

**Draft Minutes of Calne Without Annual Parish Meeting  
Lansdowne Hall, Petty Lane, Derry Hill,  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Present:**

**Calne Without Parish Councillors**

WEST WARD

Cllr Ioan Rees

Cllr Keith Robbins

Cllr Todd

Cllr Campbell Rogers

PEWSHAM

Cllr John Barnes

SANDY LANE

Cllr Sue Deedigan

MIDDLE WARD

Cllr Pauline Crane

EAST WARD

Cllr Doug Price

3 members of the public attended.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the public.

**1 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Bruce Macinnes and Charlotte Fossa gave apologies.

**2 Minutes of the Meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Agreed: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be approved as a true and fair reflection of the discussions that took place and that these be signed by the chairman as such.

**3 Chairman's report**

Cllr Rees read his report which is attached as Appendix 1

Approved 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023

#### **4 Projects and Spending**

Cllr Barnes summarised the report. The report is attached at appendix 2.

#### **5 Presentation of the New Strategic Plan from Calne Without Parish Council**

Cllr Price led the presentation of the new strategic plan with contributions from Cllr Rees, Barnes, Deedigan and Robbins. The plan can be found [here](#) .

#### **6 Update from Community Groups**

##### **6.1 Written Updates from Community Groups**

The Clerk read to the meeting updates from Derry Hill and Studley Youth Club and Derry Hill and Studley Heartbeat. Appendix 3

##### **6.2 Update from Friends of Derry Hill School (FODHS)**

A representative of FODHS updated the meeting on the current activities and plans for fundraising. They noted their next big fundraising effort was to upgrade the library facilities in the school.

##### **6.3 Update from Rub A Dub Pre School**

A representative of Rub a Dub pre school updated the meeting on the positive impact of the recent grant received from Calne Without PC.

#### **7. Public Speaking**

A member of the public showed appreciation to the Footpath Working group for their assistance in maintaining and improving the footpaths locally.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm

## **Annual Parish Meeting Chairman's Report**

The last year may have been one of the most challenging ever faced by the Calne Without Parish Council. In May, as our communities were emerging from the Covid pandemic, the parish elections revealed that only 4 of the previous 15 councillors had stood as candidates. This, along with the previous councils decision not to proceed with its election leafleting campaign, contributed to only 7 councillors being elected, leaving 8 vacancies.

John Barnes was successful in an election in Pewsham Ward which was the only contested election in all of the 6 parishes in the Calne area. Two new Councillors, Sarah Marshall and Bruce MacInnes were elected unopposed in West ward along with Keith Robbins and Ioan Rees. David Songhurst and Rob Hislop were also re-elected unopposed in Middle and East Wards respectively.

Sarah Glen the Parish Clerk also stood down before the elections after 3 years in the post. I and all our Councillors were hugely grateful for her tireless work for the council and her continued support for our excellent new Clerk, Katherine Checchia. Katherine was recruited in June, and although without any previous experience in this role has proved to be an outstanding Parish Clerk.

The Council met 13 times during the year, it's ten regular monthly meetings and three Extraordinary meetings. The first of which was called to select 5 new parish councillors from 6 very good candidates that were seeking co-option to the council. Sue Deedigan was selected to represent Sandy Lane, Doug Price and Jurgen Kronig chosen to represent East Ward and Lucy Campbell-Rogers and Charlotte Fossa to represent West Ward.

The other two Extraordinary Meeting were called to decide the councils response to two of the most important issues facing our communities, and to allow local residents the opportunity to express their views. The planning application for The Forest Gate Solar Farm was supported by a majority of the Parish Council but as probably the largest ever developments in the parish it remains controversial and is yet to be approved by Wiltshire Council.

The final Extraordinary Meeting in April was called to consider Wiltshire Council's Draft Recommendations for boundary changes as part of their Community Governance Review. A major part of the review stems from a petition in 2019 from 767 residents of Pewsham and West Wards to seek a separate parish council for Derry Hill & Studley. The proposals involve incorporating areas of recent housing development into Calne Town Council along with a number of communities joining neighbouring parishes. The remaining villages and settlements of Derry Hill, Studley, Sandy Lane, Old Derry Hill and Pewsham would be renamed 'Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council'. After hearing the views of residents, the Council voted to support Wiltshire's main proposals on the casting vote of the Chairman,

overturning the councils previous opposition to the creation of a Derry Hill and Studley Parish in 2019.

