



Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at the Pavilion on 23rd April 2023

Present:

Cllrs Stuart Eames (in the Chair), Dorothy Quayle, Mike Cohn, Mike Simmons, Gareth Williams, Tim Jones, Will Morris and Lavinia Smith

Also Present:

10 members of the public; Clerk Helen Tinson;

1) **Chairman's Welcome:**

Cllr Stuart Eames chaired the meeting on behalf of Cllr Kevin Braybrook. He welcomed members of the public and thanked everyone for attending. He paid tribute to four colleagues, Cllrs Mike Cohn, Dorothy Quayle, Jackie Bevan and Phil Bream who will step down at the Local Council Elections acknowledging their service as members of the Parish Council.

2) **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kevin Braybrook, Jackie Bevan and Frank Hemming; and Reverend Chris Moore.

3) **Fownhope Community Service Awards:**

Two Fownhope Community Service Awards were presented to Tony Limb and Dorothy Quayle in recognition of their contributions to the community, with a third to be presented to Sue Pope at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council as she was unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

4) **Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting:**

Members considered the minutes of the Annual Meeting on 15th May 2022.

It was RESOLVED: to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

5) **Speaker: Cllr Stuart Eames: Celebrating Fownhope's Volunteers:**

Cllr Stuart Eames spoke in celebration of community volunteers acknowledging the many varied roles undertaken in the village that help support members of the community, provide services and facilities. The full report is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

6) **Chairman's Report:**

Cllr Stuart Eames delivered the Chairman's report on behalf of Cllr Kevin Braybrook. Cllr Braybrook acknowledged that this will be his last Annual Parish Meeting as Chairman and reflected on some of the events that have shaped the last two years. The full report is attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

7) **Planning Report:**

Cllr Dorothy Quayle delivered the Planning Report, noting that this will be her last year as a member of the Parish Council. She reported on the weight and future review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan; gave an update on how new planning rules affect applications in an AONB and on the developments planned and in progress within Fownhope and finally thanked members of the Planning Working Group for their support and diligence during her tenure as Chair of the Planning Working Group. The full report is attached to these minutes as Appendix C.

8)	<p>Environment Working Group Report: Cllr Gareth Williams presented the report on behalf of the Environment Group. He reflected on the current status of the climate noting that the Parish Council first declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Parishioners were directed to two Impact Reports 2019/2020 and 2021/2022 available to download from the website: www.fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk which detail the many varied activities undertaken by the Environment Group.</p> <p>The group's current focus is on The Great Collaboration – actions that can be taken to reduce carbon footprint; the Fownhope Car Club – in the process of moving from under the umbrella of Malvern Hills Car Club into Fownhope ownership; and Fownhope Community Saturday events – informal community events that celebrate actions recommended by The Great Collaboration. Two events have focused on Food and Waste (January) and Gardens and Habitats (March), with a third planned for 24th June 2023 on Recycling and Upcycling.</p> <p>Environment Group meetings are open to all. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 22nd May, 7pm at the Green Man.</p>	
9)	<p>Footpaths: Cllr Will Morris presented the report on behalf of the Footpaths Working Group. He briefly detailed the work that has been carried out over the last 12 months, acknowledging the support of Suzi Bruce, our Parish Lengthsman, and the team of Parish Waywardens.</p> <p>It was noted that any resident can report defects to Herefordshire Council via the 'Report a Problem' website.</p> <p>Work planned for the coming year will be predominantly replacing stiles with gates to make the network of footpaths in the Parish more accessible; and to continue development of the new Coronation Walk, a circular walk of just over 10km (though shorter routes can be taken). The walk aims to celebrate Fownhope Parish and commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. The route will be made as accessible as possible and Cllr Morris acknowledged and thanked the local landowners for their support changing stiles to gates. Cllr Morris reported possible funding from FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes), thanked the Parish Council for support and funding and Parishioners for their feedback and support. New waymarkers have been designed and a leaflet has been written. It is hoped that the walk will be enjoyed for many years. The waymarker design and route are attached to these minutes as Appendix D.</p>	
10)	<p>Highways Working Group Report: Cllr Stuart Eames presented the report on behalf of the Highways Working Group. The report focused on the £175,000 Traffic Calming Scheme grant awarded to Fownhope by Herefordshire Council, additional funding and S106 money for traffic calming received from MF Freemans in connection with the Mill Field Development; ongoing concerns and actions in relation to speeding including the B4224 Multi Parish Strategy Group; and an update on regular maintenance tasks undertaken in the year. The full presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix E.</p>	
11)	<p>Investment Strategy Group Report: to be presented to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 17th May.</p>	
12)	<p>FRFA Report: Cllr Mike Simmons presented the report on behalf of the Fownhope Recreation Field Association. The role of the FRFA was explained, followed by updates on bookings, improvements carried out during the year, grants and donations received and proposals for projects the forthcoming year. Finally, Cllr Simmons thanked the FRFA team for their support during a personally difficult year. The full report is attached to these minutes as Appendix F.</p>	
13)	<p>Report from Fownhope Libraries: Cllr Dorothy Quayle presented the report on behalf of the Fownhope Libraries and made a plea for new members. Please refer to Appendix G for the full report.</p>	

