

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF  
BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 26TH APRIL 2022**

In attendance: Cllr Pete Wales (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr Michael Harris (Vice Chairman), Cllr John Korbey, Cllr John Wingham, Cllr Michael Croker, Cllr Alan Bartlett, Cllr Russell Horne, Cllr Kevin Whittle, Cllr Pauline Mueller, Cllr Paul Pearse and D Cllr Maureen Holding.

Heather Lawrence (Parish Clerk) and an additional 29 members of the public

**1. Welcome and Apologies** – Pete Wales welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr R Bowles and C Cllr Mans

**2. Chairmans' Report**

Cllr Wales gave an overview of the council and village during the last year and announced that he would be stepping down as Chairman after seven years in the role. See Appendix one for the full report.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

It was noted that a request for a representative from the NFNPA to attend was unsuccessful.

**4. Report by the District Councillors – Cllr Michael Harris & Cllr Maureen Holding**

D Cllr Holding gave a report on various issues in Brockenhurst.

Cllr Harris gave a report on New Forest District Council during the last twelve months.

He reported that the new chief executive Kate Ryan is now in post.

During the pandemic NFDC distributed £84,000,000 to qualifying businesses.

In 2024 the Waste Strategy will be effective with hopes to increase the recycling rate from the current 35% to the government recommended 55%. There will be weekly collections but not everything will be collected every week. It is hoped that there will be a better system between NFDC and HCC.

Cllr Harris proposed that Brockenhurst should have a strapline of "Brockenhurst Heart of the New Forest".

**5. Report from PC Jason Eastwood**

PC Eastwood advised that he is leaving his current position after eleven years, which he is sad to do but has a good opportunity to take on a role with new trainees. He explained that he is one of only a few designated beat officers in Hampshire and that his role is very diverse.

Crime is up 24% across Hampshire with 172,00 crimes to date. PC Eastwood advised that Brockenhurst can be a soft target as there is no CCTV. 150 suspicious activities were reported in Brockenhurst last year. The area is busier with a lot more camping.

Cllr Wales presented a small gift in appreciation for his years working in Brockenhurst.

## **6. Report from Brockenhurst College**

Limor Feingold gave an update on the college explaining how the college adapted to remote teaching and learning during Covid-19.

The first year was financially difficult but they were helped by the government covid funding.

Student numbers are now 2866 with the potential to increase + 14% over the next six years.

Limor gave a short presentation on the colleges building project. The plans for the single-storey, modular structure at the rear of the College's main campus in Brockenhurst are currently at the pre-planning stage with New Forest National Park Authority.

The application is for a 1,200 square-metre building incorporating a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Independence HUB. The structure would also house the College's existing Foundation Studies department.

Under the plans, there would be ten new classrooms, social space, staff space, meeting rooms, a medical room, a hygiene room and a sensory room, among other facilities.

£4m of funding is being provided from the Department for Education (DfE) £83m Post-16 Capacity Fund, which is earmarked for accommodating a forecast spike of around 260,000 additional 16-19-year-old learners from 2023.

Creating a dedicated facility for SEND learners and Foundation Studies students at Brockenhurst College would free up existing facilities to help accommodate the expected influx of extra students.

The DfE award has been made possible through match funding of £0.9m by Hampshire County Council under its Living Futures project aimed at creating SEND Independence Hubs across the county to help learners develop independent living skills.

## **7. Report from Brockenhurst Primary School**

John Littlewood, headteacher gave an update on the Primary School.

The Pre-School moved onsite in 2020 and the running was taken over in 2021 and there are 24 places. This now means that the school can accommodate children from 2 – 11 years old for 48 weeks of the year between 7.30am – 6.00pm.

The school has 34 volunteers which helps to make the village part of the school. The school is equipped to help children with the next stage of their life and has stronger partnerships with other education providers.

## **8. Report of the Nalder Trust Charity**

Cllr Croker gave an interesting report on the Nalder Trust, the future plans and the search for further information about Miss Nalder. See **Appendix two** for the full report.

