

Enmore PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2022**

TUESDAY 24TH MAY 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN ENMORE MEMORIAL HALL.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Attendance: Cllr Cole(chair) Cllr Hopkins (vice chair) Cllr Comley, Cllr Hucker, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Nicholson.

D. Mcilroy(Clerk) A. Stoye (Independent examiner)

Members of the public. S. Tottle, R. Burge. Rev. E. King, Mr & Mrs Eggar, R. Mileham. A. Hubbard. D.Hopkins

Cllr Caswell, Cllr Holt, Cllr Pay,

Enmore Parish Council introduction and update

Cllr Cole welcomed everyone and thanked Jackie Evans and Phil Dodden for their work in the past as Parish councillors. He introduced the new Parish councillors Cllr Hopkins and Cllr Jackson.

He also thanked Cllr Caswell and Cllr Holt for attending and hoped that the good relations between the Parish council and Sedgemoor Council would continue.

Cllr Caswell reiterated that as elected councillors their purpose was to serve the constituents of Enmore parish and the Parish council.

Cllr Cole stated that was very uplifting to see how the Enmore community worked together during the Covid lockdown and again with the Solar Panel funding pledges from the villagers. He stated that the Parish Council had no real powers as such but could advise and pass comments from the village onto Sedgemoor Council.

Cllr Cole also mentioned that as such the Parish Council had no real assets apart from a patch of green and the land for the new cemetery. Construction of which would hope to begin in the near future. Planning agreement has been approved for car parking and planting.

Funds were obviously limited with the only income being a precept of £5000/year. He thanked the new Parish councillors for all their future hard work.

Somerset and Avon Constabulary.

No official report but PC Dan Cox was happy for Cllr Comely to report on Plan to Reduce the Speed of Motor Vehicles Through Enmore.

Report read by Cllr Comely

Sgt. Dan Cox of the Avon and Somerset Traffic Police attended the Enmore Parish Councils meeting in July and explained the various options that we had to bring down the speed of traffic travelling through the village. Dan was very clear that any action or investment must be justified with data. The outcome was that a data collection box was located outside Enmore school for a period of 13 days. The box was only capable of recording time and speed. During this 13 day

period the speed of 25,561 vehicles was recorded. 24172 vehicles failed to meet the speed limit and 15% were over 40 mph. Bear in mind that this was outside a school with a 20mph speed limit. The highest speed recorded was an outrageous 86 mph. Clearly the majority of motorists showed little regard for the speed limit. This data was sufficient for Dan to install 2 SIDs, one located just before the Enmore Inn coming from Durleigh and the second just before the turn off to Spaxton coming from Kingston. The SIDs not only measured speed and time but showed on a display a thank you or a please slow down message. These SIDs were kept in place for two weeks. The most interesting data showed that between the hours of 7am and 7pm the average speed was 30 mph. Bear in mind that we are now measuring in a 30 mph zone. Outside of this time period the data was not as good, however, encouraging enough to pursue our own permanent SIDs. I have been working with Katherine Tyson, council traffic engineer. Katherine has the responsibility of approving the location of each SID and producing a MOU (memorandum of understanding) documenting our agreement. I have spoken on a number of occasions to David Gliddon, a parish councillor of Wembdon, who was responsible for the installation and management of 3 fixed SIDs and 1 moveable SID. Two suppliers have been contacted, ElanCity and Westcotech and quotes received from both.

My proposal, supported by Katherine and Dan, is to have two fixed SIDs located at the same locations as the original data collection experiments and one moveable SID which will alternate between a location part way down the hill from the school and close to the Goathurst turnoff just before entering the village. The difference between the fixed and moveable SIDs is that the fixed is solar powered and the moveable is battery powered. It would appear that key to the ongoing success of these SIDs is to turn them off for periods and move them around. Even with the screens turned off data will still be collected. My expectation is that these signs will greatly reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the village and analysis of the data should allow us to identify those periods of time when speeds are at their highest which is where a community speed watch would be most effective.

COSTS I received a quote from ElanCity dated 15th February :- Solar powered £2090 x 2 = £4180 less 32% discount = £2842 Battery powered £2040 x 1 = £2040 less 5% discount = £1938 Total = £4780 This excludes VAT . A new quote was received on 9th May :- Solar £2250 x 2 = £4500 Battery £2200 x 1 = £2200 Less discount £300 Total £6400 This excludes VAT Needless to say I have asked them to re look at these prices . They have been silent for a week!

In addition to the above we will need a windows laptop to analyse the data, various clamps and padlocks and possibly a new pole. This will add around £800 to the cost. At the same time, I have applied for a grant maximum of £5000.

