

# The Annual Parish Meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle

The **Annual Parish Meeting** was held on **9 May 2018** at the Briantspuddle Village Hall, at 7.00pm.

As part of the meeting a number of Parish organisations gave a review of their activities over the last year, as well as sharing some of their plans for the future.

The following organisations gave a report, some reports have been submitted electronically and they are reproduced below:

- Parish Council's report – Chariman Nick Gore. The report is reproduced below.
- The Erica Trust – Trustees Lesley Haskins & Jim White.
- Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee – Chariman Jenny Lightfoot. The report is reproduced below.
- The Friends of Briantspuddle Post Office and Village Shop Association – Chairman Ken Kilbank. The report is reproduced below.
- Affpuddle PCC – Read by Jonathan Haigh on behalf of Churchwarden Stephen Sanderson. The report is reproduced below.
- Briantspuddle Music Group – Jonathan Haigh. The report is reproduced below.
- Briantspuddle Community Group – Jenny Beedle. The report is reproduced below.
- Bladen Social Club – Secretary Peter Talbot. The report is reproduced below.
- Briantspuddle Community Group – Booklet & Talks – Angie Talbot.

## **Parish Council Chairs report**

The Chairs report was delivered by Chair Nick Gore, the report was a summary of the activities over the past year;

This year has been a busy one for the Parish Council with many issues affecting the Parish from higher tiers of government alongside those closer to home. In dealing with these issues we are very fortunate to retain the services of a very professional Parish Clerk in Lindsay Hole, and although not a volunteer, her dedication goes over and above that which might realistically be expected.

## **Unitary Authority**

The government has given the green light for the creation of two Unitary Authorities within Dorset. The merger of five District Councils with Dorset County Council will

create the more rural authority to be known as Dorset Council. This will replace the existing 206 councillors with an anticipated 82. The new wards may not necessarily be aligned with existing District boundaries. All services operated by the merging councils will then come under the Unitary Authority. There are no new powers or responsibilities delegated to Town and Parish Councils although the Dorset Council will need to consider the interaction with these councils. There is the possibility of some assets being transferred from existing authorities to Town and Parish Councils, such as public toilets or areas of land, however, none exist within our Parish. The elections for the Dorset Council will be held on the first Thursday in May 2019.

### **Piddle Valley Conservation Area Review**

The Parish Council is pleased that the officers of Purbeck District Council took into consideration the representations made by both residents and the Parish Council in completing the final document. The retention of areas of land, particularly parts of the former water meadows, have ensured that the document goes much further towards meeting resident's aspirations than the original draft.

### **The Local Plan Review**

A consultation has recently been held with regard to areas for development to meet housing targets. A number of options were put forward by Purbeck District Council where the least disliked option by respondents was for the lower housing figure for the Moreton area. Support was also given for a small sites policy in smaller villages. The Parish Council made representation with regard to infrastructure to support development. Purbeck District Council recognise that much work is yet to be done on producing viable policies from the results of this consultation.

### **Borough of Poole Water Meadow Project**

The Borough of Poole purchased an area of former water meadows north of Briantspuddle for the purposes of complying with nitrogen neutral policies associated with new housing. By either taking land out of agricultural production or creating a wetland environment gives varying degrees of nitrogen removal and hence the number of properties meeting the target to a greater or lesser degree. Although the project presents opportunities for the parish with possibilities such as increased public access and wildlife habitat, there are also concerns regarding higher water levels and flooding of neighbouring land. The Borough of Poole have sought to involve the Parish Council and Councillors are grateful to its Flood Warden who is supporting the Council with expertise and by attending meetings as the project evolves. The latest update is that they will be conducting a levels and percolation survey later in the year.

### **Affordable Housing**

Following an offer of land within the Parish for the development of Affordable Housing the Parish Council hosted a presentation from a Housing Association Manager and the Head of Housing at Purbeck District Council. Essentially, looking for exemption sites within the Parish which the Parish Council would support. The Parish Council considered that the Housing Survey, conducted by Purbeck District Council, did not draw firm conclusions about a proven need for such a development

within the Parish. It felt that the community should have a greater input and although a degree of development, affordable or otherwise, has some support in the Parish the issue, as always, is coming to a consensus of where and how much.

