

Minutes of Down Ampney Annual Parish Meeting
24th May 2021 7.00pm – Down Ampney Village Hall

1. Present: Cllr. Ray Jenkins (Chair/Finance/Transport & Highways), Cllr. Geoffrey Tappern (Vice-Chair/Planning), Cllr. Ann Higson (H&S/Playground/MUGA), Cllr Liz Bellamy (Trees/Village Hall), David Job – DA Village Hall/Village Shop, Jenny Collyer - DALL, Gail Dillon (Clerk to DAPC). 1 member of public (arrived late)

2. Apologies: Cllr. Gareth Cope (Website/Planning/Compliance); Cllr Antony Matthews (Planning); Cllr Maureen Gregory (Tennis Club/Footpaths); Shaun Parsons (former GCC councillor); Cllr. L Spivey – CDC/GCC; Co-operative Group; Wellcome Trust; Hills Group; Su Moody – DA News; S Gillis - PTA, Ray Charman – DA Tennis Club; Helen Baillie - Gardening Club; Paul Norris – Community Garden; Penelope Morse – DA School Governors.

3. Reports 2020/21:

No reports received for:

- Parochial Church Council
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Down Ampney Football Club
- Gardening Club
- DAFFERS
- MIDAB

Cllr Jenkins expressed his sadness at the apathy within the village, whereby many jobs in the village are left to the few. It was noted that, with parish council elections happening next year and the likelihood that a number of the existing councillors were not planning to put themselves forward for re-election, if more younger people do not come forward it would become very likely that the running of the village would revert to Cotswold District Council. As there is already concern that CDC do not listen to local parishes this would not be a good outcome. RJ had had a meeting last week with a number of other local parish councils about potentially starting a local alliance to try to combat this situation.

He opened the floor to questions from those attending.

One member of the public queried why the National Lottery has not been approached for funding for the playground resurfacing. AH explained how, when approached, CDC has advised the PC to go down the crowdfunding route which they were setting up and which would give access to a potential donation of up to £10,000 from CDC towards the project. Applying for National Lottery funding is a lengthy, complicated process but this would certainly be looked at should the crowdfunding process not be successful. RJ also advised that it is hope that we can persuade both Sanctuary Group and Cotswold Homes (who are

developing Broadway Farm and Dukes Field respectively) to contribute substantial amounts towards the project as it will be in their interests to have a fully operational playground in the village. We are awaiting the outcome of these approaches.

Jenny Collyer queried why there is such a delay with starting the Broadway Farm development. RJ advised that Sanctuary Group have been working through various issues with GCC, which he believes have now been resolved, but there are a couple of issues with CDC which remain outstanding.

Cllr Jenkins thanked all those in attendance for all they do for the village. David Job stressed how the village had really come together over the last year and there had been a real show of teamwork and support from many areas. He then publicly expressed thanks to Cllr Jenkins for providing good leadership in these difficult times.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

DRAFT

DOWN AMPNEY PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT

I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THOSE ATTENDING THIS EVENING TO TAKE PART IN THE DA PARISH MEETING THAT IS TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN OUR VILLAGE AND ALSO INVITE SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE LIFE HERE.

IT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT 18 MONTHS OR SO BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT OF CORONAVIRUS, WITH MANY OF THE VILLAGE ACTIVITIES CURTAILED AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS CANCELLED.

HOWEVER, VILLAGERS HAVE RALLIED AROUND HELPING OTHERS IN NEED, MAKING MASKS AND SCRUBS ENSURING THE VULNERABLE ARE CARED FOR. IT SHOWS HOW WE CAN PULL TOGETHER IN ADVERSITY.

DOWN AMPNEY IS A QUIET VILLAGE, APART FROM THE ODD NOISY MOTOR BIKE OR TWO, BUT AGE-OLD CONCERNS ARE STILL WITH US.

PRESSURE WITH PLANNING PROPOSALS MAKE US THINK OF HOW OUR VILLAGE WILL LOOK IN YEARS TO COME. BROADWAY FARM WILL BE BUILT- SOME DAY- WITH DUKE'S FIELD CAUSING MORE ANXIETY WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS. WE SHALL, HOWEVER, SEE MORE OF THIS PROBLEM IN YEARS TO COME AND OUR VILLAGE WILL CHANGE.

IN SO DOING, WE MUST LOOK AHEAD AND TRY TO RETAIN WHAT LITTLE OF THE VILLAGE STRUCTURE EXISTS AND ENSURE THAT WHAT IS TO COME DOES NOT MAKE OUR VILLAGE INTO A SPRALLING CARBUNCLE ATTACHED TO SWINDON. WE ARE A COUNTRY VILLAGE AND WISH TO REMAIN SO.

THIS IS WHY THE EMERGING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN IS SO IMPORTANT. POWERS ARE BEING STRIPPED FROM LOCAL PARISHES, TAKEN AWAY BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES BE THEY DISTRICT OR COUNTY. WE MUST BE PREPARED TO CHALLENGE THIS AGAIN AND AGAIN.