THINGS TO DO 1. Close deal with ElanCity. 2. Agree position of SID close to Spaxton turnoff. 3. MOU. 4. PC to approve investment. 5. Do we commit before the grant has been approved?

The council have also agreed to change the speed limit either side of the golf club from 40mph to 30 mph and the speed limit at the school from 20 mph to 30 mph except when there is activity at the school when a flashing sign will call for a maximum 20 mph speed.

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Cllr Comley for all his hard work in this matter.

After the giving the report Cllr Hopkins asked if anything could be done to increase signage of the speed limits as a lot of the signs are in a poor state of repair. Also the possibility of road markings noting speed limits. Cllr Comley was happy to discuss it at alter date with the Council and Police.

He also noted that more volunteers were needed for Speed watch training and perhaps an advertisement should go in the Enmore & Goathurst magazine.

No further questions

Broadband connectivity

Cllr Caswell spoke about the update to improve broad band speed in the area. There is a possibility Airband would start work in 2023. This would involve beaming the signal onto a receiver placed on a high point in the village and then using fibre cables, either above or below ground, to connect to individual houses.

He suggested that people register an interest with Airband- the more people interested the more likely it would be for Airband to look into providing the broad band to the village.

No further questions.

Quantock Area of Outstanding Beauty – AONB

No report received.

Enmore C of E Primary School

Report from Mr Duncan MacRae read by Cllr Cole

Many thanks for this opportunity to report to the Village Assembly. Enmore school remains a happy school to work and learn in.

Alongside the rest of the country, it has been a difficult two years with lockdowns and remote learning. It has been good to return to near normality, with CO2 ventilation monitors and improved hand hygiene remaining in place. We have also kept a staggered start to the school day to alleviate pressure in the car park. We have been able to re-start extra-curricular clubs and this term will see the return of a whole-school Sport's Day, a summer production, summer fair and a red, white and blue Jubilee Celebration.

The school roll, and subsequently the budget, have been impacted by falling numbers across the county and by prospective parents being unable to visit during the pandemic. Fortunately, the situation has improved and we expect to have a full complement of new entrants in September. We currently have 138 pupils on roll.

We have managed to maintain our links with the church and regular visits from the Open the Book team for our assemblies have been really appreciated.

We have seen a number of changes to our support staff over the last two years and Mrs Tottle, who started in the school in 1970, is finally hanging up her apron at the end of this term!

Recruiting new staff is challenging at present and we are currently recruiting for breakfast and after school club leaders.

Many thanks to all of those who remain vigilant on our behalf over the school holidays

Enmore and Goathurst Magazine

Report read by Sally Tottle, Chair Enmore & Goathurst Magazine Annual Report - 24 th May 2022

This past year has been yet another successful year for the Enmore & Goathurst Magazine. Thankfully, we are recovering from the nightmare of two years living with the effects of Covid and now are feeling we can plan ahead and move forward with hope despite increased costs. Our

finances are in a healthy state with savings of £5,111.00, and our excess of income for the past year was £194.79 reflecting increased costs for printing, materials, and insurance.

We are proposing to increase our advertising charges from January 2023, and will be discussing how much by at our October meeting. Our charges have not increased for over 20 years and although we are regretful to make this decision it is necessary for the continuing success of our community magazine. This should give us sufficient income to cover our increasing costs and provide funds for the purchase of a new printing machine in the future.

On a cheerful note, the Magazine sponsored the Christmas Card Appeal in 2021 and raised £4,351.25 including Gift Aid, benefiting St. Michael's Church with £1,528.75 and Enmore Memorial Hall with £990.00. The magazine teams of printers, editors, collators and distribution and delivery have yet again worked together like a well-oiled machine from start to finish, month after month after month after month. I am so proud of everyone's efforts, each playing a vital role in our magazine conveyor belt, resulting in every household in our communities receiving a copy through their letterbox, keeping us all in touch with one another and informed of the latest news and events. I know I've said this before but a big thank-you is due to all our team members. Also, it never ceases to amaze me that when, for whatever reason, we lose a volunteer new volunteers come forward, which shows me that we as an organisation, must be doing it right! But I am still looking for a couple of volunteers to join Enmore's collating team!

I cannot highlight any specific items to report on this year except to commend all our Editorial Board and our elected officers for their efforts and support, especially Jan Johnston, our Secretary, who keeps our communications flowing; Debbie McIlroy, our Treasurer, who keeps us well in credit; Pauline Hickox, our Printing Manager, who expertly troubleshoots our suppliers when hiccoughs occur; and Steve Gormley, our Advertising Manager, who delivers and fills the ads. for our yellow pages.