### **The Briantspuddle War Memorial**

It was brought to the Parish Councils attention that the inscriptions on the war memorial were becoming illegible. On inspection by members, and following a report by a much respected stone mason, the council agreed to apply for planning permission to clean the entire monument. From the beginning, the council knew and expected to be totally guided by the professionals within the conservation department of Purbeck District Council and English Heritage. Small tests must be approved on all areas to be cleaned by the Conservation Officer before proceeding with the whole of an area. A grant from the War Memorial Trust has been applied for which will only fund the inscribed panels. As such this is as much of the memorial as the Parish Council hope will be cleaned at this time with the work being completed before the centenary of the armistice this November.

### **Affpuddle and Briantspuddle Telephone Boxes**

Following the adoption of the two boxes last year, the Parish Council consulted the residents of each village for ideas for their future use. For Affpuddle, the residents considered that a defibrillator would constitute the best use. The project is being managed by a resident of the parish and a Lottery Grant has been awarded. It is hoped that the fitting of the defibrillator will commence shortly. The refurbishment has finished and it looks lovely in its new red coat.

A mini information centre was chosen as the use for the Briantspuddle box which is being managed by a small group. The refurbishment of this box has been somewhat of a trial with the old Ash tree stump impacting upon it, but thanks to the volunteers who undertook its removal, the project can proceed once more.

### **Fingerpost Project**

Over many years, the Parish Council has had an ongoing project to gradually refurbish the decrepit fingerposts throughout the Parish. With the intention of speeding up the process and relieving residents of the cost, the Parish Council approached Viridor with the intention of applying for a grant for the whole project. Unfortunately they would not accept a multi-site project but approved a grant for the fingerpost at Briantspuddle Cross. This has now been completed with the generous donation by a resident to pay for the third party funding, for which the council is extremely grateful. This gave the Parish Council the opportunity to fund a second fingerpost this year with the replacement of the one removed many years ago on the Briantspuddle to Bovington Road.

### **Parish Maintenance**

The Parish Council appointed a new grass cutting and maintenance contractor during the last year and the response from residents has been very positive with regards to the quality of his work. This has included more areas in the vicinity of the Village Hall bringing a more co-ordinated approach.

## **Roads and Highways**

Following a series of positive meetings with Dorset County Council Highways officers a number of improvements are or will be implemented at Waddock Cross. Although this is probably seen as a stop gap now, with the possibility of development in the Moreton and Crossways area we will continue to push for a more permanent solution to this accident blackspot.

The dumpy bags of grit and salt were replaced this year and deployed for residents use during the adverse weather conditions experienced in the winter.

## **Briantspuddle Community Website**

The Parish Website born out of the Parish Plan was set up in 2004. After 14 years the technology is now out of date and as a result it's time to move on. A parishioner has offered to manage the project which will include an off-the shelf solution, making the website easier to manage.

Councillors would like to thank Morning Data who have generously looked after the site free of charge on behalf of the Parish Council over 14 years.

## **Parish Litter Pick**

A Litter Pick took place in April with 21 willing volunteers clearing an entire trailer full of rubbish from roads and footpaths across the Parish. Once a biennial event, due to the ever increasing amounts of litter this has now become an annual task.

Councillors are also very conscious that many parishioners spend time picking up litter as they walk the parish on a regular basis. This ongoing effort, which is much appreciated, should also stand us in good stead for this year's entry into the Best Kept Village Completion. Last year Briantspuddle was awarded "Best Kept Village in Purbeck 2017" from Purbeck District Council.

## **Budget and Finance**

Much of the expenditure met by the Parish Council goes to meet day to day running costs. However, in addition to these priorities the Council is keen to undertake projects itself which seek to improve and enhance Parish life.

During the year the Council completed the paperwork to adopt both the Briantspuddle and Affpuddle telephone kiosks. Budgets were approved to carry out necessary repairs and to convert them for amenity use.

Additional priorities also came to the fore during the year which required additional funding. Namely, the modernisation of the Community Website, funded and managed by the Parish Council and the cleaning of the War Memorial.