During the year Sarah Marshall resigned with Philippa Todd being elected in her place to represent West Ward. Pauline Crane was co-opted to represent Middle Ward and in recent weeks David Songhurst resigned after 2 years as an influential and respected Councillor, leaving 3 vacancies for Councillors to represent Middle Ward.

The make up of Calne Without Parish Council in 2021/22 is much younger and more diverse than in the past, with now 5 of the 12 councillors being women. Despite the challenges of bringing together an almost entirely new group of relatively inexperienced members, the Council has been very active and committed. It's consistently demonstrated it's environmental credentials in setting up a Climate Emergency Working Group, conducting a residents survey on Climate Change and being an active partner in the Calne EcoFest as well as organising our own Sustainable Household Energy events scheduled for later in the year. Councillors have also lead on other initiatives including a showcase In-Stream River Restoration project with the Bristol Avon River Trust.

The two pre-existing Working Groups on Footpaths and 'Engagement and Participation' have both continued to develop their plans for the future and achieved much in auditing and improving our footpaths and engaging with local residents through local magazine articles, our website and the launch of the Parish Councils new Facebook account. The Council has also committed to engage with residents by promoting the work of the council to local areas through "road shows" giving residents more opportunity to speak directly to parish councillors. The Council, for a third time provided an information and drop-in stall at the village Fete in Derry Hill and for the first time, very successfully, met with residents of the Cherhill View area by organising a drop-in street stall.

The 'Bread & Butter' issues of Parish Councils - planning and highways are still high priorities for Calne Without. By examining every application within, or affecting, the parish, the council has lodged objections to a number of unsatisfactory applications. The Council was represented in person and gave evidence in support of Wiltshire Councils refusal of the Chilvester Hill development of 31 houses at the Public Inquiry in October. For the first time, as a matter of course, Councillors have decided to make constructive suggestions on how planning applicants can reduce their impact on climate change through more sustainable energy sources etc.

Road Safety remains a major issue in our parish where collisions on the high-speed major roads and rural lanes contribute to about half of the recorded road casualties in the whole of the Calne area. The Council commissioned a transport consultant, Entrans to examine and recommend improvements to 16 sites of concern around the parish. The Council has set up a permanent Highways, Road Safety Working Group to better allow councillors to work with our consultant in developing improvement schemes at the majority of those locations. A pair of Speed Indicator Devices have been purchased to combat speeding in a number of sites and a Community Speed Watch set up for Church Road in Derry Hill and will begin to monitor speeds once all the training of volunteers is complete.

With such ambitious aspirations the new Council has set up a Strategic Planning Committee to develop, manage and deliver the Council's operations, programme of works and grants to other organisations. Under the chairmanship of Doug Price the Committee has produced a Strategic Plan which sets out what the Council is about, its values and what it would like to do in the next 4 years including the targets it wants to achieve and how it plans to fund its proposals.

Many thanks go to members of the Finance Committee who have managed the Council's budgets well. Particularly their Chair, John Barnes, who took on the role of Responsible Finance Officer for the first half of the year to allow for the appointment and training of our new Clerk, Katherine Checchia. The Council has been able to set its part of the Council Tax for 2022/23 at the same level as the previous year by using its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and reserves in a judicious way. The challenge for the future will be to fully use our CIL receipts in the best way to achieve our objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan.

Finally I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their attendance and contributions over the past year, particularly the Chairs of the Committees and Working Groups, Charli Fossa, Sue Deedigan, Doug Price, David Songhurst & John Barnes. Huge thanks also go to the Vice Chairman, Keith Robbins and our Clerk, Katherine Checchia. They have made it a very easy for me to chair what I consider to be a very good Council that I'm privileged and proud to be a part of. I also wish to thank the two Wiltshire Councillors for our area Ashley O'Neill and Sam Pierce-Kearney who have committed much of their time and energy to supporting our Council and the interests of residents.

