

East Down Parish Council

Annual Meeting of the Parish held at East Down Village Hall on Monday 16th May 2022 at 7.30pm

Attendance: Cllrs Mr M. Wright, R Crocker, Mr R. Crossman, Mrs J Kift, Mr. K. Phillips, Mr R. Tarr.

AGENDA

Apologies for absence from meeting- Councillor D Fry, County Councillor A Davis and District Council J Tucker

There were no members of the public present

Chairmans Report

East Down Parish Council Chairman's Report 2021/22

I would like to start this year's report by noting that Margaret Done resigned the position of Clerk in May 2021, and the whole Council thanked her for her many years of service to the Parish. Following her resignation, a comprehensive selection process for a new Clerk was undertaken by a subcommittee consisting of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. At the conclusion of the process, it was recommended that an offer for the position be made to Geoff Dwyer, already an experienced Clerk for other Councils and we were delighted when he accepted. Further to changes in the Council, Cllr Liz Kempf resigned after many years on the Council, and again the Council expressed their gratitude for her contribution and knowledge of the Parish.

Following the resignations, the Council was three below strength, and I am pleased to report that after encouragement by Councillors, we were able to recruit three new Councillors, Debbie Fry, Julie Kift and Richard Crocker which meant for the first time in several years, the Council is at full strength.

At this stage it is appropriate to thank all Councillors in general for their attendance and contributions, despite different meeting protocols and challenging times, and to quote a well-known dancing programme, in no particular order; Rick Tarr for his management of the website, its documents and security as well his interest in the parish paths; Rod Crossman for much work on drains, both highways and domestic which were causing bad odours in East Down village, as well as his continuing interest in the defibrillator and training in its use; Keith Phillips for his snow warden duties.

It is also appropriate to thank our new Clerk, Geoff Dwyer for his work and contribution to our meetings and procedures.

Thanks are also due to our District Councillor Joe Tucker for his continuing advice and guidance and County Councillor Andrea Davis for her input, and for clerking one of our meetings.

The Council considered nine planning applications making responses where appropriate, organised provision of a dog bin (with the help of Joe Tucker) and bin liners where it was requested; and selected a native oak to be planted on Churchill Green as part of the Queen's Jubilee along with a metal plaque celebrating the event.

The parish council funds remain healthy despite reducing grants, and we have managed to keep to a low precept again.

The Parish Council was invited to consider joining with Arlington Parish Council, but following discussion the offer was declined, in part due to being fully subscribed with Councillors.

Pine Charity.

Mrs Done apologised for not being able to attend but reported by email that the Pine Account stands at £78.06. The Annual Return to the Charity Commission will be made in October.

Signed Chairman ...