

Granby cum Sutton Annual Parish Meeting

7:00 PM May 12th 2022

Being present Cllr. Daw Chairman of the Parish Council took the chair & welcomed those present at the meeting.

Apologies: Cllr March

Present: Cllrs Humphreys, Preece, Fewell, Purdue-Horan (NCC) Mrs Beecroft (minute taker).

Minutes from last Annual Parish Meeting 8th April 2021: approved as a true record.

Parish Council Chairman's report:

Granby cum Sutton Parish Council are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting (APM). Residents are invited and encouraged to attend the APM. This meeting provides the opportunity for the Parish Council and all the groups and societies within our two villages to give feedback about what has been happening over the past year. This information is available for all residents to see on the Parish Council website, paper copies will be made available on request.

The last twelve months started in much the same way as the previous twelve months with lockdown and restrictions resulting in our meetings being held via Zoom. Fortunately in May local councils were required to resume face to face meetings, albeit still following strict guidelines and regulation particularly with regard to social distancing and face covering.

The Village Hall opened for lettings from 19th July, when many Covid restrictions were lifted.

The precept – the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax – will be increasing by 1.9% (about 2p per week) next year. This is because of rising costs and is the first increase for 14 years.

The major expenses are the Village Hall – which is part funded by lettings – and the maintenance of the village greens in Granby, along with the cemetery and Church graveyard. A contingency fund is maintained to cover any unexpected expenditure but over the next few months there will be some significant costs as there are repairs required to the barge boards the Village Hall.

The Council has been invited to consider and comment on fourteen planning applications and two appeals over the last twelve months. There is always an opportunity for differing views on these but for the most part they have been fairly non-contentious. However, there have been two or three which have raised concerns and objections have been submitted by both the Parish Council, Borough Councillor and a number of residents.

Although not in our Parish, we attend meetings relating to the proposed Solar Farm near to Jericho Lodge. Many will remember that the initial route for construction traffic was to be through Granby and along Gypsy Lane. After objections this was changed to go through Plungar instead. After further objections the route has changed again and now leaves the A52 along Redmile Lane before using farm tracks at Glebe Farm. There is still no date given for when the application will be considered by Melton Borough Council.

Speeding traffic is still a major concern within the parish. This year we were given temporary Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) to display traffic speeds. These were both placed in Granby, one on Sutton Lane and one on Plungar Road. We were disappointed that, despite our requests, neither of them was moved to Sutton. We were further disappointed that they did not record volume or speed of traffic, as this data may have helped our case for permanent signs. Although we do not have figures, residents did report that traffic slowed when approaching these signs. Our concerns have been raised with the Highways Authority and they will arrange for us to have another temporary loan.

Village “clean up Saturdays” resumed when they were able to and this year included the Great British Spring Clean. Sutton had taken part on the 6th June. Granby took part on the 13th June. Thirty residents of all ages made an excellent job of cleaning up the village. A big thanks to all who took contributed to this.

The link chain fencing in the village hall playground was replaced due to its poor condition and a basketball hoop was purchased after a request was received from some of our younger residents. We are delighted to note that they are making good use of it!

At Christmas we again provided Christmas trees for inside and outside the Church and the green in Sutton. In Sutton this proved a popular community event as residents gathered to help decorate the tree and held a grand “turning on” of the lights. Also at Christmas was the advent calendar windows running throughout December. This year it had been intended to have Carols on the Greens on Christmas Eve. Sadly, because of rising Covid cases the Granby event was cancelled, but the Sutton event still took place. This was because the numbers of Sutton residents attending were able to easily “socially distance” around the village green, but based on previous years’ attendance this would not have been the case in Granby.

During the last 12 months we have lost 3 of our councillors.

At the AGM our chairman, Cllr John Rainbow resigned after 6 years as a councillor. He had been chair for the previous two years during the particularly difficult time at the start of the pandemic. He has given much time to the Parish Council including setting up the current Parish website and acting as webmaster. John agreed to continue as webmaster until a replacement could be found.

Cllr Philip Straw also resigned after 14 years on the Parish Council, three of which were as chair. Over the years he has contributed much but particularly regarding the Village Hall and the playground.

In January Cllr Julie Powell resigned after 3 and a half years as a councillor, contributing a lot to the Parish Council including producing the Parish Newsletter.

Our grateful thanks go to Julie, John and Philip for their service.

We welcomed 2 new Councillors, Trevor Fewell and Mike Stevenson both residents of Sutton, to replace John and Philip. We are currently in the recruitment process for Julie’s replacement.

Another loss, this time through retirement, was our Clerk, Miss Ann Coy. Ann has been Clerk for 11 years. Her knowledge, guidance and enthusiasm towards the smooth running of the Council will be missed. Over the last few years she has also been our caretaker. Ann agreed to remain as Responsible Financial Officer until a new Clerk is appointed, her other roles being shared out amongst the councillors. Our great thanks must go to Ann for all she has done and has continued to do including helping us to find a new Parish Clerk.

Mrs Claire Beecroft was appointed Clerk in December. Claire was brought up in Sutton and after a few years away from the area has now returned “home”. We are delighted to have her as our Clerk and she has shown great determination in learning about the role and is already contributing to the work of the Council.

Finally I would thank all Councillors for their support and hard work during the year and, of course, many thanks to our new Parish Clerk who is very ably picking up the reins to help ensure the efficient and effective running of the Council.

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee bank holiday 2nd -5th June

We are encouraging groups and individuals to participate in a number of events over the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday at the start of June. There will shortly be a newsletter outlining the activities already planned and seeking further support from residents.

Group reports were made available to review during the meeting and are on the Granby cum Sutton parish council website.

No comments from the floor

Meeting Closed 7:15PM