



Hutton Parish Council

Incorporating Elborough Village, Woodside and Foxglove Meadows

Bruce Poole BA (Hons) FSLCC MMC

Locum Parish Clerk

Parish Office Hutton Village Hall 60 Church Lane Hutton Somerset BS24 9SN

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MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Hutton Village Hall Hutton on Tuesday 27th June 2023 commencing at 7.00 pm when the following business was transacted. At the conclusion of the meeting Tea and Biscuits were provided

Some 27 residents were in attendance including the Council Chairman Peter Dutton and the Locum Parish Clerk Bruce Poole.

1. Welcome by the Chair

Peter Dutton Chairman formally welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that in fact it was not a Parish Council per se but a meeting of the electors of the civil Parish of Hutton.

2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting are as herewith shown below.

3. Annual Reports

Where reports were received they are marked with an asterisk (*) and are attached in order

Parish Council Chair – Mr Peter Dutton*

Good evening once again. This is not a Parish Council Meeting, but it is organised by the Parish Council to enable the parishioners and electors of the Parish of Hutton to get together to receive reports from various Parish organisations and stakeholders and as an open forum for questions, comments, news and views. If we cannot answer your question tonight, we will endeavour to try to get an answer to you as soon as we can.

In March, the Parish Council with deep sadness reported that our longstanding Clerk to the Council Steve Cope had tragically and suddenly passed away. Steve served the Parish with great distinction and pride for many years as a Parish Councillor and as Clerk to the Council. Once again, the Parish Council would like to pass on our condolences and sympathy to Sarah Cope and Steve's family and friends.

To enable the work of the Parish Council to continue, Mr Bruce Poole was appointed as Locum Clerk to the Council. Due to Bruce's other commitments, there has been a reduction in the office hours available and the Parish Council Office in the Village Hall is now only open on a Tuesday between 10AM – 4PM. With an agreed flexible working arrangement in place, the rest of the Bruce's current contacted hours are spent working from home, banking or attending meetings.

I would like to offer my thanks to Bruce for stepping in at a challenging time for the Parish Council and in extremely difficult circumstances. A tremendous amount of work has been and continues to be undertaken, to ensure we meet our legal and financial obligations.

I would also like to offer my thanks to our Cllrs, Handyperson's, Orderlies and volunteers from the Parish who stepped up to help to continue and maintain the work and services of the Parish Council during the demanding and challenging period that followed Steve's passing and this work still continues on a daily basis, for example with support for our IT or help to keep the Scout Hut open. The Parish Council, with the support of Bruce is now looking to undertake new methods of work to enable us to prioritise and move forward in support of the Parish. This will include the formation of Working Groups to address various issues. These Working Groups will include both Parish Councillors, volunteers and subject matter experts when required. The Parish Council has now started the process to fill the position of Clerk to the Council on a permanent basis.

Parish Council Changes

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting there has been several changes in Parish Councillors. Five Parish Councillors have stood down - **Mark Perry, John Cole, Amy Harris, Ralph Howard and Polly White** **I would like to express my grateful thanks to those former Parish Cllrs for their years and in two cases (John Cole and Polly White), decades of service and contribution to the community and Parish of Hutton**

Cllr Marion Cuthbert was co-opted to the Council in June of last year and along with **Marie Dunkley, Ben Groom, Terry Porter and myself**, stood again and were duly elected unopposed as Parish Councillors in the recent North Somerset Local Government Elections – held in May. At the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May – **Cllr Ben Groom was voted in as the new Vice Chair of the Parish Council.**

At the recent June Parish Council Meeting, the Parish Council co-opted onto the Council, the following new Parish Councillors:

- **Cllr Sue Felts**
- **Cllr Lou Eddins**
- **Cllr Barrie Swan**
- **Cllr Andrew Sills**

I would also like to express my thanks to all Cllrs for volunteering their services and time to the community and Parish of Hutton. The Parish Council is now taking steps to fill the one remaining Councillor vacancy. If any persons are interested, further information can be obtained from the Locum Clerk to the Council - Mr Bruce Poole.

Parish Council Employee Changes

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting there has been a change in Parish Council Employees. **John Waddington was appointed as Parish Council Handyperson** last year to replace Michelle Mobsby, who stepped down. **I would like to express my thanks to all the Parish Council Handypersons and Orderlies** for all their hard and exemplary work and utmost dedication in helping to keep the Parish amenities clean, functioning, safe and attractive.

