dualling between the Black Cat Roundabout and the Caxton Gibbet is going ahead and it is expected to open in 2025/26 and will be renumbered as the A421, which will run from Cambridge to its junction with the A43 outside Brackley in Northamptonshire.

I continue to work heavily with National Highways and the parishes adjacent to the A14, to get safety improvements along the section of road from Ellington to Thrapston. The aim is to try and secure funding for grade separated junctions along this section. The parishes concerned have reported back to National highways through their Route Strategies consultation.

New Shire Hall has now opened, and the Council is holding its Committee meetings there. Full Council meetings currently are being held at alternative venues due to Covid restrictions.

I will continue to support the Parish Council bids on behalf of our local community for Local Highways Improvement Grants. I was delighted to support Hail Weston's PC bid for – Solar lighting of the cycle path between Hail Weston and St Neots. If the bid has been successful, we will know late March early April

I currently sit on the County Councils Environment & Green Investment, Planning and Pension Committees as well as the Fire Authority

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact preferably by email on Jan.Gardener@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Report by Tony Larkins – Director Hail Weston Pub Co. Ltd

Alan and his team continue to do a great job at the Royal Oak, which remains a focal point within the village. A new fishing club has been created through the pub and others are being considered.

We have a new marquee, after the last one suffered from the ravages of wind and rain, and we are also having new work undertaken for the storage area at the back, which will provide more secure space and reduce further the noise from the extraction fan.

Covid has obviously affected attendance, and we are yet to turn a trading profit, so continued support from villagers is to be encouraged.

Whilst the pub ownership changed to the Beacon Wealth Group during Covid, it is still regarded as a community pub and no rent has ever been charged by Beacon, who will continue to invest in this infrastructure, to preserve its long-term future.

Ruben, Dawn and Tony Huckle remain involved, and their continued guidance and support is gratefully received.

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

We understand that the planning permission for the old pub garden was refused, and although the pub would like to buy this land, we understand it will not be offered to us. We do however remain grateful for the garden area we do currently use. We are not sure if the Parish Council have any authority to enable the garden to be part of the pub.

Report by Nick Farnden - CLP Lead

See the launch leaflet (below), come to the Neighbourhood Café, and complete the survey from now, throughout April. The survey closes on 2 May 2022.

Residents asked questions relating to the 150-bus service, additional waste bins located on Ford Road and the Playing Field, a garage sale that could be organised on the date of the village fete, Jubilee celebrations, and Ukraine support was discussed by a resident family who has set up a 'Just Giving fundraising page' and are transporting goods to support their home town. A resident discussed opportunities for other like-minded Hail Weston residents who wish to support refugee families in the community of Hail Weston.

The meeting closed at 8.57 pm.

DRAFT

RESULTS FROM THE 2016 HAIL WESTON COMMUNITY LED PLAN

Over 70% of residents took part in our first 'CLP' by completing the survey which was published in a booklet in 2016. The plan led to many improvements to village life, some of which are shown below.

Church Restoration Group

Wildlife and gardening Group

Re-purposed telephone box

Neighbourhood Café

Lower speed limits

Church Newsletter

Church Restoration Update

New community website

The 2016 plan made a great contribution to life in Hail Weston and we hope that the new plan will have a similarly beneficial impact.

This is your opportunity to have your say and help shape the future of Hail Weston!

COMMUNITY LED

PLAN 2022

THE POWER IS IN YOUR HANDS

YOUR VIEWS

COUNT

supported by motivegraphics.co.uk

HAIL WESTON COMMUNITY LED PLAN 2022-2027



All residents of Hail Weston are invited to submit their views on aspects of local life such as environment, planning, facilities & roads.

Each person may complete the survey, including children aged 12 years and over and students who are away for part of the year.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HW-plan>

Please don't share survey link on social media etc as we only want Hail Westoners to complete it!

When can I complete the survey?

From now and throughout April. The survey closes on 2nd May 2022

Why should I complete the survey?

Your responses will feed into the Hail Weston Community Led Plan (CLP) for the next five years. It's a way to understand what is important to members of our community, where positive changes might be made or where you would like to see aspects of local life preserved. We hope that all Hail Weston residents will share their views so that the Plan will be as representative as possible.



£100 prize draw

Anyone completing the survey and who would like to leave their details at the end will be entered into our prize draw for a chance to win £100. Leaving your details is not compulsory.