## **9. Report from Brockenhurst Village Trust**

Sarah Neller gave an interesting update on the village hall. See **appendix three** for the full report.

## **10. Report from Lymington Hospital Friends**

Mike Hodges and Arthur England gave an interesting presentation on the work of the Hospital Friends. The presentation included details of what equipment the Friends have been able to purchase for the hospital and the impact this has had on the services the hospital can offer, the patients and the NHS.

## **11. Report from Friends of Brockenhurst**

David Eley gave an update on the work done by Friends of Brockenhurst. See **appendix four** for the full report.

## **12. Report from Greener Brockenhurst**

Patrick Andrews gave a short report. Greener Brockenhurst has been formed just over a year ago. It has been able to provide the recycling shed in the Village hall car park. The Eco fair last year which 500 people attend. The event will take place this year on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Projects including Making Space for Nature nappy library, plastic free community group and a home energy solutions event.

A repair café will open for the first time on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

## **13. Report about Speedwatch Scheme**

Jonathan Doughty gave a short report about the Speedwatch Scheme and the hope that this could be set up in Brockenhurst in the future. It would require a minimum of six volunteers, who would receive training. A budget of between £2000-£6000 would be needed to purchase the equipment.

## **14 Platinum Jubilee celebrations**

Cllr Harris gave an update on the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations to be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

The celebrations will be held in three locations, Brookley Road, with the road closed between 11am- 6pm to allow for vintage cars to be displayed and live music. The Football Club will have stalls, live music, food and drink. The Village Hall are inviting residents from local care homes for afternoon tea and live music. Old film footage and The Derby will be shown.

## **15. Questions/comments from Members of the Public None**

## **16. Chairman's Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending and all those who had made presentations.

A presentation was made to Anne and Keith Nolan for their help with providing refreshments at this meeting and many previous Annual meetings over the years.

The meeting closed at 9.18pm

## Appendix one

### Chairman's Report given by Cllr Pete Wales

#### 2022 APM Report

After 9 years as a Councillor and seven as Chairman I am formally announcing tonight that I am stepping down from the role of Chair. I have regarded it as an immense privilege and have always remained respectful of the responsibility and heritage that the position carries.

It doesn't take long to discover that the opinions of residents are not only diverse but also passionate. Nevertheless there is common ground as we all want the best for the village. This does require collective effort and collaboration so I want to thank my fellow councillors for their confidence in me and for the voluntary support they have shown.

It is the right time to depart as we have a stable staff resource and I would like to thank our Clerk, Heather, for her outstanding commitment since she has been in post because she cares and not because it's her job. She has great support from Tiffany, the new Assistant Clerk and Ray our Groundsman. Mina Beckett and Mary Pattison have also given support during the year and many thanks go to both of them as well. We also have a full complement of experienced Councillors following the election of Paul Pearse who I would like to welcome tonight to his first APM. Paul replaces Richard Wolstenholme who I would also like to thank for his continuing support and contributions. So now is the right time for the next generation to step forward and take responsibility as we approach the Council elections in 12 months time.

This is therefore my report of our year as your Parish Council.

Firstly, it is great to see you all in person as the Council has been able to get back to F2F meetings though we continue to press the Government to allow virtual meetings in the future given their success. As a Parish Council we have supported residents by providing grants to Victim Support, Citizens Advice, Compass Counselling and Wessex Cancer this year.

Unfortunately, we made the decision not to have a Fun Evening last Christmas but my thanks go not only to Russell Horne who spends many hours ensuring the village Christmas lights are terrific but also to Mr Cooper from Strawberry Fields who donated the tree this year and Oli at Westbeams for helping to erect it and take it down.

