

**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MEETING HELD IN
THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON FRIDAY 7TH MAY 2021.**

PRESENT:	
Councillors	D Atkins, D Beatty, C. Carter, R Eastley, K Hill and K Rogers
Clerk	Miss L Tyrrell
County Councillors	None
District Councillors	B Ingham and G Jung
Public	8 members

21/32 Apologies

None

21/33 Chairman

The Chairman read her report:

Hello and welcome to tonight's Annual Parish Meeting.

This year has been a very unusual year and as we look forward to the future, let's hope things will be better and brighter for all.

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to the village hall for allowing us to hold meetings tonight and host their first open meeting. We have received reports from the following groups in the parish – the flood resilience group, Friends of Gulliford Burial Ground, Heathfield Allotments, the history society, the telephone box book swap and the Community Hub. To read their full reports, please visit the village website.

May I say a special thank you to Mary Turner for taking on the telephone box book swap, Angela Coles for all her work with Gulliford burial ground, Phil Corcos for his hard work with the flood resilience group, and Linda Lyons for providing community lunches during lockdown. During lockdown, the Parish Council have refurbished the public toilets and employed a new cleaner to look after them. The PC have also created a new group called Friends of Lymptone Open Spaces. Their first project is working towards fundraising for the refurbishment of the entire play area and activity trail in Candy's Field.

Sadly, Lymptone has lost a very important community group, the WI.

May I say a big thank you to our Parish Council Clerk for all the hard work that has been done through lockdown.

21/34 Clerk

The Clerk explained that as she reported every month at the PC meeting, she had nothing more to report.

21/35 County Councillors

None.

21/36 District Councillors

Cllr Jung thanked the Clerk of LPC for all her hard work during the last 14 months during the pandemic. He also thanked the Officers and staff at EDDC for their continued hard work and adapting to working from home to keep everything running during the last 14 months. Cllr Ingham reiterated Cllr Jung's words. He then brought up the footpath across the field between Courtlands and Sowden edge. He added that a long-term solution had to be found to fencing off the footpath or revert the path back to the drive of the house. The footpath had become too muddy and dangerous and had to be resolved this Summer. He asked the PC to consider this footpath issue and what could be done. Cllr Atkins explained that public using the footpaths have started to wander off the mapped tracks and were abusing the fields with litter and dog mess. He added that people were using these open spaces to host their own social

gatherings believing it was open land and were entitled. He explained a clear boundary was necessary between footpaths and the agricultural land. Cllr Ingham explained that people should not have to walk through mud. Cllr Rogers interjected and explained that this issue would be added to the next PC agenda.

21/37 Working Groups

Nothing to report.

The Chair thanked all the groups in the Parish who had submitted their reports to the meeting. She explained that they were full and detailed reports that could be found on the website. Cllr Atkins added that these reports had been available and attached on the agenda for the meeting.

21/38 Lympstone Flood Resilience Group

See attached.

21/39 Gulliford Burial Ground

See attached.

21/40 Heathfield Allotments

See attached.

21/41 History Society

See attached.

21/42 Telephone box book swap

See attached.

21/43 Lympstone Community Hub

See attached.

21/44 Any further questions

None

Meeting closed at **7.20pm**

Chairman:

Date:

Report of the Lymptone Flood Resilience Group - March 2021

The Lymptone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG) was formed in late 2017 to develop a more coordinated and strategic approach to flood risk management in the village - based on understanding the risk and facilitating action to minimise the risk. In addition to the 4 members of the Flood Group, there are two teams of flood wardens, an Estuary team and an inland and surface water team. The Flood Group is working with the Environment Agency (EA) and their specialist consultants, JBA, developing a hydraulic model for the Wotton Brook catchment area. The group met 9 times in 2020, mostly by Zoom.

The twelve members of the Estuary team have continued in their activities throughout the year during the various COVID restrictions, by agreement with the EA on revised COVID secure procedures. We have continued to benefit from a very high level of responsiveness and support from EA.

A number of investments have been made to the Estuary flood defences including replacement of worn outlet flap valves, and some enhancements to the floodgates. A review of the defences identified further improvements that will be evaluated to offset the ageing of the scheme. A few times each year the conditions on the Estuary are sufficiently rough that some wave tops come over the defences at particular locations. On the village side of the gates there are drains which are designed to take this nuisance, and during the year a focus has been on improving the reliability of these to avoid unnecessary pooling of water.

The inland and surface water team continue to work with the Estuary team, communicate with villagers about flood risks and defences, monitor brook and surface water levels, monitor and clear blocked road drains and gullies, and take 'first line of defence' actions in flood events. The team has grown to eleven this year, and with support from the Parish Council and Devon County Council (DCC) is now well equipped with PPE, a mobile pump and tools to safely carry out routine maintenance tasks on the highways and drains when required.