Finally my sincere thanks must go to my wife for her tolerance.

Cllr Ioan Rees  
Chairman  
Calne Without Parish Council

## Appendix 2

### Annual Parish Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### Income, Expenditure and Grants

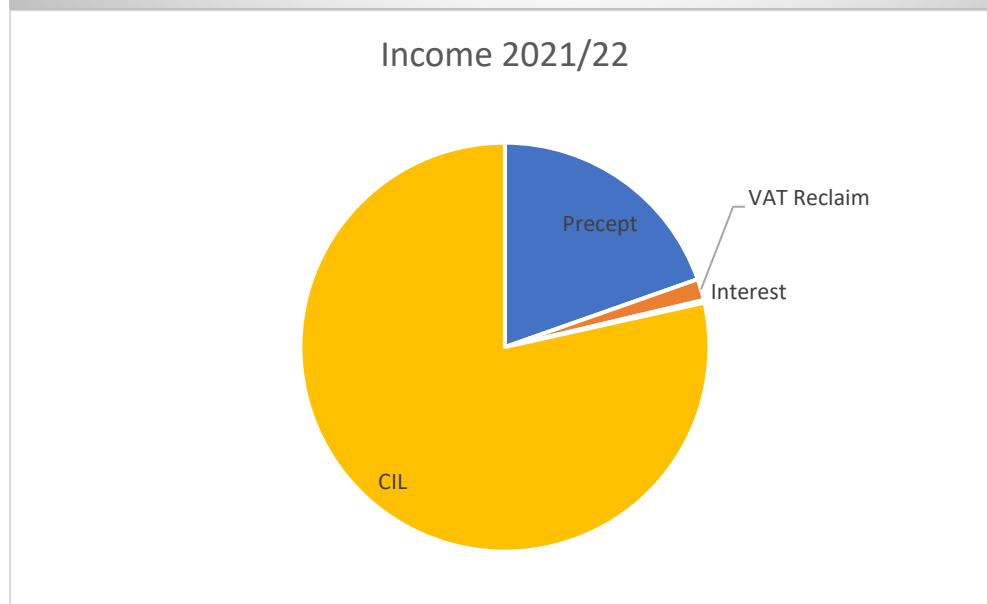
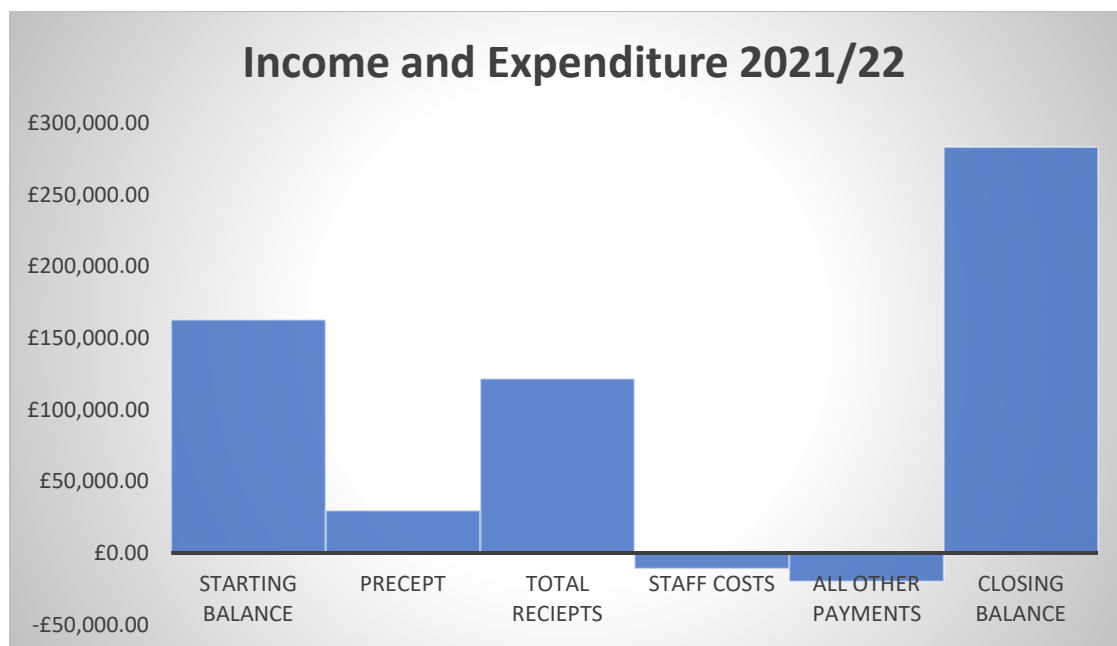
#### Income, Expenditure and Grants

