

# WIDECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
held in Church House, Widecombe  
on Thursday 3 March 2022 at 7.00pm

**Parish Councillors present:** Councillor Hassell (Chairman), Bibby, Butcher, Edwards, Elliott, Fenton, Jones, Partridge and Zab

**Also present:** Rob Steemson (DNPA)

**Members of the Public:** Five

**Clerk:** Suzanna Hughes

## APM2022.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- County Cllr Gribble

## APM2022.2 OPEN FORUM

A question was asked whether the Community Hall was still progressing.

Cllr Elliott informed the meeting that it was still very much going ahead. Planning permission has been secured and the ownership of the field has been transferred to the Charity. Fundraising is ongoing; progress has been thwarted during the pandemic but this has recently recommenced. £10,000 has been awarded to sort out the access by moving the bridge from the road into the field as the site is currently a landlocked site. It is hoped that this work will be carried out late spring/summer this year. The first community event on the field is planned for late summer/autumn. Local fundraising and grant applications continues. Tender packs are also being put together ready to send to potential contractors.

With regard to the future of the Church House, it will remain a National Trust building and some users stated from the beginning that they intended to continue to use it. The majority of regular users, however, stated in the survey that they would prefer to move to a hall that was warmer and more accessible.

Cllr Elliott advised that around £150k has been raised so far which has covered the feasibility work, design, legal fees re ownership of the field, planning permission etc. A further £400-£500k will be needed to complete the build. The Charity is working through a list of funders and significant local donations and bequests have been made.

Cllr Elliott advised that there is a website which can be accessed to find out more information about the progress being made: [www.widcombecommunityhall.org](http://www.widcombecommunityhall.org)

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Cllr Fenton updated the meeting on plans for Jubilee celebrations:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Leusdon coffee morning

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – a bonfire at the top of Widecombe hill and fireworks in the village.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Teddy bears' picnic (organised by the pre-school)

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – picnic on the green and potentially a Songs of Praise in the church at 6pm.

The events planned so far are covered by the residue of Widecombe's social fund.

The planting of Jubilee trees has also been discussed as a permanent mark. Widecombe Primary School has also been invited to do the design for a commemorative stone.

Further planning will continue to finalise arrangements.

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Two members of the public informed the meeting that they had moved into the parish about a year ago and would like to be part of the team to help and support future use of the parish field. They have already spoken to the headteacher of the primary school about the planting of trees and they would also like to get involved with events that may follow that. The Chairman advised that the first stage is to form a Steering Group and their assistance on this group would be very much appreciated.

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Cllr Fenton raised the issue of the condition of the signposts in the parish.

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There being no further issues, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

Signed:.....

Dated.....