The above activities are ongoing as is the initiative to replace or repair fingerposts across the Parish.

Each year the Council sets aside a budget from the Precept which can be applied for by local organisations for projects which will benefit residents. Last year the Parish

Council awarded grants to the PCC of Affpuddle and the Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee.

Looking ahead to the coming year the Council is seeing the impact of cuts to the budgets of Dorset County Council. Parish Maintenance Units have been disbanded and a reduction in overall service levels are visible as a result. Examples include grass cutting, ditch maintenance, sign cleaning and road marking deterioration. It is likely therefore, that costs associated with general maintenance will be increasingly borne by the Parish Council.

A provision in the budget has been made for Legal and professional fees. It is anticipated that the Parish Council may require some professional advice regarding The Water Meadow Project, or other initiatives which may present themselves during the year.

### **Volunteer of the Year**

It is always very difficult to pick a person or group to nominate as the Volunteer of the Year for the Purbeck District Council award, however, with the impending changes to the parish website and with a history of volunteering over many years, this year's nomination was Mr Campbell de Burgh. Campbell has made a significant contribution to parish life for which we are extremely grateful.

The parish is well served by the many volunteers who give up their time, effort and resources to benefit the community. On behalf of the Parish Council and I would like to recognise their contribution for the value it makes to the enrichment of our lives.

A parishioner asked if the Unitary Authority would result in the development at Crossways being a more joined up effort. The Chair answered that it is intended that the Local Plan will be in place before then and the actions carried through to the new Unitary Authority.

### **Village Hall Report for Annual Parish Meeting**

Whilst wondering idly what I could put in a Village Hall Report, I thought how many other organisations would be doing the same. I came to the conclusion that we're truly lucky here to have so many people with different backgrounds and talents working hard to make this Parish a good place to live.

The Village Hall Committee (of which I am currently chair) is a good example of this, but then so are all the other organisations who are reporting tonight, and we do all try to co-operate and support each other as best we can.

Anyway to get on with the report, this last year began with the Open Gardens event. A good time was had by all, visitors and gardeners. A lot of hard work from so many people was rewarded with an evening meal, and a substantial contribution to the Halls funds.

The Hall committee have hosted and organised various other events from that time, such as the Burns Night celebration, The Purbeck Film Festival, Artsreach performances, The Xmas Fair, Xmas Lights Competition and New Years' Party, some made profits to add to funds and others simply provided entertainment for residents.

There are regular and occasional hirings which include Pilates, Keep Fit, Briantspuddle Singers, Short Mat Bowls, Coffee Shop, Talks, Lets Lunch, Skittles, Village Hall Lunch as well as Parties, Celebrations and Wakes.

Recently, a new cooker was purchased for the kitchen as the old one was falling apart. It had given good service but was replaced with a beautiful and much more efficient model. The planning and funding of a new double sink for the kitchen is another one of the ongoing current projects. We are also trying to mitigate the poor acoustics in the meeting room and have recently hung curtains at the windows and paintings by local artists on the walls. Now not only can people with hearing difficulties hear better but it looks much more homely too.

The re-ridging of the Hall is also in the pipeline, Allan has worked hard to secure a grant from Viridor for this and we got in on the very final round of funds as there is no longer any landfill locally to provide the taxes.

The Committee has recently lost Sue Searle our hard working and willing booking clerk, but we have also welcomed a couple of new volunteers, so hopefully the work will be spread out a bit more in future.

Planning for the future we hope to promote the hall more on line, luckily we do have a young savvy and computer literate member who is a great help. Another aim is to try and get more regular users and if at all possible to encourage some of the people in the parish who never use in the hall to come along to experience its delights! We will continue to foster good relations with other Parish organisations, and keep the Hall open and in good repair for use by future generations as a social, educational and recreational hub for the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who support our efforts, all those who volunteer their help and the trustees who work to keep the place as a viable and vibrant venue.