14)	<p>Report from Fownhope United Charities: A report was submitted from Fownhope United Charities. Please refer to Appendix H for the full report. It was confirmed that student loans are available for any form of education so long as the applicant is in receipt of any other grant.</p>	
15)	<p>Report from Fownhope Community Land Trust: Cllr Stuart Eames presented the report from Fownhope Community Land Trust. Please refer to Appendix I for the full report.</p>	
16)	<p>To consider any need for allotments: No requests were received. Ward Cllr Hardwick reported that allotments are available at Sufton Rise in Mordiford.</p>	
17)	<p>Comments and Questions from any Elector of Fownhope Parish: A member of the public thanked the Parish Council and asked them to “please keep it going”.</p> <p>No other questions or comments were raised. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 7.15pm.</p>	
<p>Signed Dated</p> <p>Chairman</p>		

Appendix A: Celebrating Fownhope’s Volunteers:

Before I came to Fownhope to live in 2018, I knew that from my visits here over 15 years, there always seemed to be plenty going on. I wasn’t sure of the full extent until I started to learn about what makes Fownhope tick – tea & cakes some may say! Really, it is the contributions of many people – some large, some small but all valuable to enhance the daily lives of our villagers.

In the last five years I have learnt many things about the village; the history, the people and their connections to each other, the institutions, the clubs, the amenities, the wonderful geography, the footpaths, the highways, the river and the local dialect. However, behind many of these things there is an everchanging army of volunteers who do things to preserve, maintain and to develop all aspects of village life in a constantly evolving cycle. Many of these volunteers carry on year after year without huge recognition from many of their fellow villagers but that is why the Volunteers Tea is very important to stop the world for a moment, of course over tea and cake, to say thank you for helping to keep the wheels of Fownhope in motion.

Why do people volunteer? According to the academics – **‘Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity.’**

All of you volunteers amongst us today may not have considered such a high brow description of why you volunteer but certainly elements of this description of volunteering will ring true. Some of the village’s clubs have folded because of a lack of volunteers. I hear constantly about the yearning for the return of the Leisure Five O club which organised activities and outings for people over 50 but without people having the time, the inclination and the organisational skills this type of club will not return. It is also apparent to me that the age of many of our volunteers is increasing and many feel that they have made their contribution and would like to step back but are fearful of the impact this would have.

There are a number of misconceptions which I have discovered. I was sitting on the bench outside the pavilion having a cup of coffee and a regular dogwalker sat down beside me to have a chat. The gentleman travels into Fownhope most days to walk his dog. He said this field is really well looked after. That chap on the mower is doing a great job. How long does it take him to mow the whole field? I said from what I have seen about 3 hours and in the Summer they do it every week.

That must cost the Parish Council a bit over the year then. "No," I said, "It is all done by volunteers!" "BLIMEY!" he replied.