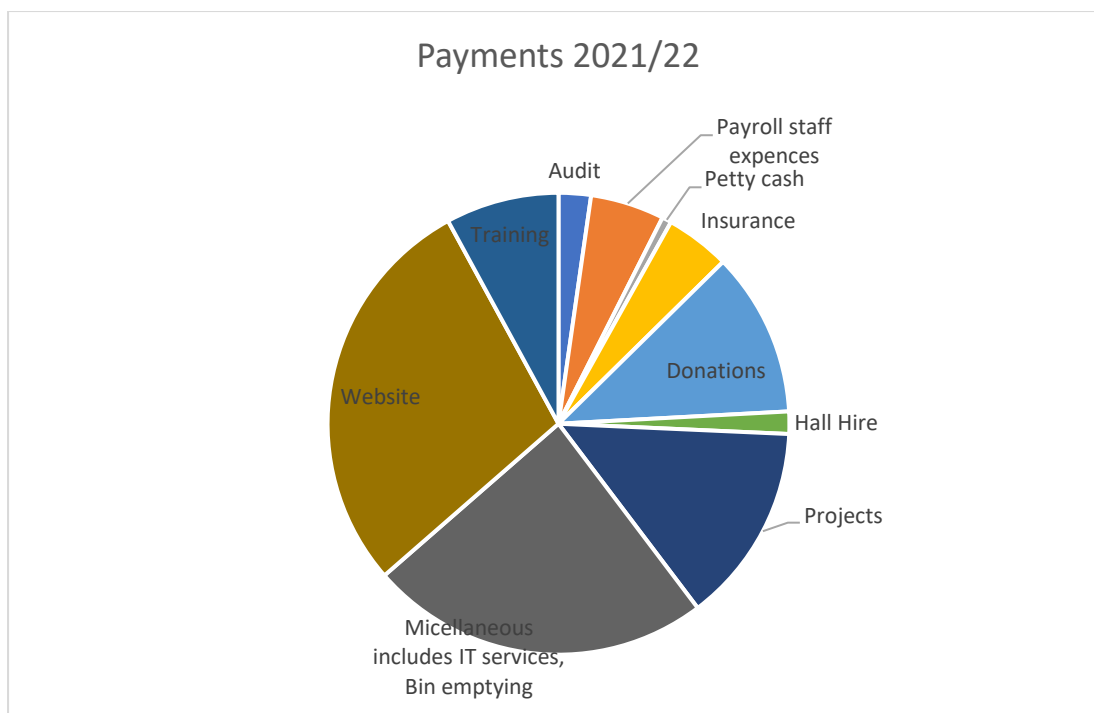
The following is a summary of the Council's income and expenditure for 2021/22. The Council publishes details of all its spending each month and progress against the budget set for the year with the papers for the Parish Council meetings. This information is all available on the Parish Council website. The Clerk will be happy to provide information about any specific items.