And please, please remember this hall and charity are not here to benefit the hall trustees or any other organisation, it belongs to us all, the members of this community. The trustees of the charity are pledged by the lease and trust deed to run it for 'the inhabitants of the Parish of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle' . . . .without distinction . . . .including use for meetings, lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants'

### **The Friends of Briantspuddle Post Office and Village Shop Association**

Betty Reynolds passed away the day before the presentation of this report. Betty was a long serving and popular member of the volunteer team for many years for whom regular work in the shop played an important part in her life and ours. She will be sadly missed.

The Post Office and Shop refurbishment programme was completed a week before the presentation of this report. The "new" facility was officially opened by Sir Kenneth Olisa, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and a member of our community. The project was completed on schedule and to budget. Feedback from customers has been very good, many expressing genuine surprise at the improvements made. Thanks must be expressed to:

- all those members of the team who worked so hard to see this through;

- the customers for their support over the years which has kept the amenity going strong and for their understanding during the period when the post office and shop were closed for the work;
- the national Post Office for their help, support and generous funding from their Community Fund.

Since our last report to the Parish Council the performance of the Post Office and Shop has been satisfactory.

There was a modest increase in income, an even more modest increase in expenditure, together making a bottom line surplus in line with our aim to more or less break even, taking one year with another;

- it is believed that a good and reliable service has been provided to the community; the shop was open every day of the year, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day and for the recent closure for refurbishment;
- work continued to refine our range and levels of stock holding;
- the Post Office continued to provide a valuable range of services;
- a strong team of 35+ volunteers has been maintained despite a number of changes and it is believed that all volunteers gain pride and satisfaction from their part in running the enterprise for the community;
- a new group of local youngsters has joined the team to gain paid work experience;
- there was a very successful local photo competition which led to the production and sale of our annual shop calendar.

However, things today are changing very fast. The population of the parish is changing, we have recently lost a number of long standing volunteers and regular customers and gained younger, working residents with different needs. Society's demands and habits are changing. This is particularly apparent in the retail sector where every business is having to face change and adapt to new challenges.

Our little Shop is in an unusual niche. With a volunteer staff, support from the Parish Council and the community, low overhead costs and reasonable expectations, we believe there will continue to be a demand for the convenience of the amenity for a good number of years to come. This is part of the thinking behind the refurbishment and we are now looking at ways in which we can identify the changing needs and promote the advantages of our community enterprise

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT PARISH MEETING 2018**

The past 12 months have been busy ones for the Parish church. Attendance at services has held up well with a healthy average of 35 people attending Sunday worship and the major festivals of the year, Easter and Christmas saw 98 attending the Christmas Carol Service, and 72 attending the service on Easter Sunday. There have been 2 baptisms, 2 weddings and 2 funerals in the past year.

In addition to the never-ending work to maintain an 800 year old, Grade 1 listed building and large churchyard particular emphasis has been placed on our plans to construct a lavatory for the church and more detail of this is given in this report.

An outline of the key areas of activity is as follows:

1. Fabric. The fabric of the church remains, as far as we can tell in generally sound condition, and there have been no major issues of concern in the year 2017/2018. A quinquennial inspection of the church structure will take place on Tuesday 15 May 2018 and will be carried out by the Diocesan Architect Mr Daniel Cantrell of John Stark and Crickmay Partnership.

a. Asbestos Management Survey. In order to comply with current health and safety legislation, and in order to meet the requirements of our insurers, a full asbestos management survey of the church was carried out by Meyer Surveys Ltd on 6 November 2017. No such survey has ever been carried out on the church before. No asbestos containing materials were found.

2. Churchyard.

a. Churchyard Gates. As I reported last year, Simon Kidston had made a very generous donation to fund replacement gates for the churchyard in memory of his mother whose ashes are interred here. We are very pleased to report that the gates are now ready for installation which will take place in the near future. The design is similar to the gates that they are replacing but with an inscription carved into them.

b. Parish Council Donation. The sum of £250 was received from the Parish Council in 2017 and had been used to purchase a new small mower to replace the ageing 'Viking' mower which was becoming worn out. I would like to express our thanks to the Parish Council for their generosity which is much appreciated.

c. Mowing. We continue to be very grateful to the large team of parishioners who give up their time and energy over the year to mow the churchyard. I am particularly grateful to Chris Parker for his tireless work in keeping an eye on the maintenance of the mowers.