Despite the rain the Pancake Races were held and my thanks go not only to Bronya but also the PTA and College for their efforts. Cllr Harris will highlight the events we are organising with others for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations later. Unfortunately, Mike Matthews has covid and is not here tonight but I would like to thank him for organising the Anzac ceremony once again at the weekend which was highlighted on Alun Newman's Radio Solent Breakfast show this morning. You are probably aware that at St Nicholas' church war graves section 3 Indians are buried. On 11th March for the first time the Friends of the Indian Soldiers of the New Forest held a ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves and they hope to make this an annual event in the future.

Turning to the village infrastructure.

Traffic, parking and highways continue to present significant challenges not only in Brookley Road but also Sway Road and you will be hearing from Jonathan later this evening with regard to Speed Watch. In the meanwhile discussions are taking place not only with the relevant authorities but also with the Friends of Brockenhurst and Greener Brockenhurst about the Experimental Traffic Order on Sway Road and Hampshire County Council on Brookley Road. With the support of local residents, we have after many years of continuous lobbying managed to restrict the parking area between the Watersplash and The Rise.

The footbridge at the end of North Road was closed by Network Rail very quickly as it was found that the upside trestle supporting the staircase was subsiding. A solution has now been found and we are applying pressure for the re-opening as soon as practicable.

Residents were very concerned about the Martin's Corner footbridge and the Parish Council have acted in response but wait for Forestry England's approval for HCC's renovation prior to the Parish Council completing a license for the crossing. On the asset front we have also completed negotiations to purchase Sparks Green at the bottom of Church Lane as we believe that this land can be protected, improved and enhanced as an entrance to the village.

Two consultations have been completed this year; one on burial grounds and the other on speed limits. Government proposals to increase the minimum grave size to 5 metres squared with a 1 metre minimum depth between the water table were both opposed as they would limit the available space in our cemetery.

As a blanket 20mph speed limit would be as difficult to enforce as the current 30mph limit we joined many other Parish Councils in suggesting authorities are given the power in the future to implement selective 20mph areas only.

I would like to finish by thanking all of you. The Parish Council has not always been able to provide you with the answers you wanted but I personally have immensely enjoyed the many challenges you, the residents, have given to us!

Thank you very much.

## Appendix two

### Nalder Trust Report given by Cllr Michael Croker chairman of the Nalder Trust Committee

I am the Chairman of the Nalder Trust Committee of the Parish Council and I want to talk about ghosts. Not what I suspect you expected tonight. An unusual and possibly unique subject for an Annual Parish Meeting.

Ghosts are often nameless and without physical manifestation. But the ghost I particularly want to talk about definitely has a name, and what a name it is: **Frances Louisa Lydia Fielding Nalder** and she definitely has a physical presence after life.

Probably many of you have never heard of her. Those of you who have, may know a little about her. So:-

#### MISS NALDER'S LIFE

In life she lived in Wilverley Road, in a house called Green Pastures, and was an avid tennis player. She does not seem to have had much interaction with village life apart from that. We don't even know if she worked. No known photo of her exists. and so she is something of a phantom presence.

#### HER GIFT

But she did one amazing thing. In her will, she provided for the creation of a new charitable trust, She bequeathed Green Pastures to the Parish Council to become a home for old people and the property was to be renamed after her. To this day, the Parish Council is the trustee of that trust.

#### GREEN PASTURES

Those of you who have an intimate knowledge of Wilverley Road will know that there is now no house called Green Pastures. It is gone, demolished years ago. Before she died, Miss Nalder became unwell and the house was sold to pay for care costs. So, instead of the house and land, in 1993 the Council received what was left, a sum of about £100,000.

#### HOMEFORDE HOUSE

With this endowment, the Council bought two flats in Homeforde House and let these on social rent terms to people who would not otherwise have anywhere to live locally. Today the Trust owns four flats in the complex, all of which carry the name of Miss Nalder over their front doors. These are the closest so far the Trust has been able to come to fulfilling Miss Nalder's wish that her house should be called after her and used for housing.