#### Expenditure 2021/22

Income	
Precept	£29,682.00
VAT Reclaim	£2,546.82
Interest	£332.18
CIL	£118,787.01

Starting Balance	£162,884.26
Precept	£29,682.00
Total Receipts	£121,666.01
Staff Costs	£10,932.31
All other payments	£19,915.84
Closing Balance	£283,208.42





### Grants

Organisation/ Charity	Purpose of Grant	Amount	LG Act 1972 S137
Derry Hill PCC magazine account	Grant request to Derry Hill inSPIRE parish magazine	£200.00	£200.00
Derry Hill and Studley Heartbeat	Grant for Defibrillator maintenance	£350.00	£350.00
Sustainable Calne	Donation	£50.00	£50.00
Wiltshire Climate Alliance	Donation	£50.00	£50.00
Friends of the Earth	Donation	£50.00	£50.00
Derry Hill Youth Club	COVID Recovery Grant	£416.79	£416.79
Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club	Grant to support activities (programme of speakers)	£360.00	£360.00
Derry Hill School Council Grant	Friendship bench	£505.99	£505.99

**08<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Approved 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023



### **Appendix 3**

#### **Community Group Updates**

#### **Derry Hill and Studley Youth Club**

Wow! Our first session back on the 11th March after almost exactly two years of closure was incredible!

There were 45 members that came along to our chill-out session and played air hockey, darts, pool, table football and tennis. There was a real buzz of activity as members old and new enjoyed their time together.

Huge thanks goes to our full team of parent helpers on the evening.

Our next session took place on Friday 29th April and it was another brilliant turn out with 44 members returning to what was a very busy and noisy evening! A massive thank you once again to our full team of parent helpers.

On the evening parents/carers were informed that the Youth Club team would like to take a photograph of the whole group for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Brochure. It is very much hoped that all parents/carers will give permission for their child/ren to be included so that this can accompany a written article about the history and present day workings of the Club.

Our next session will take place on Friday 20th May. We hope to be outside (weather permitting) to enjoy football, cricket, rounders and maybe giant jenga!

Future dates for the remainder of this academic year have also been confirmed as Friday 10th June (to include a Year 5 taster session) and 15th July. On Saturday the 9th July Youth Club will be running the Skittle alley on behalf of the Fete Committee to raise funds and awareness of the Club.

Derry Hill and Studley Youth Club would once again like to thank Calne Without Parish Council for their generous grant which enabled the Club to restart after lockdown.



## **Report to Calne Without Parish Council Annual Meeting May 2022**

The Derry Hill & Studley HEARTBEAT (DH&SH) is a group of volunteers who over the past few years have raised the funds to establish and maintain 5 defibrillators across Derry Hill & Studley for the benefit of the residents of the area. We are dependent on donations to purchase and maintain these lifesaving kits.

Fund raising has been particularly difficult over the last two years so the annual support from the Calne Without Parish Council of £350.00 is key. For instance, this month (May 2022) sees the replacement of two of the units' battery packs at nearly £600.00. When a unit is deployed (the most recent installation in Studley Gardens has been called out 5 times) and the pad sets are opened, these must be replaced at a cost of circa £40.00 each. (Depending on the type of defib' unit). These pad sets have a service expiry date after about 24 months and each unit has two sets of pads. This means that there is a typical annual replacement cost due to date expiry for these of circa £200.00. Call-out replacements are in addition to these. The assistance kits containing the surgical gloves, breathing valves etc also must be replaced when used or date expired. The battery packs last circa 4 years and two more battery packs are due to be replaced this year. As the units and cabinets age and with 4 out of the 5 mounted in exposed conditions, the cabinets deteriorate and repairs to the light units and heaters etc must be carried out. The unit in the Telephone Kiosk on Church Road is more protected but the kiosk needs refurbishment with a broken lower leather strap hinge, cracked glass and peeling paint. This is owned by the Parish Council. Every 4-5 years the electrical installations have to be CE checked and this cost circa £300.00 to £400.00.

The only area of the DH&SH zone not covered by a unit within 10 minutes of the residents, is the Studley end of Old Road (Rag Lane). At over £2500 plus installation (circa £300.00 for electrical supply routing etc) and our current resources of circa £2,200.00 this cannot be fulfilled. The level of funds we do have are just about sufficient to cover the 2022 replacement pads and batteries plus contingency funds for publicity and awareness training etc. that we hope to resurrect now that the Covid 19 restrictions are relaxed.

The continued support of the Parish Council is much appreciated.

**John Baumber**  
**Treasurer – DH&SH.**

***DH&SH.....supporting your community in an emergency***