Overall, we go into the next year full of optimism and confidence because of our brilliant team of volunteers, many of whom are here tonight.

No further questions.

Enmore Memorial Hall

Report read by Fiona Jackson Vice chair

As with everything, EMH activities came to an abrupt halt with Covid for the most part of two years.

This meant all our income dried up as it comes only from hall hire or fundraising.

During that time, a £10,000 Grant was obtained from Sedgemoor Council due to charities such as ourselves whose own funding had dried up overnight.

We decided as a Committee that this was a golden opportunity to carry out some desperately needed maintenance and that we would stretch the funds as far as we could whilst still leaving a contingency cushion in our bank account.

We sorted out the damp problem that had been causing issues along the back north wall of the Hall. We installed low temperature, thermostat controlled tube heaters - in the gents and the immediate outside hall, in the little meeting room and the front porch. We also fixed the ladies heater. We fixed the paintwork in the little meeting room and touched up elsewhere. We then installed new floor coverings in the ladies, the front porch and little meeting room which was then able to be transformed into a treatment room. We have a reflexologist who is booking appts

there from next month. Blinds were fitted, curtains fixed and second hand ones enhancing the ladies. Feedback has been extremely positive.

In this the Jubilee Year, we are commemorating with some exciting projects.

Most people will have read about the Solar Panel installation which has started and was the recipient of a Grant from Sedgemoor matched by Villager and Parish Council Funding. It was a project based on a need to manage our electricity grid costs, as we are totally electric at the Hall, and support a Going Green approach as far as we were able. Villager donations were so generous that we took the 50% funding opportunity of including a solar only car charger also in our application to Sedgemoor. We received particular praise from the Council for our application.

We are also in receipt of four free bicycle stands, an offer that was spotted by Amanda Hubbard and we gratefully followed up. We are now awaiting their free installation. Another Going Green achievement

Our third commemoration for the Jubilee was some bunting for the Hall ceiling. Feedback from the Centenary evening where we had borrowed bunting encouraged us to make our own! Again, feedback from hirers has been great as it is wonderful decoration for parties and celebrations for all ages. We are also considering making cushions for the pews as they are useful as seating down one side of a table to maximise table seating in the Hall. We have a growing band of voluntary sewers which has made this all a possibility and we are sincerely thankful.

One topic, which is under regular review, is the subject of the heaters and how to manage the cost of usage. We have explored quartz, infra-red, low wattage tubular heaters and reverse cycle air-conditioning. We also have considered how we might moderate the use of the existing heaters both technically and by raising the ambient temperature of the Hall generally so there is not the compulsion to immediately turn the heaters on! We have to balance their actual usage and cost with the price of an alternative and payback. So still under review!

To drive hire of the Hall we are now on www.hallshire.com. This has had a significant effect on our bookings for parties and celebrations. Lots of people type in Halls near me and up we come! We now have the major part of our income from single events rather than regular users and also at least half of those are from outside the village and not through the school. Regular use is still slow where there is reluctance by some to attend due to Covid. However we have two exercise classes, three private weekly bookings, the Gardening Club and Parish Council who regularly use the Hall.

We have our own website built and managed by Teresa Phipps and also we are on Facebook managed by Tina Searle. We have a Committee but are also welcoming other members who come along to contribute and maybe help with just a specific activity.

We really want to increase the use of the Hall for Village events so that villagers can meet and connect as a community. We have a barn dance on 1st July and also on Friday 27th May, Gregory Steward is giving a music recital.

We do hope that villagers will support these and other events as the Village Hall was built for the use of the Village and as a community meeting place.

No further questions.

St Michael's Church Enmore.

Report read by Rev. Eleanor King

Firstly, thank you for inviting us to share what has been happening in the life of our church during 2021 and it is good to hear from other groups, too, as there is so much to appreciate in our village community.

January 2021 heralded the third lockdown, and the church was closed to public worship, although it was open for private prayer. In April 2021, we were able to hold the first public service on Easter Day. Services were held on a fortnightly basis, returning to the usual monthly pattern in June. Face masks, social distancing and hand sanitiser were the order of the day. We were able to hold funerals and weddings though there was a limit on the numbers. We continued to offer weekly online services as well as a service on paper accessible to the whole Benefice, as we had done since Easter 2020. Wonderfully, we were able to have our 2021 Carol Service at Enmore church with mulled wine and mince pies being served outside which didn't seem to present a problem! As far as the service pattern is concerned, the evening service has been replaced with a morning service so all services are now in the morning – the second Sunday being a Family Worship and the fifth Sunday being a Benefice Service held at one of the churches in the Benefice.