Through access to the drain network plan, and on-the-ground investigations, we have a much better understanding of the pipe runs, the possible causes of blockages, and remedies. Hotspots have been identified where road gullies are prone to blocking. In the most recent work on five badly silted gullies 48 buckets of silt were removed to clear the sumps and help restore drain flows. Parish Council funding has enabled work with a jetting contractor to clear the worst affected gullies. The team is now putting in place a 'routine maintenance' schedule to check the drain covers and the gully sumps on a regular basis.

The group has worked with South West Water, DCC and KD Homes to resolve the long running issue of the disposal of surface water from the development on Strawberry Hill. An attenuated flow now discharges into a soakaway within the site.

With funding from the Communities Together project the third phase of the soils survey of the Wotton Brook catchment was completed. The information gathered by the West Country Rivers Trust from this study has now been incorporated into the hydraulic model.

The necessary calibration and validation of the model has also now been completed, and LFRG have been in close touch with the EA and the consultants, JBA, during this process.

The next phase of the project will be to carry out several model runs to assess which Natural Flood Management measures will best serve the objective of controlling the flows in the Brook to reduce the threat of flooding in the village.

Finally, we would like to thank the Lymptone PC for their funding and support during the year, and Cllr David Young for representing us in the LPC decision making process regarding LFRG's work. Also, a big thank you to all our volunteer flood wardens for their continued effort, and without which the village's resilience work during flood events could not continue.

Helen Dimond
LFRG

Parish Council Spring 2021 Friends of Gulliford Burial Ground Report (Since 2020)

McNeillage Conservation have finished the repair work on the walls, tombs, headstones & plaques, making the area safe for visitors and the neighbouring property. This work was completed with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the work was over seen by Ken Perry of Woodbury, who put in hours of unpaid work, for which we are grateful. During the work, the gates to the site were closed but since completion and the easing of the first Covid lockdown, the gates are open again. We still have to comply with the Heritage Lottery Fund, in terms of visitor numbers and form filling, the latter is largely down to the help from Jane Moffatt and Lucy Tyrrell and to oversee the spend of the HLF we have employed Mr Justin Smallwood as an evaluator.

Sadly, all guided tours had to be cancelled, however much work to promote the Gulliford BG has continued behind the scenes, including creating a power point presentation for younger children which was sent out to primary schools in the surrounding area. This resulted in Lympstone Primary School conducting school visits to Gulliford, a video for the children home-schooling and a Q & A Zoom meeting between the school pupils, Jane Moffatt and myself.

During the first Lockdown a request was put out for anyone willing to help with online research, we had a great response with some people taking on more and more, adding to the stories of Gulliford. Since research was started back in the 1990's by David Keep of Woodbury and John Bird of Rolle College and added to since by others, we have built up a considerable picture of Gulliford's chapel and the congregation.

Bat and bird boxes, more wildflower seeds and a planned bug hotel have improved the area for wildlife, along with the education this was something the HLF were interested in seeing at Gulliford.

Currently, we have a new set of metal gates on order of the same design as Exeter Dissenter's Graveyard. As people had mentioned the wooden gates give the look of a private garden, instead of somewhere the public are welcome.

Also, on order are three information boards, which will be erected within the site, one on the history, second on the tombs and a third on the wildlife at Gulliford.

There is still a lot to do in the coming 12 months, but we are encouraged by the numbers of people visiting Gulliford during the course of their walks and popping in and general interest. Once safe we will reinstate the free tours.

Trival Fact

In 1714, a law was passed to make it illegal for Church of England mobs to attack Non-conformist chapels, which had happened at Gulliford and amongst others, this law was called the Riot Act.

Angela Coles

Chairman of the Friends of Gulliford Burial Ground.

Annual Parish Meeting Report 12th April 2021 - HEATHFIELD ALLOTMENT TRUST

It was a busy year on the allotments with the space providing a safe haven for our plot holders, many of whom are vulnerable to the pandemic and needing to shield. So many extra hours spent tending plots and an over abundance of fruit and vegetables produced.

The safety of the site is a priority for us and completing the removal of the asbestos sheeting in May, which had been on site for decades was a milestone. Many plot holders were very concerned about its presence and very appreciative of its removal. This was kindly part funded by a Parish Council grant.

Other measures have been implemented during the year to improve safety and wellbeing and reduce our carbon footprint. Plot holders have been encouraged not to light bonfires and take any green waste that cannot be composted to the tip where it will be disposed of in an environmentally friendly and power generating manner. Whilst we have not banned bonfires we have significantly limited when they can be lit in order to reduce the impact they have on other plots holders and our neighbours. We have also encouraged people to install and improve water harvesting in order to reduce the amount of tap water we consume. This project is ongoing.

A number of special Covid measures have been implemented to keep our plot holders safe, which include the closure of the bottom gate to prevent members of the public using the site as a cut through and latterly the installation of hand sanitisers by the taps and other contact points.

We look forward to another busy season.

Carrie Darby
Chair of Trustees

Lympstone History Society - Report to Lympstone Parish Council March 2021

During the past year we have been unable to hold our usual monthly talks, and some of our project work has been unable to progress.