Hutton Parish News and Hutton Parish Council Facebook

After 22 years of voluntary service as the volunteer Editor of the Hutton Parish News, Polly White retired from the role in March. **Our thanks must go to Polly for over two decades of voluntary service as Editor.**

Following a call for expressions of interest in taking on the role, Ella Baxter stepped forward and was appointed as the new volunteer Editor of the Hutton Parish News in February. Ella has recently also volunteered to be the new Editor of the Hutton Parish Council Facebook site, taking over from Amy Harris. **Our thanks must also go to Amy for her years of voluntary service to the as Editor.**

I would also like to express my thanks to Ella for taking on these extremely important and valuable voluntary communication roles in the community and **thank all the volunteer Hutton Parish News distributors for their valuable community work throughout the year.**

Events Supported by the Parish Council

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council supported events have included:

- **HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee** – including a Village Hall event and new gates commissioned for St Mary's Church.
- **The Passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II and Accession and Proclamation of King Charles III** – with flags lowered and raised, condolence books and floral tributes accepted.
- **Hutton Parish Festival Week 2022**, including - Taste of Somerset Market, Classic Car Show, Charity Quiz Night, Charity Night at the Races, Hutton Horticultural Society Annual Show, United Benefice Songs of Praise and Hutton Proms Concert, with **funds raised during the week for local charities and organisations.**
- **Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM The Queen Consort.**

I would like to express my thanks to all the **event organisers and volunteers, without which, the above events could not have taken place and to those** who attended the events for supporting **your Parish and your local charities.**

Planning is now also underway for **Hutton Parish Festival Week 2023**. Volunteers are always sought to help organise and support both events. If you would like to help, please contact myself.

Elmhurst Play Area Refurbishment

The Elmhurst Play Area refurbishment has continued since the last Annual Parish Meeting, led by Cllr Ben Groom. It is hoped that the third and final phase of the refurbishment will take place later this year. I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to Ben, who has carried out a huge amount of work on the project for over 2 ½ years and continues to do so.

Scout Hut Development

Work has been ongoing to look at how the Scout Hut can be developed for future use, once again, led by Cllr Ben Groom, who once again deserves our thanks. Further detailed information on the Scout Hut will be shared later in this meeting.

North Somerset Council – Hutton Speed Reduction Plan – 20 MPH Scheme

The proposed 20 MPH scheme for Hutton is currently being designed by North Somerset Council, for its planned implementation in 2023.

Following the North Somerset Council and Parish Council - Hutton Speed Reduction Plan – Public Engagement Event in Oct last year, the Parish Council received North Somerset Council's feedback on the event and on-line consultation.

Whilst the design phase is underway, the Parish Council will continue to consult with North Somerset Council on the Parish Council's and parishioners preferred option, which is to extend the 20 MPH scheme further than originally planned by North Somerset Council. This option is very strongly supported and endorsed by our District Councillors – Cllr Terry Porter and Cllr Mike Solomon who, along with the Parish Council, agreed to push North Somerset Council for its inclusion in the 20MPH scheme.

Following a meeting with NSC in Feb, it was agreed that the NSC Head of Highways Technical Services that they would discuss the requirements of the Parish and District Cllrs and then look at a revised scheme to facilitate our requirements. This revision was due by the end of March, but it has been delayed by the North Somerset Local Government Elections – held in May. The Parish Council is now chasing up this revision and further information on the proposed 20 MPH scheme, may be shared later in this meeting by our District Cllrs.

Conclusion

During the past year, despite many difficult challenges and demanding circumstances, the work of the Parish Council Office has continued and is now evolving to embrace new methods of working.

Parishioners and electors are gently reminded that the Parish Council is a non-political organisation and ALL Parish Councillors are volunteers who freely give their time, commitment and service in support of the Parish.

Finally, I would like to give my grateful thanks to all the Parish organisations, clubs, committees, societies, groups and volunteers, which inspire and support all generations and to all the parishioners of Hutton, **thank you, for what you do to support the Parish of Hutton.**

North Somerset District Councillors

Village Hall Committee*

Over the last year, the hall has been ticking over, the greater part of hirings were by regular groups, parties at weekends and events which generated approximately 20% of the halls' income. In the new year when the temperature dropped our heating bill for the month of January was more than our rental income. (Cost of energy for the hall moved from around £600 monthly to over £2000) The management committee took the decision to stop using the gas central heating and use space heaters instead.

After the death of our Chairman Steve Cope it became clear very quickly that the hall was in trouble financially. It came to light in the weeks prior to his loss that there had been a water leak under the car park which had been running for many months. The quote of some £9000+ to repair would have bankrupted the hall which is a charity that receives no funding from outside.