d. Installation of Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Sign. The CWGC wish, as part of a national project to mark the centenary of the First World War, to put up signs at churchyards in the United Kingdom indicating, where relevant, that there are CWGC war graves in the churchyard. The signs will be paid for, installed and maintained in perpetuity by the CWGC. There are four such graves in the Affpuddle churchyard of which one is marked with a standard CWGC headstone and three with private headstones. The faculty for the installation of CWGC signs has been approved by the Diocese within certain guidelines and PCCs are required to agree and minute their approval before installation of the signs can proceed. The PCC has given its unanimous agreement to the fixing of a CWGC sign on the churchyard wall and this will take place at some stage over the next year.

e. Plans for the Construction of a church lavatory. You will be aware that over the past two years we have been attempting to draw up plans for the



construction of a church lavatory. Mike Menzies managed this project for us until last autumn and we have also been assisted by retired architect Ian Freeman in trying to draw up options for the choice and location of a lavatory. I will not go into the details of all this work but suffice to say that the choice of a composting lavatory located in a hut on the north side of the tower was rejected by the Purbeck District Conservation Officer who proposed instead a location close to the Badcock memorial bench and closely adjoining the boundary with the Old Vicarage close to the back door. This was not acceptable to the PCC.

In order to solve this impasse we approached Salisbury Diocese explaining the difficulties that we had been experiencing in getting our plans approved by the Conservation Officer for Purbeck Rural District. Sue Canning from the Diocesan Advisory Council had advised us to seek the assistance of the Diocesan Architects in drawing up any future plans. The churchwardens therefore met with the Diocesan Architect Mr Daniel Cantrell of John Stark and Crickmay Partnership in order to establish options for the construction of a church lavatory. In essence there are two options, the first being a lavatory located in a shed positioned by the hedge at the boundary to the southeast of the church porch and the second located in a more permanent structure on the north side of the tower with access both from inside and outside the church. The second option although more expensive carried considerable advantages in that it would be an adjunct to the church building facilitating direct access from inside the church and also disabled access to the church on one level. This was the diocesan architect's preferred option although he had emphasised that the decision was the PCC's to make.

It has also been observed that fundraising would be easier for a permanent structure and this would include grants to assist in the cost of construction. The decision was therefore put to the vote and the PCC agreed unanimously that Option two, the construction a lavatory on the north side of the tower with access both from inside and outside the church, should be taken forward. We have now received the architect's rough drawings which are in the process of consideration by the PCC.

3. Rural Dean's Visitation. The visitation was carried out on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October by Simon Everitt, the Rural Dean for Purbeck, on behalf of the Archdeacon of Dorset. The purpose of the visitation is to ensure that all aspects of the operation and administration of the church are being carried out correctly and in compliance with current legislation. The Rural Dean's subsequent report stated that there were no major areas of concern and that all seemed to be in order both with the administration and fabric of the church. There were a few matters for the PCC to take in hand but nothing of major significance. The visitation will now be a regular 3 yearly event. Record keeping, health and safety management, safeguarding policies and annual gas safety certification were amongst the key areas that were inspected.

4. Safeguarding. Effective safeguarding is a high priority for the PCC and we are very grateful to Penny Haigh for her work as safeguarding officer to maintain oversight of this issue within the Parish and to keep the PCC up to date on developments in legislation as necessary. All but one member of the PCC have

attended the Church of England's Safeguarding foundation training course. The church safeguarding policy is updated annually

#### 5. Events/Fund Raising.

a. Seed Money. We are very grateful to Chris Parker for initiating and masterminding our church seed money initiative to raise money for the church. There have been a number of events over the course of the past year and there will be more in the future.

b. Organ Recital. As a fund raising activity in support of our work to plan and construct a church lavatory an organ recital was held in the church at 7.30pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April in front of an audience of 65 people. The organist, Charles Harrison, is the Organist, Master of Choristers and Director of Music at Chichester Cathedral. The recital raised a total of £842.

c. Church Fete. The Annual Church Fete will be held at Cruck Cottage Briantspuddle on Saturday 11 August 2018.