From the top of my ladder, I heard a walker say to her fellow walker "I like coming here because you can use the toilet and the dog poo bins are emptied regularly so there isn't dog poo everywhere." She didn't know who emptied the dog poo bins but without a volunteer that comment wouldn't ring true.

The Recreation Field and the Pavilion are central places within Fownhope for sport, recreation, entertainment, social interaction and parking. To keep all aspects of the Recreation Field going requires a lot of people, who most users have no idea about. I won't mention names on this occasion for fear of leaving someone's vital contribution out. The pavilion has a paid cleaner but there are trustees, handymen, grass cutters, strimmers, litter pickers, bin emptiers, people running clubs, organising events & meetings, taking bookings, dealing with finances both from bookings and grants as well as people organising the activities of the volunteers. There is both a direct contribution to village life through the use of the facilities but in more recent times these volunteers enable the FRFA to be virtually self-funding which saves the Parish Council money from the precept and allows money to be spent elsewhere by the Parish Council. This is but one example of the contribution of volunteers. I could say the same for the Memorial Hall which also provides a fantastic facility for both villagers and visitors, all on the back of volunteers.

Before arriving in Fownhope I was aware of The Flag, but I had never considered the number of volunteers who help The Flag come through our letter boxes each month informing us of what has happened in the previous month, what is coming up, where we can find businesses to help us and also where people can comment on things **they like** and things **they don't**. There are regular contributors of articles & photographs, the editor sharing his wisdom, adverts being organised as well as the layout and design, before being professionally printed and then copies distributed to the delivery team who in all weathers makes sure we get a copy of this vital monthly document. It would be very strange without The Flag - I particularly enjoy the teasers and conundrums, even though I usually resort to looking up the answers but without volunteer helpers it wouldn't arrive through our letterboxes.

I have the pleasure of organising the Community Speed Watch to try and modify the behaviour of drivers passing through Fownhope. Three volunteers record the details of speeders over 35 mph twice a month and pass on their details to West Mercia Police.

Through doing these sessions over the past couple of years I have had the opportunity to learn more about my community. It seems that volunteers often do a variety of different volunteering roles. I have learnt that my fellow CSW volunteers also work in the community library, are active in the church pastoral support and work as part of Compassionate Communities (CoCo).

COCO does a wide range of things for people needing support in our community and surrounding villages, visiting people, organising lunches and social visits outside of Fownhope, helping residents attend appointments or even speaking on the telephone providing support and help to seek advice. I was told that CoCo had around 30 volunteers! I had no idea so many people were involved.

Last October I discovered another group of volunteers who organise a lunch on the last Thursday of each month in Faulkner House. I have now been to six lunches, where both my wife and I have thoroughly enjoyed the food and the conversation of some of our senior residents. Of course, none of this would happen without the volunteers who choose the menu, take the bookings, set up the room, take the money, serve the food, organise a cash-prize raffle, collect the dishes, wash-up and return the tables and chairs to their original places.

During the pandemic I learned about villagers, who were helping each other to survive, when things got a little trickier. These villagers are the ‘unofficial volunteers’, who step up to help their neighbours put out the bins, collect some shopping, drive people to appointments, check if they fancy a slice of apple pie for pudding, mow the lawn, cut the hedge and generally keep an eye open to make sure their neighbours are ok. Often, they are small acts of kindness but important to keep people afloat.

I am personally at my happiest doing a small task in the High Street or Court Gardens. For me it is about making an improvement, showing the village in its best light and actually taking care of the village we are lucky to live in. I really enjoy sweeping up, I am not sure why, I can drift off to exotic locations with the aid of a brush and a wheelbarrow. In doing these tasks I have met lots of villagers; many say thank you; some ignore you; some interview you with suspicion; some acknowledge your presence; some comment on the improvement and some blame the Council - Parish or County for the demise of the road sweeper.

During my five years here, I have discovered a lot but I am sure there is much more to find out about Fownhope and more specifically their volunteers. I feel in what I have said today I have only scratched the surface. In the months ahead the Parish Council would like to recognise the work people do for the benefit of the village by putting together a video to raise people’s awareness at the wide range of activity that takes place here and the opportunities for everybody to help in some small way. You don’t have to be a Parish Councillor, a club committee member or a trustee to make a difference. Whatever the village organisation they will be pleased to hear from you. If you really want to take on a bigger role there is scope for you also.

