

NUFFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT 8PM ON 17th May 2022

The minutes of the meeting of Nuffield Parish Council held on 17th May 2022 held at The Crown, Nuffield. 8pm.

Present

Mrs M. Anderson (Councillor), Mrs K Wheeler (Clerk), Mrs G. Austin (Chair), Mr P Neagle (Cllr), Cllr. Jo Robb (SODC), Huntercombe residents' association.
Members of the public – 2

1. Apologies

Mr. D. Passmore (Councillor), Mr. D Wood (Councillor), Councillor Felix Bloomfield (OCC)

2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial interests

None

3. Confirmation of the minutes from 5th May 2021

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate and true record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Chair's Annual Report 2021/22

See separate report

5. Oxfordshire Council Councillor's Annual and General Report

No report received.

6. South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report

See separate report.

7. Holy Trinity Church Annual Report

There is little activity to report for the period during Covid 19. As part of the Church of England we were unable to remain open for visitors due to utterly unrealistic requirements re cleaning. We were open for worship on every permissible Sunday, with or without singing as per the current instructions.

The car park remained popular! Following at least one day when cars spilled over onto the neighbouring verges as a result of 2 groups organising walks to start from the carpark on the same day, we have requested all group walk organisers to contact us. Thus we can try to avoid double 'bookings'. New notices will reinforce the need for park users to make a donation to the church. Donations can now be made using the QR code in the carpark or the cashbox or card reader in the church.

We are grateful to the Friends of Nuffield Church for the expert repair to the brick and flint churchyard wall. It looks really good and a vast improvement on its 'falling down' state.

We renew our thanks to the Parish Council for a grant towards churchyard mowing. Trying to keep on top of it, even with contractors is not easy - we suspect it's not popular as it's not all straight lines!

7a Report from Nuffield Community Centre Project for Nuffield Parish Annual Meeting June 2022

We have achieved a roof and rainwater collection goods repair partly funded by the Heritage at Risk Repair fund.

Fundraising has been delayed by Covid (and a shortage of form-fillers!). If you enjoy/have expertise in this area please volunteer to help! The committee is considering where cost savings could be made or whether project phasing would be helpful. Current permissions require the works to be completed by September 2023.

An open meeting in the church carpark for Midsummer Day 2021 was spoiled by pouring rain! Some brave souls came despite that and enjoyed refreshments, a report of the project and discussion!

You may have seen the second article in the Henley Standard. We now have email (Nuffieldparishproject@gmail.com) and social media connections (Instagram - @nuffieldcommunitycentre) set up for us by 2 Nuffield residents. 2 new recruits (not the same people) to the committee bring very useful skills. A new leaflet is in preparation.

Fundraising is now the priority activity! For the village to have a community space we need residents to run and support large and small fundraising events. The majority of funding will come from large grant funding bodies but we need to supplement this from within the community.

You may have seen in the press that there are threats to local churches - it's a 'use it or lose it' situation.

8. Parish Roads Annual Report

The year has seen the usual level of pot holes, flooding and foliage issues but nothing significant and most items have been actioned by landowners, SODC or OCC fairly promptly.

9. Chiltern Society Footpaths Annual Report

Report for Nuffield Parish Council November 2021 to May 2022

During this period I have visited the Parish on 17 different days and walked all the 21 footpaths and bridleways north and west of the A4130 and Timbers Lane. Generally they are nearly all in good or passable condition and, remarkably with a couple of big gales this winter, there were only a few obstructions across paths too big for me to tidy up: as usual the South Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers (SCPMV) of the Chiltern Society were able to clear these again quickly. Most of the reinstatement has been carried out, although once again a bit on the narrow side in places. I repainted some of the waymarks in winter.

Now the summer growth has got underway I have begun the cycle of keeping the paths, openings and waymark posts clear of significant obstruction once again.

Working closely with farmers, the SCMPV has also been able to make further improvements in the last few months. One example of this is the correct repositioning of the access to NU16 from Huntercombe End while changing the stile to a kissing gate and another very welcome example is installing three kissing gates along NU3A to enable pedestrian access without tussling with stock gates.

The worst paths we have are still footpaths 2 and 6, especially the stiles on the latter. Before the main road became so incredibly busy these paths would have made useful connections by using short sections of the road. However, now the road is both unpleasant and dangerous to walk along and so the paths are little used. For the moment we will continue to try to maintain them in walkable condition.

John Case

Chiltern Society Parish Path Representative, 12th May 2022

10. Open forum – all electors are welcome to raise any issue relating to local government with reference to the Parish of Nuffield

Meeting closed at 20:46pm