



## Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

### Minutes of the Redlynch Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Redlynch Village Hall at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Bennett, Bowler, Harvey, Newton, Peacock, Romain and Stride, Unitary Cllr Zoe Clewer, 6 members of the public and the Parish Clerk.

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction by Parish Council Chair Chanene Romain:

Cllr Romain welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked them for attending.

#### 2. Apologies for absence:

There were no apologies.

#### 3. Adoption of the minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

#### 4. To receive a presentation from:

- **SSE – Priority Services Register**

Unfortunately, the representative was unable to attend the meeting.

Apologies have since been received as unfortunately the representative was called away to deal with an outage.

- **RSPB – Franchises Lodge**

The Site Manager will be attending to give an update on Franchises Lodge:

Richard Snelling gave a presentation on the background of Franchises Lodge and the works that are taking place. The site was originally owned by the Hamptworth Estate and the RSPB bought it and are working to restore the habitats. Looking back at images of the site in 1810 it looks very different to what it looks like now – it used to be a very highly diverse landscape. Pictures from the 1950s show heathlands present.

Work is being carried out to change the site from a plantation to a biodiverse mix of neutral grasslands and wet meadows. Cattle have been introduced to the site and work is currently being carried out to change fencing to keep the cattle in. Management of the deer numbers is also being carried out with a deer manager in place. Other works include the clearance of rhododendrons. Langley Wood volunteers are assisting in carrying out the works. In 200yrs time there will be heathland and woodland pasture.

Cameron's Cottage has been renovated to a high specification and is a youth activity centre for teenagers and young adults. For some of these youngsters, it is the first time they've been in the countryside. They participate in activities including team building such as assisting with the cutting down of the rhododendrons.

There are two byways to the site and there has been some anti-social behaviour and issues with vehicles going through the site which has required assistance from the Police.

- **Report from PC Pete Jung and PC Harry Murphy**

PC Jung gave a short report and as he is retiring he introduced his successor for the area, PC Harry Murphy. Originally Redlynch and Downton were part of the Wilton neighbourhood policing area which made no sense and thankfully the boundaries have now been changed. PC Jung has been in the force for 30yrs and takes personal pride in the work he carries out. They will do their best to come out for burglaries to outbuildings and will endeavour to prevent repeat burglaries especially where tools are stolen. They are dedicated to the rural areas but unfortunately resources have been an issue.

Information for our Community Policing Team can be found using this link:

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/area/your-area/wiltshire/salisbury/downton/on-the-team/crime-map>

## 5. Chair's Annual Report:

There has been a change of Cllrs in the last year; we saw the departure of Cllr Amanda Newbery due to moving out of the area and the recent resignation of Cllr Simon Voss. I would like to say thank you to Cllr Newbery who was our Vice Chair and was instrumental in arranging the jubilee celebrations in the village. My thanks also to Cllr Voss who has been a Cllr for almost 5 yrs and the lead of finance for the last two years and a representative for the Redlynch and Playing Fields Association - thank you Simon. We've co-opted two new Cllrs in the last year – Cllr Ray Bowler and Cllr Ian Harvey.

In the last year we celebrated the Queen's jubilee with a special church service and a picnic on Lover Green with Woodfalls Band. We sadly also saw the passing of HM The Queen.

The improved signage and other works to assist with highlighting the 30mph speed limit on The Ridge took place this year as a result of our successful application to Wiltshire Council. We would also like to thank the Community Speed Watch volunteers who continue to carry out their speed watch duties on The Ridge. The SID panel data is now being shared with Wiltshire Police to ensure Traffic Officers are deployed to areas with speeding issues. The highest speed recorded in the last year was 107mph which took place during the day.

The Council took part in Remembrance Sunday parade again this year.

The parish Christmas tree "switching on of the lights" service was well attended this year. There was the singing of Christmas carols with Woodfalls Band providing the music and Rev Veronica Batchelor assisting in leading the service. Thanks to them and a huge thanks to Mr Paul Bromage for switching on the lights this year. Thanks again to Hamptworth Estate for the tree and to the children of Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Primary School for the decorations.

The Public Spaces Protection Order for both Redlynch and Downton came into effect this year. Due to a safety inspection the Lover Play Area has been upgraded with a new swing set and we have a new addition, a multi-play piece of equipment which we hope the children will enjoy.

We have carried out various maintenance works throughout the parish - grass cutting, play equipment inspections, tree works, cleaning of bus shelters and a health and safety check at the cemetery to name a few. We have worked with Wiltshire Council to carry out clearance works to footpaths in the parish and in particular we have seen the reinstatement of the bridleway which runs from Muddyford Rd and now means you can walk safely down to Downton. We would also like to thank our Parish Steward for keeping the most used paths clear. The council has also addressed 43 planning applications supporting 36.

Saplings obtained by the Parish Council as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations were given to various local organisations to plant. Unfortunately, the sapling planted by the Parish Council at Bowers Hill was taken but was replaced with a sapling purchased by the Council.

The Council has had meetings with representatives from Wiltshire Council to address the issue of youth provision in the parish which we hope will be taken further this year.

We gave Asset Grants to Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall, Redlynch Village Hall, Lover Green and Redlynch Playing Fields. I would like to formally thank the management committees of those assets on behalf of the Parish Council and recognise the great job they do. Other thanks need to go to the volunteers who look after the telephone box book exchanges on behalf of the Council – thank you.

We took part in this year's Great British Spring Clean with volunteers going out over the last weekend in March to litter pick. 22 bags of litter were collected! Huge thanks to all the volunteers who took part.

We had a successful grant application approved by the Southern Wiltshire Area Board to hold a Silent Disco for seniors which will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Councillors continue to represent the Parish Council on management committees, Neighbourhood Tasking Group, South Wilts Area Board, Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group, New Forest Consultative panel, North West Quadrant of the National Park, Downton Link and The Stockman and Woodlands Charitable Trust.

We do have Cllr vacancies if anyone is interested in joining!

#### **6. To receive presentations from Community Groups:**

The Lover Green Committee were unable to attend but submitted a presentation to show how the Asset Grant awarded by the Parish Council was used to carry out improvement works to the Green.

A representative from Redlynch Social Club also passed on apologies but wished to thank the Parish Council for the Asset Grant. The solar panels have been installed, and they are working with the contractor to optimise them. Estimates are pay back in 6 years at £3k per year.

#### **7. Any general questions to Parish Councillors from residents who are on the electoral roll for Redlynch Parish:**

The following questions/concerns were raised by parishioners:

- A concern was raised regarding the lack of white lines on the A338 between Breamore and Salisbury. As this comes under the Highway Authority and the area is not within Redlynch Parish, Unitary Cllr Clewer advised she would raise the issue with Highways for the area within Wiltshire.
- Concerns were raised regarding the resurfacing works along The Ridge with puddles still forming on the footpaths.
- A concern was raised that the format of the meeting needs to be changed as not enough time has been allocated for parishioners to raise their questions/concerns. To address the concern, the parishioner was invited to use the public session time of the Parish Council meeting following this meeting. The Parish Council will review the time given to parishioners to raise questions/issues at the Annual Parish Meeting and to decide whether to change the format in future.
- A concern was raised regarding the health and safety aspect of the resurfacing works due to puddles on the footpath forcing people on to the road and the run off of water going into people's properties.
- A concern was raised regarding the surfacing along Besomer Drove.

In respect of the concerns raised regarding the The Ridge resurfacing works, the Parish Council is currently waiting for a meeting date with Wiltshire Highways Officers to try to resolve the issues.

#### **8. Close at 8.00pm:**

With no further questions Cllr Romain thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.05pm.