Don’t miss out in shaping your community; many hands make light work!”

Cllr Stuart Eames

Appendix B: Chairman’s Report

I’m sorry that I am unable to be here for what would have been my last full meeting as chair. There will be reports from each working group regarding their activities over the past 12 months later this evening so I will not review those here, but would like to reflect on some of the events that have shaped the past 2 years.

My term as chair started part way through the road closure and as I hand on the role of chair to Stuart, we are still waiting to see the completion of the Social Value Project offered in response by Balfour Beatty. The immediate impact of the road collapse was tempered somewhat by the emergence of Covid 19 – the resulting lockdowns were probably made a little easier to bear by the availability of the section of closed road for our daily exercise allowance, although that is not to minimize the inconvenience to many residents or to our neighbours in Woolhope and Haugh Woods. I’d like to thank once again all parishioners who stepped up to help friends, neighbours and other residents to get through the lockdowns.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee last summer gave the village an opportunity to celebrate together as we finally came out of the pandemic. I think that we were all pleasantly surprised by the scale of response to our local event although in retrospect, I feel that probably reflected a combination of people’s desire to get out and about as well as a demonstration of the community spirit in the village. I want to thank councillors, local organisations and individual parishioners who worked so hard to prepare for the event and were central to the success of the day.

The unexpected death of the Queen a few months later gave another very different reason for community response and thanks go to Helen our clerk and St Mary’s Church for leading the way on that occasion. In a couple of weeks we have another opportunity to come together in celebration of the Coronation. This event is being organised by St Mary’s Primary School PTA in collaboration with the parish council and will be the first fund raiser we have been actively involved in for some years. I hope that turn out will match the Jubilee event, as the PTA have put an enormous effort into arranging the afternoon and the school is badly in need of funds to enable pupils to keep pace with rapidly evolving technology.

I think that these events demonstrate that the role of the Parish Council is not to direct or organise, but to read the mood of the parish and to respond accordingly. While there are county wide and national policies,

conventions and pieces of legislation that we need to consider, the main documents currently relating specifically to Fownhope are our Community Led Plan and Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Parish Councils job is to consider requests for change in the light of the policies contained within these documents. It is not our job to reconcile disputes between individuals, but where we see a request for change coming from a reasonable number of parishioners, we consider the impact on the village as a whole and work to effect change where it will be of benefit to a majority of parishioners. There are many reasons why we have not always been able to make change, but I hope that parishioners feel that we have given their requests a fair hearing over the past couple of years.

I'd like to thank all councillors who have supported me over the past two years and particularly Mike Cohn, vice chair during my first year, Stuart our current vice chair and of course Helen our clerk, without whom we would not be able to function as we do. I wish Stuart and you all great success in the coming 12 months and look forward to continuing our work together.

Cllr Kevin Braybrook

Appendix C: Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring and Planning Report

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan an annual report is given at each Annual Parish meeting. This year sees the end of the seventh year.

As the Fownhope Neighbourhood Plan (FNP) has full power for the time being the Parish Council continues to keep an eye on planning matters. This year this has meant considerable attention to details of the new plans, and, ever changing plans, dealing with the new developments.

The Parish Council will need to review, update and possibly change the plan including a new design statement for the period up to 2041. This will involve consultations with parishioners at some stage.

Many Planning Rules have changed across most of the Country, however, there will be considerable levels of protection of special places, which include the AONBs, this means, for this Parish that planning applications will continue to be required as usual.

I think it important that parishioners are aware of these rules including the dark skies policies.

Update

- Work on the Mill Field site has already welcomed new people into the village and it will not be long before all the homes are bought. The site known to us as the Potato Barn is now in full works as they build the ten homes there.
- The site adjacent to the Medical Centre has an Outline Planning Permission for 10 homes as reported before. The Parish Council knew nothing about the numbers of homes having FNP agreeing to 7 houses. In due course details of the plans will be provided.