The work was undertaken voluntarily by Brett Sedgebeer and Trevor Savage who are both residents of the village. They worked tirelessly over a very long Bank Holiday weekend. No charge was made for any labour. This gave us a saving of many thousands of pounds.

There are still items to be addressed including an appeal to have the wasted water cost written off by Bristol Water. We have also had to re-tarmac the trench in the car park and are considering pursuing recovery action through the 'small claims' process for a failed contract on a 'find and fix' basis

The hall floor will need replacing, the roof sorting and external windows and doors replacing – all high ticket works in the future.

To move forward, the committee now has more, regular hire groups taking a role in the general committee. We have used co-options to strengthen the Management Committee - Trevor Savage accepted our invitation to become Chair, Amanda Bailey has come aboard to help with grant applications, Lin Kelly has taken the role of 'Utilities Manager' and Ann Fiddler is now 'External Communications. Mike Emsley is supporting the Management Committee with events and practical help at the hall

In fact it was Mike and his Grandson who repaired the main hall floor making the place fully useable again

Tony Lay has stepped up to look at fund raising activities and events. The first event brought in over £1000. Regular events are planned to increase the income for the hall.

We now have a Facebook page which is generating interest from groups and individuals for hiring. The rates charged have been reviewed and are increasing from 1 June 2023 (this being the first price rise in 4 years) storage costs have also been reviewed

As things level out we hope to decorate the hall and brighten the place up so that we can get more lettings to become financially stable

We have a Seed and Plant shed built and set up by Matt and Georgia.

We have a growing band of volunteers to clean, organise, open and lock the hall. New people are joining us and we hope to have a website of our own in the next few months designed by Dan. We always want more to join us

There is much to be done – Hutton Community are being so positive, supportive and forward looking, helping us keep the hall going - well into the future we hope.

Hutton Primary School
St Mary's Church - PCC
Hutton /Dabaso Twinning Committee*

The Twinning Committee has had a very successful year with increased activity after a quiet couple of years due to the pandemic.

Fundraising: We have held a variety of fundraising events including the Hutton Garden Party in July 2022, a Wine Tasting Evening at Bleadon Farm Shop Cafe in November 2022, The Wassailing Jan 2023 and a Quiz in both September 2022 and February 2023. Future events:

- Garden Party Sat 15th July 2023, in Chris Clarke's garden, between 10am and 12.30pm
- The Big Bash Sat 2nd September 2023 on Hutton St Mary's field
- Quiz Evening 29th September 2023 in Hutton Village Hall

Support in Dabaso: We support three main areas of the community in Dabaso:

- **Dabaso Clinic:** We cover the salaries of 2 x qualified nurses and most of the medication and equipment. We also fund training and outpost events for health education. We are hopeful that Government funding might be forthcoming whereby the Dabaso Clinic would come under the Kalifi area for central support. This would then mean we could fund more specialised equipment and 'extras' rather than the basics as at present **Dabaso School** we provide improved facilities such as upgrading classrooms, general maintenance, water supply and toilet refurbishment. This is usually during our 5 yearly visits, but we also support occasional mini projects at midway points
- **Bursaries:** In partnership with the Akili Trust, a London based charity, we fund children with good educational prospects through secondary (usually boarding) school education for 4 x academic years in the hope they will progress to College or University and in time, take back skills to their home towns and villages. This year the association is contributing 4 x bursaries. The current bursary is £400 per annum.

25th Anniversary of the Hutton Dabaso Twinning Committee

2024 sees the 25th Anniversary of the twinning and a visit is planned for October 2024. We are beginning to recruit those interested in preparing for and joining in with the visit. Please extend the invitation to all stakeholders, whether or not they are Hutton residents. Anyone is welcome to get involved with the twinning by reading our regular newsletter items and participating in our fundraising events.

Partnership with Hutton Parish Council:

We are very much looking forward to our collaboration during the Hutton Festival in August 2023, and we are grateful to the Parish Council for sharing their marquee space on Sat 2nd September. We have held several very positive meetings and are very much on the same page in terms of creating safe, enjoyable and productive events for the village which will, in turn, benefit the community in Dabaso.

Charlotte House (Hon Secretary) On behalf of the Hutton Dabaso Twinning Association June 2023



Hutton-in-Bloom*

Horticultural Society
Hutton Football Club*
Community Speed Watch**
Neighbourhood Policing Team - Avon and Somerset Police
Hutton Scout Hut

4. Open Forum

Questions, comments, news and views

5. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

The Village Hall

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