

Wield Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 04 May 2021

8.15pm

The meeting was carried out via Zoom

Those present: Alwin Hutchinson (Chair), Kate Gibbons, Robert Grande, Nick Lailey, Ben Robinson, Roland Richardson and Jean Frost (Clerk), 14 members of the public were also present

Apologies – There were none:

The minutes of the last APM were agreed as a true record.
Cllr Hutchinson thanked all members of the public for attending

Reports to the meeting

1. Parish Council report (Cllr Hutchinson)

See attached

2. County Council report (HCC Cllr Mark Kemp Gee)

See attached

Q. Cllr Kemp Gee was asked - when will a decision about the planning application for a solar farm at Godsfield would be reached?

A. Cllr Kemp Gee has emailed the plan author and Armsworth Park, but has had no response. He will press for more information and pass any information on to the Parish Council

Q. verge cutting began in April – is this too late in the year?

A. Some verges were cut for safety reasons. The next cut will be in September. A new sub-contractor has been appointed and this has caused some confusion about what and where to cut.

3. Village Hall report (Phil Pullinger)

The Village Hall committee is run by 6 people who represent various hall user organisations. The main concentration this year has been on continued maintenance, and managing access during the COVID pandemic.

On-going maintenance has been the major part of this year's work by the committee. Hopefully you will have noticed our refurbished front door and wind protection pillar. Many thanks to Jonathan for all seven coats of the mirror coat varnish.

We did have the misfortune to have the lead roof stolen from the toilet block. Fortunately, this was covered by insurance, and resulted in it being replaced with a less attractive rubber roof.

The flat had a tenant change this year with no tenant for about 3 months. The committee has taken on the day-to-day management of the flat, albeit we still use Moundsmere to deal with the tenancy contracts.

Training 4 Dogs has again been a major user of the hall this year. Although they have not been able to use the hall that much, they have been using the car park and pay us a small rent for this.

Wield Good Companions (a local group who have been using the hall to show some popular films) have been unable to operate this year, but will hopefully be back next autumn.

Rent free hire has been offered to the WI and the local Glenn Miller Tribute Band (who are raising money for charity).

The newly formed Wield Mens Shed approached the hall committee with an offer to refurbish the hall outhouse with the aim of using it for their "shed". It has been agreed that the building will be re-roofed, insulated and made secure by them. The hall will fund the material costs, while Mens Shed will provide the labour for the work. It was agreed that Mens Shed will have free use of the outhouse for 10 years.

As current Chairman, I have served on the committee for a number of years now, and I feel it is now time to let new blood and energy take the lead. Why not come along and join the committee and help look after our lovely village hall.

Phil Pullinger
Wield Village Hall Chairman

4. Men's Shed report (Phil Pullinger)

The Wield Mens Shed was formed this last year to help men in the community to connect, converse and create. The objective is to have fun, be a good cause in the community, and benefit men's health and wellbeing.

There are a total of 10 men from Wield who have joined the Shed so far. There is also interest from surrounding villages.

With the recent restrictions it has been slow to get started, but plans and proposed activities have been discussed and developed.

The newly formed Wield Mens Shed has approached the village hall committee with an offer to refurbish the hall outhouse with the aim of using it for a "Mens shed". It has been agreed that the building will be re-roofed, insulated and made secure. The hall will fund the materials, while Mens Shed will provide the labour for the refurbishment works. It was agreed that Mens Shed will have rent free use of the outhouse for 10 years.

You will have hopefully noticed that the roof works have now started, with the hope that the refurbishment will be completed this summer.

Phil Pullinger
Wield Mens Shed Member

5. WI report (Catherine Simons)

6. Wield Education Trust report (Barbara Wells)

7. St James' Church (Brian Collins)

Just as for most other organisations in Wield, the pandemic has affected our activities. The rather lily-livered Church of England authorities advised that all churches should be locked as soon as a general lockdown was ordered in March. We have always prided ourselves here that the church is never locked in daytime, so we quickly defied the general instruction and reverted to our "open all hours" policy so that everyone has a place for quiet thought or prayer.

Whenever lockdown rules were relaxed, we held normal services including a rather draughty Christmas Day service outside the church – with the door open so we could hear the organ. We also managed one wedding – a real Thomas Hardy affair where the Bride arrived on horseback and the happy couple both left on horses.

We are now back to our normal program of services, within the distancing and masking rules. Details are in The Oxdrove.

8. Wield Cricket Club (ben Robinson)

Wield CC Season 2020 Report

There was a bit of change in personnel at the Cricket Club this year. Andrew Yorke stood down as Captain at the AGM back in early March 2020 after over 30 years as skipper. This is quite a remarkable run and may possibly never be bettered. Andrew is still very much still involved with the club as President, as a player and as outfield groundsman. Ben Robinson took over as Captain, with Jack Robson as Vice-Captain. Paul Johnson is the new Club Chairman, with Ed Reid as Treasurer and Neil Hewitson as Secretary. Nicola Robinson remains Social Secretary with Tony Robson filling the important role of fixtures secretary.

The first game of the 2020 season wasn't able to be played until the 26th July due to Covid restrictions. Wield then embarked on a run of eight consecutive defeats! This could well be a club record. I'm sure it was nothing at all to do with the change of captaincy... It appeared that despite putting out some very strong teams on paper our opposition had improved a lot too. The end of the season saw improved results with a couple of wins and a draw.

Whatever the results it was great to be out playing cricket and enjoying each other's company after the trials of lockdown. Picking a team was a joy last season with a full XI out for every fixture. There are benefits to travel bans! Sadly no teas were possible- hopefully they can make a return in 2021. I would like to put on record my thanks to Robin Hunt for his sterling work preparing pitches. Many thanks too to all the Vice-Presidents in their support for the club in a challenging year. Hopefully in next year's report I will be able to celebrate a full and successful season and I look forward to being able to thank the tea ladies once again for their talented work feeding the teams.

Our first game this year is away at Medstead on the 9th May. We have matches every Sunday until the end of September. Please come on down and support the team, whilst enjoying Mat and Jas's hospitality at the Yew Tree. If you know of any potential cricketers who would like a game please get in touch with any of the club officers.

9. Coming Out of Lockdown (COOL) party report (Sam Robson)

Date: Saturday 10th July 12.30pm – 6pm

Venue: Wield Village Green

Organised by a group of willing village volunteers, the plan is to hold a free event for all the residents of Wield to join in with as much or as little as they wish. Residents are encouraged to come along, bring their chairs, blankets and picnics, and settle down for a fun afternoon of games, competitions, music and entertainment.

We are planning various activities such as Tug of War, a Dog Show for the children, the Glenn Miller Tribute Band will do a couple of sets, and villagers are invited to race against Alwin's Speed Camera – on foot of course! After a year of wearing them, we can now show off our most creative masks in the Best Mask Competition. Release some pent-up stress by making your own Coronavirus Piñata and then giving it a good bashing! Prizes for the best Piñata.

There will also be Molly's Gin Bar and the Gay Badger Beet Tent selling cheap drinks to thirsty guests (cash only please), a DIY BBQ, as well as table tennis, skittles, a Cake Sharing table and a wonderful display of old Wield photos in the village hall. We will also endeavour to take a long-overdue Village Photo with all the wonderful villagers together again at last.

If anyone would like to offer their services in any way, be it helping set up, offer useful skills, help running games, then please get in touch with Sam Robson sam@lunway.co.uk

Date of next APM:

To be decided