

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH

The Annual Parish Meeting for St Cuthbert (Out) Parish Council was held at Coxley Memorial Hall, Coxley BA5 1QZ on 11th April 2023 at 6.00pm.

In attendance: Councillor M Hayden (Chairman), 3 Councillors, 25 members of the public and 7 speakers.

Apologies: None received.

1. Welcome and report from the Chairman

Councillor Hayden welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the speakers in advance for their attendance.

2. Talk: Michele Payne, Heads Up Somerset

'The work of Heads Up': Michele explained the background of the charity from the Mendip Vale Trust and that Heads Up was now 11 years old and reaching 70 clients a week. The organisation runs therapeutic workshops and has some whole-day attendees. Michele outlined how clients could be involved: some are referred by GPs or Village Agents, some are self-referred paying clients. The community engagement of Heads Up was demonstrated by clients' involvement in Somerset Arts Week and an outreach service, there is also a drop-in carers group and, recently, donations of volunteer time & money from Charlie Bighams. Heads Up have a Wall of Appreciation in their foyer, and the supportive and social environment, the sharing of skills and activities ranging from arts and crafts to pottery and gardening was a valuable part of client's routines.

3. Talk: Joe Joseph & Kevin Redpath

'The Five Mile Food programme, the People's Assembly & local agri-eco initiatives': Joe highlighted the aims of the Five Mile Food programme: to enable a transition to sustainable food production, and to feed Glastonbury with local produce. The programme had followed the Global UN Toolkit, which was adapted for a local level programme. Joe was also able to share the success of the People's Assembly, held in March and celebrated the sharing of knowledge, the responsible governance and the emphasis on soil health that the Assembly focused on. The next steps for the programme are to continue to pursue an integrated local delivery, supported by Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), and to spread the project over the Avalon Marshes area. Kevin Redpath showed a film that illustrated the community involvement and locations for the programme which can be seen [here](#)

4. Talk: Celia Wride

'The St Cuthbert (Out) Parish Heritage List Project': Celia described the origins of the project and how it was timely to aim to record the wealth of heritage assets around the parish. The ultimate aim was to plot locations so that they were easily accessible routes to residents and visitors alike. Celia celebrated the involvement of residents in suggesting assets for the list, as well as defining what counted as a heritage asset, how they are being recorded and how the group involved went about visiting these assets. The list of historic assets, at the time of writing, was 129 across the 4 wards and she listed a varied number of examples. Celia also highlighted that there was a prominent amount of evidence in the parish of the GHQ Stop Line Green 1940 Defence Line and concluded with some concrete achievements of the group, namely a replacement Charabanc sign in Wookey Hole, supported by Wookey Hole Caves Ltd, a plaque commemorating the former Prisoner of War camp & EMI/Thales works, supported by David Wilson Homes, and a revised information panel at the former cattle pound on the Strawberry Line, supported by the East Somerset Railway.

5. Tom Blatchford & Richard Jones

'The Strawberry Line & Resident Engagement': Tom spoke about his passion for local engagement and local environmental projects and described his involvement in the Blue School seedling poly-tunnel, the Windsor Hill Community Wood and his involvement in the plans to create a wildflower meadow along the Strawberry Line Dulcote extension. Tom explained how key local engagement was in work such as litter-picking and that he was keen to work with councils and groups to make environmental improvements across the parish. He ended by outlining the aim of the Somerset Circle, which led to Richard Jones speaking about the Strawberry Line. Richard explained that the Somerset Circle of traffic-free paths was 60% complete and had great support from Mendip District Council. Richard outlined some of the current work and planning being undertaken by Greenways: the Westbury to Easton path, the Easton to Titlands Lane path, the various stages of the Shepton path and the potential for the Coxley to Glastonbury path. Richard finished by celebrating what a very different atmosphere there was regarding multi-user paths, compared to 10 years ago.

6. Talk: Gill Pettitt

Round-up of Environment Working Group projects, successes & engagement: Gill introduced the work of the Council's Environment Working Group (EWG) and stressed how important it was to facilitate residents and work with the community. Some examples of current projects include emphasis on biodiversity across the parish, Active Travel and transport issues and Dark Skies as well as the Grants for Greener Villages funding available from the Parish Council. Gill went on to describe the stages and resident input required for the pending Parish Plan and that residents were welcome to contribute to the Steering Group: the work would be intense and short-term but vital to have all

wards involved in drawing up an action plan to kick off the Parish Plan. Gill invited suggestions about what questions residents should be asked when forming this action plan, to ensure it had as much engagement as possible.

7. To confirm and sign as correct record the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held remotely on 12th April 2022.

Councillor Haydon signed and dated the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held remotely on 12th April 2022 following the meeting's agreement that they were a correct record.

8. Public questions and comments

The residents attending were able to ask questions after each presentation, and there was much interest in these local topics. After all speakers had finished, there was more of a break-out session where residents went to discuss issues or ask further questions of the speakers and lots of contacts were made.

Specific points were made about No Mow May and that it would be positive if the Council could develop a policy that left perhaps 30% of grassed areas uncut in May.

A couple of residents expressed their enthusiasm for all of the projects at the meeting and how busy and vibrant it was.

A request was made for the contact details of the designer of the Parish Council logo and some residents asked to be added to the circulation list for the weekly Parish Contact List.

The Deputy Clerk would like to thank Kevin Redpath & Martin Cooke for their support with audio and visual technology.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.