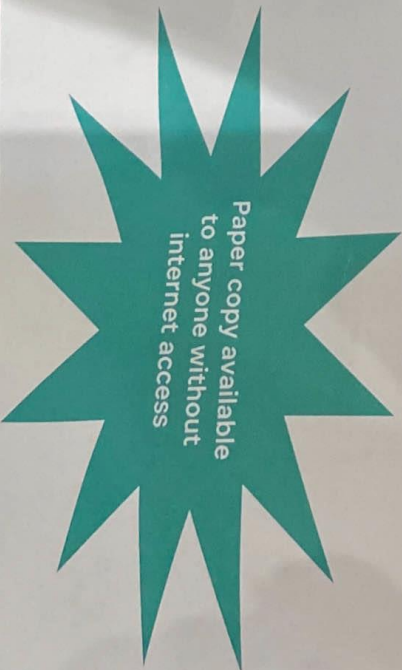
Are my responses anonymous?

Yes. Details given in order to enter the prize draw will NOT be linked with your survey responses. Your details will only be used for the purpose of administering the prize draw.

Any questions?

- Watch our short videos on YouTube: <https://youtube.be/RAUMUTTS2k>
- Email us at hwplan2022@gmail.com
- Speak to any of our local coordinators
- Come to the Neighbourhood Cafe at the Village Hall on our launch day, when members of the CLP team will be there to answer questions on **Sunday 20th March** between **3:30-5pm**

Cake is also available!



HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Application Church Summer Camp 2022

Name: _____

Age on 2/08/2022: _____

Any disabilities: _____

Allergies: _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Parent / Guardian name and address: _____

Email address: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Deposit of £20 enclosed _____

Cheques payable to St.Andrew's P.C.C.

Signature _____

Please return this to Rev. Nicki Bland by the 15th of April. If over subscribed priority is given to local Church families.



Rev. Nicki Bland
St. Andrew's Vicarage
Cruseway
Great Staughton
Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 5DF
Phone: 01480 869485
E-mail: rev@nickibland@gmail.com

**CHURCH
SUMMER
CAMP
2022**



**Tuesday 2nd to Thursday
4th August 2022**
Come and join us at the
Graham Water Activity Centre
in Perry.
If you are aged 6-11yrs 9.30am
to 4.30pm each day.

The Staughtons and Hail Weston
churches. Reaching out to welcome in.
Rev. Nicki Bland
Phone 01480 869485



The Body of Christ

"Church, God and Us"

We are really pleased to announce that the "Summer day camp" organized by the Staughton and Hail Weston churches and Grafham Water Centre will go ahead again this year.

This is a three day activity centered event designed to encourage children and young adults to come together and experience new activities such as Kayaking, Climbing, Mountain biking, sailing and more in a safe environment with expert instructors, whilst learning more about the Christian way of life and its meaning.

The theme "The Body of Christ" "Church, God and Us" is looking at how the parts of the body work together, the body of the Church and the meaning behind the "eucharistic body" of Christ.

The Programme

Day 1

Registration
Welcome, Introductions, Thought for the day
Team games, making friends
Lunch time activities
Afternoon group sessions e.g. Canoeing

Day 2

Welcome, Thought for the day
Morning group sessions Climbing / Archery
Lunchtime activities
Afternoon group sessions e.g. Sailing

Day 3

Welcome, Thought for the day
Morning group sessions High ropes
Lunchtime activities
Final group session Raft building / racing
Farewells and home

Applications should be in by the 15th April. This is so that we can give priority to the Staughton and Hail Weston Young people as spaces will be limited.

Thanks to GWC generosity and local business sponsorship the cost has been kept as low as possible at £70 per young person age 6-11 for the three days inclusive of all activities.

A deposit of £20 is payable with the signed application form which also must include information about each young person, such as medical conditions, Allergies, etc.

The balance becomes due on the 1st July (one month before the start)

A packed lunch should be brought by each young person every day. Snacks and drinks will be available at all times without charge.

Young people with disabilities are welcome. Please speak to us about the nature of the disability and any special needs.

The Churches of the Staughtons and Hail Weston are St. Andrews Church Great Staughton, All Saints Church Little Staughton and St. Nicolas Church in Hail Weston. A warm welcome awaits you at them all.
See www.wghwc.co.uk