The target for total homes as per the FNP has not yet been met but we have about seven more years to help meet the total of 71 houses.

Once again, we ask that parishioners put in planning applications should inform their architects or agents that we have the Neighbourhood Plan in place. Copies can be found on the website.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Planning Working Group members for support and diligence during my tenure.

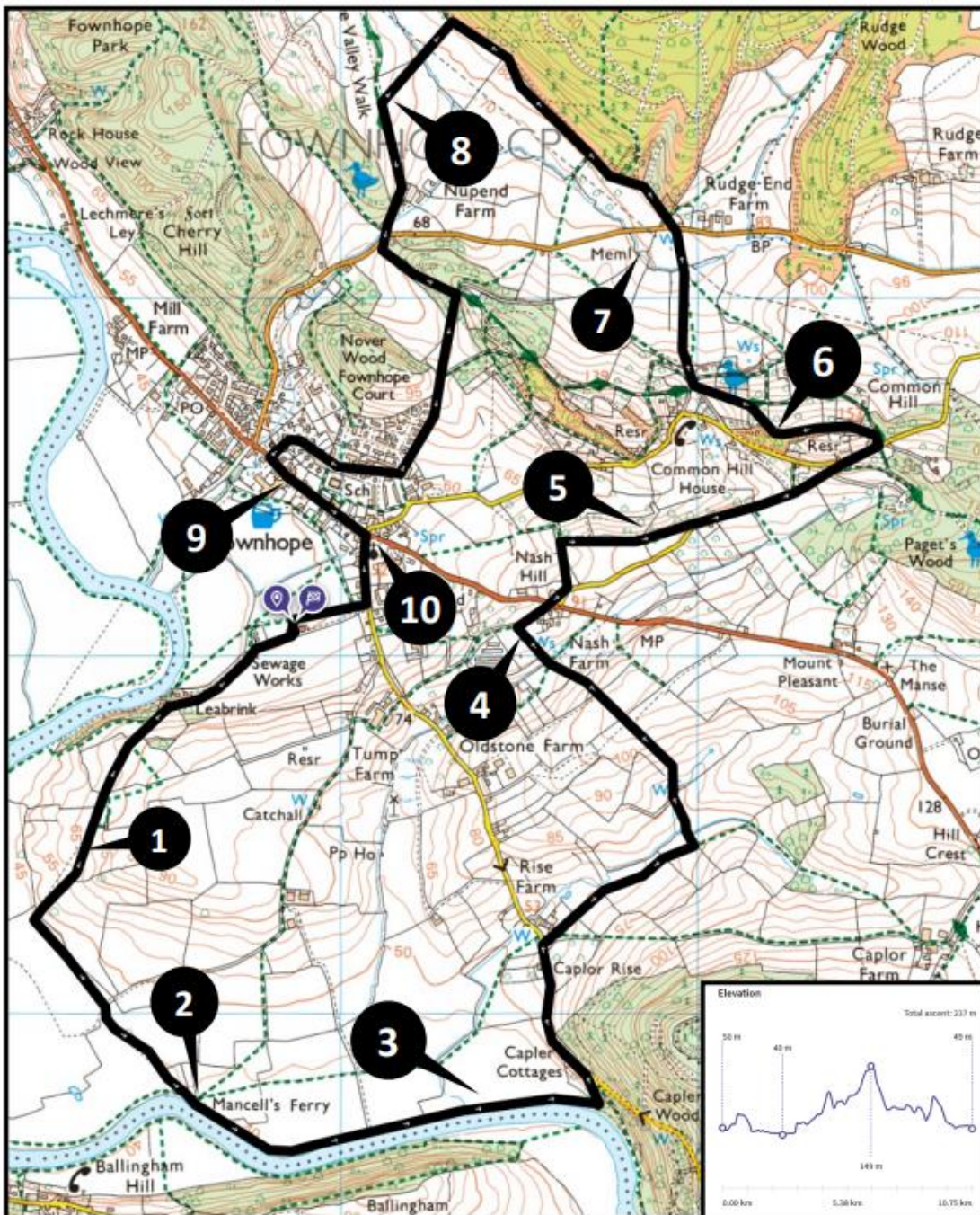
Cllr Dorothy Quayle

Appendix D: Footpaths – Coronation Walk



Key:

- 1) View across Wye Valley to Ballingham
- 2) Mancell's Ferry
- 3) Capler Hill
- 4) Views to Fownhope
- 5) Dark Orchard viewpoint to Hereford
- 6) Common Hill Nature Reserves
- 7) Tom Spring Memorial
- 8) View to Marcle Ridge
- 9) Fownhope High Street
- 10) St Mary's Church, Stocks and Whipping Post



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Appendix E: Highways Working Group Report

New Traffic Scheme:

Fownhope has been allocated £175,000 by HC towards the implementation of a new traffic calming scheme for the B4224. The proposed scheme includes new road markings; the repair of sections of the road in the High Street; road narrowing and path widening at the west end of the village.

We have also been allocated a further £19,800 from Freeman's through cost savings related to the B4224 on their housing developments.

In addition, we have £ 35,324.68 from the S106 money from the Mill Field development for a TRO to extend the 30 mph limit to beyond the entrance to the new Mill Field development as well as other road safety and traffic calming measures. Details to be discussed with HC S106 allocation officers.

We had an initial meeting with Balfour Beatty; HC & West Mercia Police on 16th January 2023 to discuss our wish list for a traffic calming scheme. Subsequently, a further proposal for road narrowing was put forward for Balfour Beatty and HC to consider.

We are waiting for the initial proposals to be costed, approved by HC & drawn up for us to look at. A further meeting is planned by Balfour Beatty for the end of April / beginning of May 2023 to discuss the initial proposed plan.

Speed:

Speed Indicator Displays (SIDs) are now operating at both ends of the village. Gathering data and deterring speeding when entering the village. We are now able to recharge the batteries in the winter months using the battery charger purchased but have had to replace two of the original batteries in September 2022. We now have data from March 2022 posted on the village website under Roads/Traffic Calming/SID data.

The Community Speed Watch volunteers have been in operation twice a month, trying in particular to target speeders exiting the village. We are sending this data to both CSW at West Mercia Police and the local police officers.

We have had three visits from West Mercia Police in the last 12 months targeting speeders & we will continue to lobby for further support.

A memorandum of understanding was signed by HC & the B4224 group of parish councils to find ways of addressing speeding issues along the length of the B4224.

Maintenance:

Potholes: We have continued to report potholes and Balfour Beatty generally respond within their cycle of activity.

Drains: We have had a better performance on getting drains cleared by BB this year. Our lengthsman continues to carry out ditch clearance where possible.

Pavements: The village pavements were surveyed this year; six sites were reported to BB for immediate attention and a further 18 sites were logged and photographed for inspection in 12 months. BB rejected the six sites as needing repair. This matter will be discussed with New Locality Steward, Lee Fishwick in an initial meeting planned for early May.

Recreation Field Road: Three sections of the tarmac road have been repaired and new kerbstones placed to improve the drainage of water and help strengthen the road.

Throughout the year maintenance tasks have been carried out by the Lengthsman and volunteers: Road sign cleaning; Leaf clearing; Grass strimming; Weed removal; Tree trimming.

Litter picking – was done by volunteers throughout the year to keep Fownhope looking tidy. A BIG THANK YOU to all those that have helped!

A survey of the grit bins again took place in preparation for the winter. We have replaced four open-top bins with new bins with lids. (Not all the blue open-top bins have been removed because they still have grit in to be used up).

The missing litter bin has been returned to the grass verge in front of Fairfield Green, after six months compassionate leave!

Appendix F: FRFA Report

Before I report on the past year it's maybe worth mentioning exactly what the FRFA does. The Parish Council owns the 11.5acre recreation field and the pavilion handles it's day to day running – all the bookings, the mowing of the meadow, the upkeep and development of the pavilion, and so on. It's able to do this almost entirely by the use of volunteers – which of course offers a huge saving to the parish.

