

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

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

#### Minutes of Meeting

1. **Welcome**-The meeting was opened by Jon Ride, Chairman of George Nympton & Queen's Nympton Parish Council, who welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. Jon said that this meeting is an opportunity for everyone to get together and reflect on the previous year's events in the Parishes and to learn about plans for the coming year.

The past year has been exceptional because of the pandemic. The vast majority of regular village events such as the horticultural show, fete, fireworks, music festival, craft club and various fundraising events in the village hall have not taken place. The Castle Inn hasn't been able to be open as normal for a lot of the time and the Church and Village Hall have been mostly closed.

It was reassuring to see how the villagers pulled together to help each other. Many people were sharing online food shopping when delivery slots were difficult to get. People shared the results of their baking and bread making. Trudy Herniman kindly organised milk deliveries from a local dairy and the pub acted as a collection point. Members of the Parish Council and others offered to pick up medicines or urgent supplies and Adele offered counselling for anxiety or loneliness. Ian and Debbie did everything they could to provide a service for us while respecting the rules. Thank you to everyone who helped out over a difficult period.

Thanks also to Pat and Ian Bateman for continuing to produce the newsletter and distribute it during the year. In the absence of other news, they kept us informed of everybody's mishaps!

Hopefully next year there will be more events news to report.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**-Ian Bateman asked for the previous minutes to be amended. Under the item for Nymet St George Church, the church annual costs should read £12,000-£13,000. The minutes were agreed with this amendment.
3. **Parish Council**-Jon Ride provided an update from the Parish Council. He thanked Roger Gay for all his work as the Chairman over the past 3 years and welcomed the news that Roger will remain as a councillor.

The Parish Council meetings have been held via zoom for the past year. Jon thanked Trudy Herniman for arranging all the meetings. He also thanked Nan Maxwell, the Parish Clerk.

Many thanks to Richard Toller who has the unenviable task of being the Responsible Finance Officer for the Council.

It has been a rather quiet year but the Council has continued with much of the normal business, e.g. reviewing planning applications. The Council also helps with the funding towards the church and village hall. We are grateful for the assistance of Jeremy Yabsley, County Councillor and Eric Ley, District Councillor.

The biggest achievement this year has been the roll out of fibre broadband to the parish. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Adele Poole who has shown incredible resilience over four years to get us to this point.

For the next year, we're looking forward to holding council meetings in person and hopefully planning further improvements to the parish facilities.

4. **Village Hall**-Adele Poole provided an update.

The village hall has been closed for the past year. We are hoping to be able to open later in the year. Booking requests are welcome.

The repairs to the roof are now complete and we are able to move on with the next stage of refurbishment. Plans include new doors and windows to main hall, opening up and refurbishing bar area, upgrading gents and disabled toilets and getting an outside electricity supply.

The Village Hall Committee will host an afternoon tea in the grounds of the hall on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm-5.30pm. Everyone is very welcome.

The Committee really needs more members and volunteers to help organise and run events.

We hope more people will get involved as we open up and plan future events.

There is a plan to have fibre broadband connected to the hall. This will improve the facility for potential hirers of the hall. We are also looking at the possibility of a card reader.

Ian Bateman has secured a less expensive insurance policy which will provide cover for outdoor events like the fireworks.

Mark Dean is planning an outdoor "beer, band and burgers" event for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July in the grounds of the hall.

The Horticultural society is considering holding the Summer Show in August.

5. **Broadband**-Adele Poole said that the fibre broadband project is now 95% complete. Those who have committed vouchers to the project will be contacted by email when their connections are complete.

Adele was thanked for all her work to get the project to this stage.

6. **Nymet St George Church**-Ian Bateman provided an update.

The Church, like everything else went into lockdown in March 2020 due to covid. It has been open on day per week since October for private prayer. Church services have continued throughout the pandemic using Zoom to cover all the churches in the South Molton Mission Community. Anyone is welcome to join these but please apply to REV Michael Grandey at <mailto:grandey@talk21.com>.

We have continued to produce the newsletter despite sometimes struggling for actual news! These were delivered entirely by email but we have started the normal door to door delivery from May.

During the pandemic we have been unable to do any fund raising apart from the recent plant sale and without services we have lost about £5,000 over the year as we still pay Common Fund to the Diocese (to support clergy etc.) and have insurance and electricity

costs. We are grateful to the Parish Council which continues to pay most of our churchyard maintenance.

We have an ongoing problem with the tower roof and recent frost damage to stonework must be repaired. The memorial to Thomas Gray inside the church was renovated. The cost of this was donated by Mervin Gay, for which we are very thankful.

We held an Easter service when Trudy rang a bell and I also tolled a bell for Captain Tom and Prince Philip.

As the pandemic restrictions ease, we are planning to restart Sunday services, fortnightly at first, from May 16<sup>th</sup> while the regular Zoom services will continue.

The church has a dwindling regular congregation and had few visits during the times it was open during the pandemic, so unless we have more support we should be concerned over its future viability.

AS a postscript-The Annual Church Council Meeting was held on May 5<sup>th</sup> when Trudy Herniman was elected as our second churchwarden.—Ian Bateman, Churchwarden.

7. **AOB**-There were none.
8. **Closing Remarks**-Jon Ride thanked everyone for attending and the speakers. He also thanked everyone who contributes towards making our community what it is and said that hopefully we can look forward to a more positive year ahead.

**The meeting was closed at 8.10pm.**