

Fovant Annual Parish Meeting 15 May 2024 – Chairman’s notes

Apologies for absence – Derryn Hinks, Mary Kirman, Rupert Williamson, Linda Bailey, Pauline Story, Dr Lindsay Kinlin.

Present: Three Parish Councillors, County Councillor for Fovant & Chalke Valley, 10 public.

Reports: 16 written reports submitted and 2 verbal reports. Five were read out by the Chair, 8 spoken to by submitter. Five not spoken to.

Some main points:

- Almost as many reports as last year but fewer representatives attended to speak. In spite of that, some good discussions.
- An ageing population with reducing numbers of children recorded by Spring Orchard Surgery and on role at Dinton Cof E Primary School.
- The open surgery on Fridays is popular with patients and staff. The meeting wished to say that Dr Kinlin’s regular open talks on medical issues are much appreciated.
- Dinton school now in an Academy, The Acorn Education Trust, thus benefitting from additional levels of support and governance. Good results of every year group and Y6 SATs.
- More members needed for Village Hall Committee, Youth Club Trustees and Parish Council.
- St George’s Church: In January, The Rev Elaine Brightwell, Team Vicar in the Nadder Valley Benefice, took over the pastoral care of Fovant parish from Rev Dr Graham Southgate.
- The Clays Orchard residential buildings will be updated, taking care to minimise disruption to residents. The Ward Councillor and Parish Council are taking a close interest.
- Wiltshire Council is not in debt, but 68% of budget on adult and social care.
- The meeting protested that potholes on local roads getting worse, even though County says it is allocating more money.
- The Parish Council believes planning permissions from Wiltshire should include enforceable conditions to minimise road blocking by builders’ vehicles.
- Parish Council and Youth Club Trustees have established an Emergency Contact Hub, funded by generous grants from SSEN and the SW Wiltshire Area Board.
- 2023 Fete was a great success, with many local participants. No Fete planned for 2024. A committee will be needed to prepare for one in 2025 and draw on existing funds.
- Grants provided by the SWW Area Board and directly by the Parish Council remain important to facilitate village facilities.
- Safety improvement to village roads by increased white line hatching will come this year, and next year hopefully a pavement buildout and change to traffic flow at the triangle at the A30/High Street junction. A SID will be acquired to go on the A30 – the fourth in the village.
- Road drains and foul water drains are all needing increased attention and follow up from the Parish Council.
- Parish Council has developed a new guidance booklet for Riparian Owners along the Brook to try to encourage responsible behaviour that reduces the risk of downstream flooding.
- Defibrillators are being installed outside Clays Orchard and the Greater Good, making three in the village.

Agenda

1. Appointment of Chairman
2. Introduction by Chairman confirming procedures.

3. Approval of the record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2023.
4. Report from Fovant Parish Council.
5. Report of Wiltshire ward Councillor.
6. Reports from local groups as present. Written reports received to be added to the record.
7. Matters raised by electors present.
8. Concluding remarks by the Chairman.

Other reports and statements offered:

1. The Orchard Partnership
2. Dinton CofE Primary School
3. Fovant Village Website
4. Fovant Youth Club
5. The Fovant Network – no activity
6. Fovant Community Support Group – no activity
7. Fovant Village Hall Committee
8. Fovant Satellite Food Bank – Fovant and Wilton Foodbank
9. Fovant Independent Ladies Group
10. Fovant History Group
11. Fovant Badges Society
12. Community Police Team, Warminster
13. St. George's Church, Fovant
14. Fovant relief in Need charity
15. Fovant Fete 2023
16. The Three Towers magazine
17. The Open Door

Tony Phillips

27 May 2024