During this past year, work has been carried out inside the church to repair the cracked plaster and there have been other more minor repairs. A sound system was installed early in 2021. We are looking to carry out some work on the organ in 2022 and we are so grateful to Colin Chalmers and more recently Michael Hopkins for playing the organ Sunday by Sunday.

In the summer we also welcomed Revd Nicki Bradford as Curate to the Benefice Ministry Team, and she has been a great asset to the group. Sadly, early in 2022, we said 'Au Revoir' to Revd Peter and Sue Attwood as they moved to pastures new to be nearer family. They both offered much to the Benefice, and we miss them both.

The children and staff from Enmore School weren't able to come to church for their usual services at Remembrance and Easter although they were able to come for the Leavers' service, Christmas and Easter 2022. We also welcomed the children and staff for visits, and this is always a special time for the church.

Sadly, our monthly coffee morning at the Tynte Arms and the Men's Breakfast which are valued and enjoyed, haven't restarted as yet, but we are looking into establishing new ways of running these events. Watch this space!

It hasn't been an easy two years for any of us, and I am immensely grateful to all those who support the church in so many ways, financially, through being members of the PCC, through the giving of their time in so many, often unseen, ways and for just being there. My thanks go also to

the two churchwardens, Rosalie Burge and Rachel Coate, who have supported me so much as Rector especially over this last year.

Looking ahead, we are very much looking forward the Platinum Jubilee celebrations next month, both in the church and in the Village Hall – a great time for getting together.

The church is there for all of us and all are assured of a warm welcome. Furthermore, we would be delighted to hear any thoughts and ideas about how we might serve the parish more effectively, whether it be through changing service times or types, or any other initiatives.

Jubilee Committee

Report read by Cllr Cole.

The Committee was set up with 2 Parish Councillors and 2 Trustees of Enmore Hall; Cllr Cole is chairman.

The main events :-

June 2nd Hog roast with a pudding competition, (puddings judged and then eaten) music and the lighting of the beacon at 9.30 pm.

All villagers are invited to attend free of charge.

June 5th There is a lunch served after the church service at the church.

Then 2.20pm- 4pm there is an afternoon tea served in Enmore Memorial Hall. Villagers are asked to bring a plate of sandwiches. There will also be a cake competition with the cakes being eaten as part of the tea. 1950's dress encouraged.

No further questions.

Elected Sedgemoor councillor

A question was raised regarding the lack of buses through the village to Bridgwater and Taunton. Cllr Caswell reported a Community bus scheme was presently being considered at County Hall and more information would be available at a later date.

No further questions.

Community Speed-watch/Highways

Report from Alan & Jan Cromack read by Clerk.

Speed watch Lower Enmore

Just a snapshot of our most recent session. Friday April 29th 16:21 hrs- 16:51 hrs (we do random 30 minute sessions) 207 vehicles -10 speeding.

We think the busier it is, the slower the speeds.

On the negative side we have a new 'record' for the Enmore Road. 75mph in a Renault Clio earlier this year (The previous holder was 72 mph in a Ford Puma.)

The motorbike record is still 92 mph (Honda Fireblade.)

We do seem to be getting more of a Police presence in Enmore which is led by the information collated from us.

On a bigger average normally one car in ten is speeding on our road.

No further questions.

Footpaths

Report read by Amanda Hubbard (Parish Pathway Liaison Officer)

I am Enmore's Parish Pathway Liaison Officer (PPLO) and was appointed by Somerset County Council (SCC) 's Rights of Way Volunteer and Trails Officer, Martin Cooper. Enmore Parish Council is hopefully OK with my appointment – I do see that Enmore PC should have nominated me. Martin is in the middle of setting up “Assemble”, a new volunteer online management system for volunteers, which provides all manner of online info such as news, access to documents and information, use of an amazing interactive map and directory to connect and stay in contact with other volunteers in the area, training, access to a mobile app etc. I am very impressed with SCC and their ability to manage volunteers, give support and also the information out there not only for volunteers but also for the general public. For instance, the Interactive Map mentioned above is great to plan walks and report problems on the Public footpaths. Also, there is a lot of specific info for the Public, landowners and dog walkers etc. Incidentally, my role as PPLO is what the title says – to liaise between SCC and Enmore PC concerning paths/Rights of Way problems and report issues to SCC. The Interactive Map can be used for this purpose – it can also be used by the public and I have included the Interactive Map Link in June's Magazine. One of the issues mentioned below was in fact reported this way. Signposting is also important as is cutting back vegetation – SCC has still not supplied me with the secateurs and gloves promised! I am not expected to write letters, agree to R of W route changes or removal of furniture (signs and stiles) – I refer everything to my Area Warden. When I started out, I didn't realise there was a system of Wardens for Somerset (six in all). Our area has 28 year old, Sarah Cresswell, who responds promptly to my questions, is tactful and seems to have the answer to everything.