For the most part, though, the FRFA has enjoyed financial support from the Parish Council – it's the PC that's always paid for machinery, fuel, repairs and so on. This time last year, however, we decided it was about time we stood on our own feet and we no longer ask for such support – funding these outgoings from income from bookings. This is not to say that we will never come cap in hand to the PC again if there's a large project we want to undertake – and which would be of benefit to the community – but we don't expect the PC to be funding our regular day to day business.

If I now turn to my report on the year; it's largely been “business as usual”, but this is not to say that it's been without event. Most notably we installed a new carpet in the ground floor of the pavilion. We think that the carpet it replaced was put down when the pavilion was originally built and hoped that its replacement would last as long. This was not to be. A few weeks later we experienced a major flood, when the dishwasher malfunctioned and pumped water across the ground floor of the building for the whole weekend. The Insurance company were very helpful and, though we couldn't honour bookings that needed to take place on the ground floor for a few weeks they got us back on our feet as quickly as possible. A few weeks after that we discovered the hard way that though the Flotex carpet was able to withstand pretty much any treatment thrown at it, it couldn't cope with certain cleaning products. The result was that our brand-new carpet was suddenly covered in white blotches. It was pretty heartbreaking. The carpet had years of life in it but looked terrible. The committee took the hard decision that the carpet had to be replaced so we've now two new floor coverings in very quick succession.

In other news –

Bookings in 2022 were almost double what they'd been in 2021 which, in turn was double what they'd been in 2020 when we were badly hit by Covid. Most importantly in our first year without PC support we've just about managed to keep our head above water financially, and feel confident about doing so again next year. Besides all the normal lettings that take place month in and month out, the pavilion and field was used as the base for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, and will shortly be used for the Coronation Celebrations. It's also been used for several Parish Council “Community Saturdays”. It's always good to see the Pavilion used like this, as a place that brings the community together. The pavilion and field belong to the community and it's great to see it being used by the community.

Thanks to a grant from the FA applied for by the Fownhope Football Club, we've now got a Defib machine on the outside of the building. Thanks must also go to Adam of Vic Lockley who installed the machine without charge.

Thanks to a gift from the Fownhope Fringe we have a wireless microphone system. This utilises the speaker system that they gave us last year and has already proved useful

The Parish Council have, very recently, funded new tarmac on the lane leading down to the pavilion which I know we're all grateful to them for.

We installed new lights on the outside of the building, on each of the fire escapes and we bought a bigger rubbish bin.

The rubbish bin is worthy of rather more than a simple bullet point, however. It's a big – 660L – bin, and tells a story. We get a lot of rubbish here. Some of it comes from the people who rent the building of course. They put their rubbish into the bin in the kitchen and then it goes into our 660L monster. Most of it doesn't come from there. For the most part, it's litter. Either litter picked up by our volunteers, or taken from the regularly overflowing litterbins. We might like to think that Fownhope doesn't have a litter problem but it does. In the same way that the verges of our roads only look so litter free because of Nick Kingsford's team of volunteers, the field and car park only looks so good because people pick up the rubbish – and the dog poo – that other people leave there. That big bin is testimony to that – we could easily make do with an ordinary domestic sized bin if it only had to cope with waste created by our users.

So what of the future? We have three projects in mind.

Firstly, we want to install security cameras on the car park end of the building. The litter found there pretty much every morning tells us that there's a lot of activity there and we feel a little uneasy about the security of the equipment stored in the tractor shed.

Secondly, we're going to install WiFi internet connection in the pavilion. For the most part people wanting this facility in the past have simply used their mobile phones as a hot spot but, as part of a strategy to increase the number of lettings we make, we see this as a useful facility to offer.