d. Gift Day. The Annual Gift Day will be held on Saturday 3 November 2018.

e. Remembrance Sunday. Remembrance Sunday this year will fall on Sunday 11 November. There will be a service in the church starting at 9am which will include an act of remembrance at the Peace Shrine. The Parish Council have asked whether there could be a commemoration at the Bladen Valley War Memorial at 11am to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. This has been agreed by the PCC and Jonathan Haigh has kindly said that he will lead the act of remembrance at Bladen Valley as Charles Masheder will need to be at Bere Regis. It is of interest to note that the Memorials Commission are going to re-engrave the names of the fallen on the Bladen Valley War Memorial.

f. Carol Service 2018. The proposed date for the Carol service is Friday 21 December 2018.

#### **Briantspuddle Music Group**

The report was provided by Jonathan Haigh. All local players of any instrument, any standard, any age, are welcome to join the Briantspuddle Music Group. We meet together to play to and with each other, usually monthly on a Saturday morning around a piano in one or other of the members' homes. The group first formed at the end of 2013 and we were grateful for start-up sponsorship from Dorset POPP. We no longer charge a subscription but we share costs when they arise, such as for new sheet music or professional support and coaching.

At full strength we consist of four alto saxophone players, two of whom double on soprano sax and flute respectively, plus piano and percussion. It would be great to extend our range of instrumentalists - brass, woodwind and strings, especially in tenor or bass ranges - and to have some younger people, perhaps with a recorder section. What we play depends very much on who turns up and what they like – show music, jazz and classical all get represented.

In the past we have provided background music for the afternoon cream teas held in August of some years at The Granary, Briantspuddle, and we have participated in parties in the Village Hall during Christmas and New Year.

If you are interested, just turn up (children please bring a parent) at our next practice session. Contact me, Jonathan Haigh, first for venue, date, time and more information.

### **Briantspuddle Community Group**

The Community Group report was read out by Mrs Beedle. The main objective of setting up the Community Group was to provide a social hub in the village hall for the benefit of all residents, their family, friends and visitors. To date I believe we have achieved our aim.

The Coffee Shop is a hive of activity on Saturday mornings with many of the older residents coming for a chat, newcomers have the opportunity to meet people and discover what goes on in the village, plus we are now involving youngsters, some doing their community service for Duke of Edinburgh Award, others boosting their self esteem and confidence when mingling with the staff and customers.

The lunch club, " Lets Lunch" continues to attract 40 plus over 55 year olds each month. We have managed to persuade some of the more reclusive residents to join us and are encouraging others by providing them with a hot meal in their home.

Artsreach is also currently run by the community group on behalf of the village hall. This year was a great success, enabling residents to experience internationally renown actors and musicians right on their doorstep at reasonable cost.

Donations have been made to the village hall to help pay for a range cooker, china and glassware, curtains for the Jubilee room and a contribution will also be made towards the purchase and installation of a double sink.

The group has also joined with other organisations to organise the Village New Years Eve Party, and assisted with the Burn Night celebrations. We also hosted a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tea plus sadly several wakes.

All in all it has been a very busy year so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our helpers, young and old, male and female who willing help at our events and who work so hard to keep this community active and vibrant.

### **Bladen Social Club**

The Bladen Social Club report was provided by Secretary, Peter Talbot. The Bladen Social Club is now in its 61st year of providing social activities for the community and many community events took place last year; such as the village quiz, the annual horticultural show, village skittles, the race night, pie and pint nights to name but a few. Some of these events and the regular coffee mornings enabled the club to donate in excess of £1,000 during the year to charitable and worthy causes such as Employ my Ability (Moreton), Julia's House, Help for Heroes, Weldmar Hospice, the Dorset Echo Toy Appeal and Purbeck Workshop. During 2017 essential repairs, maintenance and external repainting were completed and a start on internal re-decoration of the clubhouse took place. The final phase of which it is hoped will be completed during 2018. Due to good membership numbers and continued regular support from members and residents the club remains financially secure and is looking forward to many more years providing social activities and entertainment for

this community. Details of events will be posted on village notice boards, in the Parish magazine and elsewhere.