- Our plans to interview some of our senior Lympstonians about their memories of life in the village have had to be put on hold.
- The planned VE day anniversary exhibition was postponed in 2020 and may not be able to proceed in 2021.
- The newly formatted and updated Lympstone Story has had to be delayed.

However, other projects have been able to continue:

- The publication and launch of Tony Day's book 'A Lympstone Lad', looking back over the life of local fisherman Jim Squire took place last September.
- We are collecting photographs and recollections of 'Lockdown Lympstone'.
- We are collecting and mapping traditional place names around the village
- We have embarked on a major project to develop and display interpretation boards to bring our fascinating history to life with words and images from our archive. We are seeking the sponsorship of the Parish Council with this project and help with identifying suitable locations for the boards. We are in the process of seeking funding from several sponsors to cover the costs. We hope the Parish Council will be able to support us in this endeavour.

Mary Turner
Lympstone History Society

Lympstone Book Exchange
Report to Lympstone Parish Council March 2021

Lympstone Book Exchange grew informally when local residents began to place books in the old telephone box on Gibraltar Road.

During the first lockdown it had become dirty and disorganised and so, with the consent of the Parish Council, it was cleaned and tidied.

- It has been very well used ever since, and is often crammed full of books, and even DVDs, games and jigsaws - which were much appreciated by local families during the Christmas period - fortunately a small bookcase appeared and was quickly filled as well.
- The Book Exchange featured as one of the advent windows in Lympstone 'Living Advent Calendar'.

The popularity of the Book Exchange has meant that there were sometimes too many books for the available shelving, resulting in the collapse of the one wooden shelf. As a result, the Parish Council has arranged for the box to be refurbished with new shelving, and this is scheduled to be completed towards the end of March 2021.

Mary Turner (Volunteer, Book Exchange) March 2021



Lympstone Community Hub - Update on Activities 2020

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Despite spending most of 2020 and the early part of 2021 in lockdown or under social restrictions, the Lympstone Community Hub supported and funded a number of local community initiatives. A full list of these is detailed below with a short explanation. There are already other events planned for 2021 and 2022 but

Events in 2020

January 20 Story, Songs, Books and Supper

Jenny Moon organised and hosted a free event on 17th January in the Village Hall. The Hub paid the Hall hire cost.

March 20 & September 20 'Happy to Chat' Benches

Gary Winter organised 'Happy to Chat' benches around the village in March. The Hub printed and laminated the posters for this.

March 20 – March 21 Community Lunches

Vicki Drinkwater, Stacey Onoyweta and Jenny Clark organised and cooked monthly, hot, 2-course Sunday lunches which were delivered to recipient's homes. This was funded by grants from Devon County Councillors, Richard Scott and Jeff Trail, and from local donations.

April 20 – July 20 Lympstone Folk Club

Lympstone Folk Club provided free local entertainment via Zoom every fortnight. The hub paid for the Zoom subscription so that more people could listen in.

April 20 – March 21 Lympstone Herald

The delivery of hard copies of the Herald ceased during lockdown, so the Hub sent out digital copies to every Group and Society in the village to forward onto their members. As there was no advertising revenue during the initial lockdown, the Hub funded the reduced printing costs.

November 20 Plants for the War Memorial outside the Parish Church

The Hub paid minor costs to ensure that the planters in front of the War Memorial were full of colour for the Remembrance Day Services.

December 20 Bags of Love from Seaside Santa

The Hub organised 'Bags of Love from Seaside Santa' to be given to local children who were going to have a tougher time than normal at Christmas. 151 children were provided with toys, sweets and books. Thanks to the generosity of donors we were also able to provide a small gift for the 100 parents/carers too and no Hub funds were required.

December 20 Advent Window Trail

Doreen Murray organised the village Advent Window Trail where at least one window was 'opened' every evening at 4pm. The Hub funded the cost of this. A collection on Christmas Eve outside the Village Hall raised £130 for the Exmouth Foodbank.

March 21 Refurbishment of Gibraltar Road Phone Box for Book Swap

The hub paid for the refurbishment.

Planned for 2021

April onwards Lympstone Herald

We will continue to support the delivery of digital copies of the Herald and physical copies to various locations around the Village

April onwards Community Lunches

We will continue to fund the Community Lunches. Once we can socially interact again (probably from September) we will organise 'Happy to Chat' Sunday afternoon teas and lunches in the Village Hall. These will be free events designed to enable community residents to come together to chat and be entertained while being provided with refreshments. We have applied for a grant of £1000 from South West Water to financially support this initiative.

December Advent Window Trail

Residents have already indicated that they would like to repeat this and offers of opening windows have already been received.

Planned for 2022**June Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June have already been planned as an extended Bank Holiday weekend by the Government. Detailed planning will not take place until early 2022.

Hopefully the Hub will be able to support many more other local initiatives over the coming year.

Linda Lyons
Community Hub