#### ALMSHOUSES

The trust created was charitable but it was also an almshouse charity. "Alms" meaning charity and thus an Almshouse is a house given by private charity for the housing of the needy. Almshouses are, almost uniquely English in both origin and existence. There are a few in Scotland and Wales and some in the Netherlands. As with all charities, they have potentially perpetual life. The oldest one in England is 900 years old. There are many with hundreds of years behind them.

## 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY – FUTURE

Approaching the 30 year anniversary of our Almshouses, the Council has been looking at the future development of the trust. As we know, the housing situation has got markedly worse since Miss Nalder died.

The Trust may be in a position to help the most needy: elderly mostly single people who would otherwise be homeless, so we have been looking at the feasibility of building a new small Almshouse development of our own, probably of about 6 units. One that would come much closer to Miss Nalder's original intention of a stand-alone complex.

We also have to remember that Homeforde House was one of the first McCarthy Stone developments and its finite life will not match the longevity of the Trust. Providing high class homes will help keep our residents out of hospital or care needs.

Almshouses are exempt from Right to Buy. So, anything we build or own will therefore be a permanent addition to social housing and we can tap into Homes England's funding for construction and subsidised loans. That is good. What is not so good news is that we need a suitable central site in the village which we would have to fund ourselves. If you have any suggestions do let us know. We need another Miss Nalder, or indeed, multiple Miss Nalder's. Are you perhaps sitting here tonight?

So, to conclude. If any of you are interested in social housing and want to see this village expand its provision for those in need we would be delighted.

- If you want to help guide the Trust, we have spaces on our advisory Committee for non councillors;
  - If you want to provide a donation, please contact the Administrator to the Nalder Trust, who is the same as the Clerk to the Council
  - If you want to provide a legacy to the trust, please also contact the Administrator who can provide a suitable form of words for your will.
- and, finally
- if you know anything more about Miss Nalder we would be very interested in making concrete, the rather ephemeral information we have about her.

We are in the process of updating the web site with more information. However, I shall be around after this meeting if you have any questions or want more information, especially if you want to become the next Miss Nalder! Or you can contact the ADMINISTRATOR.

I hope in this short session that I have brought Miss Nalder and her generous and amazing foresight more to life. I thank you for your attention.

MICHAEL CROKER  
APRIL 2022

## Appendix three

### Report from Brockenhurst Village Trust given by Sarah Neller

#### Summary View of 2021 for the Brockenhurst Village Trust.

As way of a quick overview, The Brockenhurst Village Trust is a registered charity run by volunteers providing educational, recreational, and social facilities for the people of Brockenhurst.

Our biggest responsibility is for the buildings and facilities on the Highwood Road Site. The trust employs four members of staff, including myself, but relies upon the skills, time and dedication of volunteers to maintain and develop the facilities.

Much has changed on the site over the past five years. With older facilities being replaced with new ones, such as the Multi Use Games Area and a purpose-built Scout Hall.

But with change comes opportunity. So please visit our website to find out how you can get involved and help shape the facilities for both now and the future. (Contact details can be found on the back of our leaflet or pop in for a chat). [www.brockenhurstvillage.org.uk](http://www.brockenhurstvillage.org.uk)

So, looking back to 2021:

COVID-19 meant that the Hall was closed for most of the first half of 2021, with bookings not returning to some kind of normality until June, but even then, well below pre-Covid levels of activity.

However, we avoided significant losses by receiving generous support from the Covid grants and generating a new income stream with our Charity Shop. More on this in a moment.

#### **Summary of Accounts for 2021 (pre-audited figures)**

Income from lettings £52k. Other income, including the Charity Shop was £33k.

Income from government grants and furlough during the coronavirus pandemic was £41k.

Operating costs were £92k and we spent £12.5k on new central heating boilers. So, our nett outcome after depreciation (£30k/yr) was £6585.

#### **Highlights of 2021**

**The Food Rescue Kitchen;** We continued this partnership, started back in 2020. Jane used space at the beginning of the year to create a food hub. Collecting surplus food from local supermarkets and distributing it to those in need within our community. This was a lifeline for some families and we were proud to be able to assist in this small way when the building wasn't being used during the lockdowns.