ISSUES –

1 Enmore Park Golf Club – lack of signage, protection of ancient Pack Way and Church Path, location of Clubhouse - See forwarded email for the maps.

Sarah reports on 20 May 2022

“In terms of the Golf Club, it looks as though the legal route of the path footpath goes through the building. However, there is a reasonable route to the side of the building which we took on our site visit which is open and available. This means this obstruction is very low priority for us in SCC. If the Parish Council wish to pursue the Golf Club for a diversion, then they can do so under their own powers.

In terms of the Packway, the only historic route I can see on our maps is attached to this email which follows the line recorded on the Explore Somerset Map now. I'm unsure if this is the Packway or just another route that got recorded on the definitive map and statement. It maybe that the Packway path is not recorded on the definitive map and statement so it may be something the parish want to investigate. All the information is here. Andrew Saint ASaint@somerset.gov.uk is the best contact regarding adding on unrecorded paths to the definitive map and statement and he'll be able to signpost you in the right direction. I've had a look at our scanned copies of the definitive map and it's so annoying but footpath BW 15/4 is right on the cusp of each map so you can't see the route clearly. (I've attached one so you can see what I mean). I will have to ask one of my colleagues to scan me the route, if possible, which I

will

send

you.

In terms of golfer inconvenience, it is worth noting that the right of way greatly pre-existed the golf course. There is the possibility of diverting the path should the golf club wish to try and do so although there's no guarantee this would be successful. It would be up to the landowner, in this case the golf club to ensure no activities interfere with the legal right of the public (who have the priority) to cross the golf course on the public right of way and all possible measures should be taken to ensure the safety of right of way users”

2. Rye Field- accessed behind Enmore School. This is an enormous field and the public right of Way (which goes diagonally, not on the outside of the field) is hidden by the crop

Sarah reports on 16 May “I have also spoken to the landowner of the Rye field who is Mr Kim Bishop - they were very helpful and do not farm the field themselves. The crop is going in the next month and as an interim they will either cut around the outside to make it acceptable to walk or cut a line through it. He is going to ring the person who farms it. We discussed that the footpath line needs to be kept clear in the future hopefully using GIS equipment on the tractors. They did ask that if there is footpath issues that they wouldn't mind people contacting them directly but I did say I can't really give out contact details because of GDPR.”

I walked on the outside last night (a long way round) with my neighbour and strimmer, Nigel Gatcombe, and there was no evidence of a diagonal line cut through the field.

3. Electric Fencing for horses– between 2 obvious stiles on public footpath just off the Golf Course in front of The Castle.

Sarah reports on 16 May “When I am next in the area, I will call in to Wrights (owners of Bramblings) just to discuss the electric fencing. Their solution to have access around the outside of the horses does make sense and we do generally allow this with temporary fencing across the Right of Way as long as there's easy to use grab handles and it's labelled (which it isn't currently).”

4. Fingerpost installations, gate clearance and stile repair etc - Sarah reports on 16 May “I have now sent some work to my contractor including your issue numbers :66941, 66940, 66942, 66944 and 66939. Hopefully these will get sorted ASAP. It's mostly fingerpost installations, gate clearance and stile repair.

5. Tirelands Farm Scaffolding on Public Bridleway – Sarah reports on 16 May “plan to be out that way again next week sometime.

The scaffolding seems to be a problem for horse riders.

Sarah says she'll keep me updated on the works but I hope this all makes sense for now and gives you an update for your meeting. Here is a link with some useful information regarding RoW- <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/#Downloads>

Open Forum for members of the Public for questions and comment.

Cllr Hopkins stated that he was impressed with the good will and kindness expressed by the village of Enmore.

A. Hubbard expressed a wish to see more information in the Enmore & Goathurst magazine from the Parish Council on their plan and future developments.

These concerns were duly noted and to be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

No further questions.

Meeting closed 8.55 pm.

Signed:

Date: 31/05/2022

Chairman Cllr. D.Cole

Debbie Mcilroy – Administrative Clerk

Wind Whistle Cottage, Enmore, Bridgwater TA5 2AJ.

Telephone: 01278 456964 Mobile: 07711 724689 E-mail: enmorepc@gmail.com