

## COMBINED PARISHES OF GEORGE NYMPTON & QUEEN'S NYMPTON

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 20019

The meeting was chaired by Roger Gay, Chair of George Nympton & Queen's Nympton Parish Council and was opened at 7.30pm.

**Welcome**-Roger Gay welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those who had come along. He said that the meeting was an opportunity for people to get together to reflect on the previous year's events and to learn about plans for the coming year.

**Parish Council**-Roger informed the meeting that two Parish Councillors had resigned this year and he thanked Andy Warren and Mary Burbidge for their contribution to the Council. He thanked Mary for her work as former Parish Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Councillor. He wished Mary and Roy well in their new home in Northamptonshire and thanked them both for all they have done for the community over the years.

One of the vacancies on the Parish Council has been filled and Roger welcomed Lesley Robinson of Garramash Farm onto the Parish Council. Councillor Richard Toller has taken over as RFO and Roger thanked him for taking on that responsibility. It is hoped that there will be interest in the other vacancy soon.

Earlier in the year a successful grant application made by the Parish Council secured £3000 towards village hall refurbishment. Roger thanked County Councillor Jeremy Yabsley for making us aware of the fund.

A community defibrillator was also purchased with the help of a grant from the Communities Together Fund brought to our attention by District Councillor Eric Ley. Two donations and a contribution from the Parish Council made the purchase possible. Roger Gay thanked Jon Ride for taking on the project of sourcing and buying the defibrillator and cabinet and for maintaining it and organising training for volunteers. He also thanked Mark Dean for installing it outside the village hall.

It has been a fairly quiet year for planning matters for the Parish Council to consider.

After a request from Ian Bateman the Parish Council agreed to look at developing a new website which would better serve the wider community including the Church and Village Hall. Jon Ride has since got the community website up and running and Roger thanked him for his work on the website and thanked others for their input.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**-The minutes of last year's meeting were considered and one amendment agreed. Under 'Horticultural Society' the minutes should read 'a donation from any proceeds will be made towards the community defibrillator.' The minutes were amended and then approved.

Roger concluded his review of the Parish Council's year and thanked the Parish Clerk.

**Village Hall**-Adele Poole provided an update from the Village Hall. The majority of the planned refurbishment has been completed and new tables have recently been purchased. There is still some work to be completed in the gents and disabled toilets. There is a plan for new curtains for both halls as well as measures to improve the acoustics in the main hall. Future projects include down lights for

the main hall, refurbishment of the bar area and new chairs in keeping with the new tables. Outside funding will be sought for these projects.

Fundraising has gone well. Joint quiz nights with the church have raised £7-800 each time. The Ferret night was really well attended and the bingo nights raise £3-400 per time. Thank you to everyone who has helped contribute to our fundraising. There are other events planned throughout the year.

Hiring of the hall is going well with some regular bookings as well as one off bookings. We plan to increase the marketing of the hall.

In previous years we have benefited from the funds raised by the village fete. Because there is no fete this year we need to find ways of increasing our own fundraising.

The village hall committee is still small in numbers and we would welcome new members. We are grateful for help from non-members at any of our events.

**Music Festival**-We are planning a music festival in conjunction with the church on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 2pm onwards. We already have a good amount of interest from local groups and will advertise shortly for other interest.

There are two venues, the church and the village hall. We are supporting Devon Air Ambulance with 40% of any profits going to the charity. They have kindly agreed to help promote the festival.

We are hoping for lots of help on the day and will put a volunteer form on the notice board.

**Horticultural Society**-Trish Ford informed the meeting that the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Show will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Entries to all categories are welcome from members of the parishes and their families. Children's entries are particularly welcome. Further information will be available in the June and July newsletter. The society would be grateful for volunteers to help on the day.

**Nymet St George Church**-Ian Bateman spoke to the meeting on behalf of the Church. Our church has been the centre point of the village since the 14<sup>th</sup> century and still important to people at various stages of their lives for baptisms, marriages and funerals. However, it is only used regularly by about 12 people and only 4 of these people live within the parishes.

The church costs £12-£1300 per year to run before any repair or refurbishment work. The burden of these costs fall on the community. £8000 per year is sent to the diocese to pay for clergy etc. The money is raised by donations from the congregation, burial fees, fund raising events, Parish Council grant towards upkeep of churchyard and generous donations from the fete.

A leak in the tower roof means more funds will be needed this year. We support charities like the British Legion, Christian Aid, FCN, Send a Cow and a little to the village hall.

The church tries to be inclusive. Events like coffee mornings, harvest supper, St Georges Day lunch and carol service are a chance to meet people and socialise. Our membership is dwindling and we are now joining forces with the village hall and running joint events which we would encourage you to support.

Ian said the church would miss Muriel Price who sadly died in March and warmly invited anyone to come along to church.

**Broadband**-Adele Poole informed the meeting that she is frustrated and disappointed that despite all her efforts to find a solution to bring about improved broadband to our parishes, the new project manager from Open reach has not managed to provide any details on the up to date scope and cost

of the project. Adele will continue to pursue this matter on our behalf. In the meantime Airband has increased its network availability and so far it has proven to be a fast and stable solution for users.

**Mobile Signal**-Ian Bateman raised the problem of lack of mobile signal. Online sellers are increasingly using a 2 stage authentication process for payments by card. This will usually be by sending an SMS message to your mobile phone. Ian has raised this matter with Peter Heaton Jones our MP.

**Close of Meeting**-Roger Gay thanked all the speakers at the meeting for their contributions and everyone who attended the meeting. He thanked Adele for chairing the village hall committee and for the progress that has been made with the refurbishment as well as her work on broadband provision.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.