Thirdly, we want to extend the patio to the pavilion, making it a more usable space. We want more benches there, and we also want it to be big enough to take a marquee – something that's been asked for on a number of occasions. We understand that this is an enterprise which will need planning consent so it's not going to be an overnight business, but I **hope** that this time next year it'll all be done.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge my unavailability over quite significant chunks of time this year – due both to my own illness and then to Helen's. The FRFA has never had someone in the role of Vice Chair but the entire committee just got on with things in my absence, and I'm very grateful to them for that. I must end by thanking the committee and all our volunteers for all their hard work over the last year. They've been brilliant, but I'd also like to thank them personally for just carrying on with things while I've been absent.

Cllr Mike Simmons

Appendix G: Fownhope Library Report:

The Committee is grateful for all those who have helped run the library, and of course, to all those who continue to keep everything ticking over. Several volunteers have moved on during the year and we are delighted that our numbers of volunteers are stable. Special thanks to Harriet Lansbury for all the work she put into the scheme. We do not have a Chair yet.

We are grateful for the donations of books continue to be given to us. After having had a major clear out of unused books., we have more space and are gradually getting a better turnover which makes the library more attractive.

Regarding attendance: The pre-school children are continuing to pop in to visit most Wednesday afternoons during term time. We do have a few very loyal users of the service and would love to see more people coming. We did trial opening one evening a week which was not worthwhile as very few took us up on the offer. As Saturday attendance was poor, we decided to open monthly which is working well.

The end of 2021 saw 812 articles taken – this last year there was an increase up to nearly 1,000. We have some time to get to the pre Covid numbers at about 1,400 which are nowhere near the very early days when numbers exceeded 1,700.

We did consider closing it but find it difficult to contemplate especially as we do have a loyal few who come along and really enjoy it. We do provide teas and encourage folk to sit and chat but need the support of more members.

Funds in the bank is in the region of £1300.

Cllr Dorothy Quayle

Appendix H: Fownhope United Charities Report

Please see separate attachment.

Appendix I: Fownhope Community Land Trust Report

Fownhope Community Land Trust (FCLT) was established to support the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Its purpose is to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in Fownhope to enable people who are unable to afford local market prices and rents and who live and work in the village to continue to live in their community. More information about FCLT can be found at <http://bit.ly/FownhopeCLT>.

FCLT has continued to meet and operate in line with its Rules. Details of the year's activity and statement of accounts were presented to the membership at our AGM in September 2022. The next AGM will be on Thursday 28 September 2023 at 7pm in Fownhope Pavilion.

Identifying land suitable for development is greatest challenge for FCLT and we have focussed on liaising with local landowners to encourage them to consider making land available for affordable housing. This can be a long and sensitive process but is valuable in keeping FCLT in people's minds when considering selling small sites, particularly those for which planning permission for housing would not normally be granted. We have been fortunate in receiving positive responses and are optimistic that progress will continue to be made.

FCLT has also engaged with Freemans Developments to ensure that our actions complement the affordable housing being developed on their site to deliver the range of property sizes identified in the village's 2018 housing need survey.

Looking ahead, FCLT is preparing for the possibility of having access to a viable site by learning more about the planning process, access to funding, different types of affordable housing and the possibility of partnering with a housing association. The financial support received from the Parish Council (meeting the cost of membership of the national Community Land Trust Network - £175 for the coming year) is proving invaluable in giving us access to legal advice and many other resources.

FCLT has also continued to monitor and report on how some affordable housing is being managed – ensuring that rents continue to be within recognised levels and is allocated to people in need and with a local connection.

We have been less successful in making progress regarding the Community Right to Bid which enables local communities to bid to acquire business premises if a business of value to the community is put up for sale. We will persevere over the coming year.

We aim to attend community events this year to raise awareness of the need for affordable housing, to invite villagers to join FCLT (at a small cost of £5 for life membership) and to attract new Directors. Finally, FCLT has been fortunate in having a very capable and enthusiastic Board of Directors with a wide range of skills. Our Secretary stepped down last year and we are keen to appoint a Director to take his place and to appoint a new Secretary. Kevin Braybrook joined the Board last September and his energetic

contribution has been appreciated. It is likely that two of the founding Directors will step down this year and they will be much missed. All interest in joining the Board from people in the community will be welcomed and I am happy to give more information about what is involved.

Catherine Stubbings
Chair, FCLT

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