**Launch of our Charity Shop;** Following the Preschool relocating to the school we took the opportunity to trial a charity shop in the then vacant Oak Room. We were assisted by HCC Waste Prevention team in the form of a £1200 grant.

The main objectives for the shop were;

1. Cover the income from previous lettings of this room
2. Deliver on our stated commitment to sustainability and
3. Offer different and new ways for our community to become involved
  - a. volunteering, donating and as customers.

Doors opened on April 12<sup>th</sup> last year when non-essential retail was given the covid green light. But even before this we had attracted 10+ volunteers and amassed significant volumes of donations. And I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us so far. We could not provide this exciting addition to our service without the support of our community.

**Participating in The Kickstart Scheme** – the scheme was provided by the government and offered funding to employers to create new jobs for 16–24-year-olds currently on Universal Credit and in danger of becoming long-term unemployed.

We created two new vacancies comprising: Retail Assistant and Marketing Assistant. We had two young people join us last year to take advantage of these opportunities. It was a privilege for us to be able to support them as they start out on their careers. Getting involved in the scheme also gave us an opportunity to reflect on our policies and procedures and leaving us improved for the future.

### **Ongoing Concerns**

Although the litigation against the Trust concerning alleged statutory noise nuisance from the MUGA was decided in the Trust's favour in January 2021, complaints were subsequently made to New Forest District Council's Environmental Health department. NFDC Env. Health advised us to create and implement a Noise Management Plan. The Trust decided to apply for planning for the installation of a lockable fence around the facility in 2022. This application has now been made and we await the outcome.

### **Looking Forward**

We are excited at the prospect of new opportunities and look forward to working closely with our community to explore these.

I will end by expressing our thanks to all of our volunteers, users and community for their ongoing support.

## **Appendix four**

### **Report from the Friends of Brockenhurst given by chairman David Eley**

Friends of Brockenhurst was formed in 1957 with the aim to protect, improve and develop the character and amenities of Brockenhurst and the surrounding forest area for the benefit of the residents of the Village and the wider community.

Today, sixty-five years on, these principals of the Society still exist where it concentrates especially, but not exclusively, on matters relating to planning, environment and the welfare of the community.

We work with and where necessary try to influence local and other government bodies to advance our objectives and we also make representations on planning matters where appropriate.

Friends of Brockenhurst aim to support the Parish Council in matters affecting our village and we also continue to have regular meetings with the National Parks and New Forest Planning Authority.

Brockenhurst is the only large village in the UK where livestock roams free and there is a need to emphasise that rural uniqueness.

Following the sad passing of Derek Browne, who had served as our President for many years, we were delighted that Rachel Smith (Lady Cable) accepted our invitation to become our new President. Rachel has lived and served our Village community over many years and brings a wealth of experience to our Society.

Over the past year we have made representations on planning issues relating to Meadens Garage, Redmayne site in Station Approach and the closure of Martins Corner footbridge. Currently, we are making representations on the future of Brookley Road, Sway Road – both the parking at the Brookley Road Junction and the recent alteration in the weight limit on the railway bridge near the golf course. We are also concerned about footbridges being closed over the railway at various places, which were frequently used by residents and visitors.

Friends of Brockenhurst are pleased to have been able to make donations over the years to a variety of our village organisations and in the past year we made donations to Brockenhurst Primary School Garden project and the Brockenhurst Gateway Club.

Friends of Brockenhurst have Committee representatives who meet regularly with the Brockenhurst Business Association, Brockenhurst C of E Primary School Board of Governors, Greener Brockenhurst and the Church to liaise with co-ordinating the village needs.

Friends of Brockenhurst is grateful for the support of its members, without whom we could not exist, and we always welcome the addition of new members

In the coming year we will continue to oppose planning applications that threaten the village boundary and diminish its rural qualities. We aim to continue to assist individuals with their concerns regarding planning, noise, litter and traffic.