A NEW CROSS BORDER ALLIANCE OF PARISH COUNCILS HAS BEEN FORMED TO GIVE SUPPORT TO EACH OTHER AND GIVE WEIGHT TO MATTERS THAT AFFECT OUR AREA. OUR PROBLEMS ARE MUTUAL PROBLEMS AND, AS EXAMPLE WE CITE, GRAVEL EXTRACTION WITH POOR OR NON EXISTANT OVERSIGHT BY COMPLIANCE OFFICERS, PLANNING, WHERE THERE IS NO LOCAL CONSULTATION OR SIMPLY IGNORING LOCAL CONCERNS.

AS A PARISH COUNCIL WE MUST LOOK FORWARD. THE COUNCIL IS MADE UP OF 7 ELECTED MEMBERS EACH WITH SPECIFIC TASKS. SOME OF US ARE PAST OUR SELL BY DATES AND MAY WELL NOT BE STANDING AGAIN AT THE NEXT ELECTION AND THIS WILL LEAVE A VOID NEEDED TO BE FILLED. OTHERWISE THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR VILLAGE WILL FALL TO CDC TO RUN OUR AFFAIRS.

IN PART THEY ALREADY DO THIS BY DICTATING HOW OUR VILLAGE IS TO BE DEVELOPED.

IT APPEARS THEY DO NOT WISH TO MANAGE THE GRASS CUTTING FOR WHICH THEY SHOULD, BY RIGHTS, BE RESPONSIBLE. DAPC TAKE CARE OF THIS AS BEING SIMPLE PEOPLE IT IS BELIEVED THAT WE CAN MANAGE IT.

THIS LEADS ME TO SAY WHAT MAY BE UNTHINKABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF APATHY BY MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS WHO FEEL THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED. THIS HAS RECENTLY BEEN HIGHLIGHTED IN THE DRIVE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR PLAYGROUND.

MANY FAMILIES USE THIS FACILITY BUT HAVE FAILED TO REGISTER ANY INTEREST IN HELPING THE FUNDRAISING EVENT. LEAVE IT TO OTHERS AND WE CAN REAP THE BENEFITS.

UNLESS WE REACH THE TARGET OR FIND A BENEFACTOR, THE PLAY PARK WILL CLOSE.
BE SURE OF THAT.
WE NEED YOUNG PEOPLE TO COME FORWARD TO LEARN HOW TO RUN VILLAGE AFFAIRS.
IF THEY DO NOT THEN US OLD FARTS WILL FADE AWAY.

ON A SPECIAL NOTE, MAY I, ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, THANK ALL THOSE
KIND HEARTED PEOPLE THAT HAVE VOLUNTEERED OR DONATED TO ALL THAT IS
NECESSARY TO KEEP THIS VILLAGE TOGETHER AND ALIVE. WONDERFUL PEOPLE, SOME
OF WHOM WE MAY KNOW NOT KNOW THEIR NAMES.

Cllr Ray Jenkins
Chair
DAPC

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Like so many things in the last year production of the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been fraught with difficulties and limited possibilities for meetings and feedback from residents. A meeting was held in the Village Hall on 5 September 2020 to present the results of the Questionnaire and obtain feedback on the results. The questionnaire results were also posted on the parish website and details of this and an email address for further comments were given in Down Ampney News. No emails have been received to date. Notwithstanding this, writing of the plan has continued and we are very close to publishing the Regulation 14 consultation version to the village and immediate stakeholders on which formal comments may be made in writing. This consultation will last six weeks and will be followed by the Regulation 16 version which Cotswold District Council will seek comments from wider consultees.

It has taken a long time but light can be seen at the end of the tunnel.

The Steering Group, Neighbourhood Development Plan

DOWN AMPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE REPORT

The Parish Council precept for the year was £20,790, from which a number of expenses are paid each year. The main expense which must be covered by the PC is grasscutting and hedgecutting in the parish. Between the two, this totalled £9,540 for the year. Other normal running expenses have been incurred such as the clerk's salary, insurance, cost of the village website, subscriptions to software and to our local parish council representative and advisory body and of operating the village defibrillators. Donations have been to the British Legion (for the Remembrance Day poppy wreaths), the cost of masks for villagers, retirement gifts to the two long-serving volunteers who have run the DA News for around 30 years and finally a donation for the prizes of the Gardening Club upcoming village competition. Various repairs have been carried out throughout the year totalling £1,525. Amongst other things these included various playground equipment repairs, the new village information boards and the new plaque at the Preaching Cross. This has resulted in a small surplus for the year of £1,736 which will be carried forward to be used towards future expenditure.

The Parish Council had a total of £29,550 in its bank accounts at the end of the financial year. £5,000 of this has already been committed to the playground resurfacing project.

A total of £5,676 has been allocated in the budgets for the last two years as support for the Neighbourhood Plan project but has not been spent by them. This support will continue for the Neighbourhood Plan but it is hoped that most of their expenditure can be claimed through grants.

A full copy of the approved accounts are attached at Appendix A.

Co-operative Group

Rob Bignold

24/05/2021

- Dukes Field; Co-op have entered a contract with Cotswold Homes who have submitted a planning application for 10 new homes including 4 affordable as insisted on by the District Council.
- Land at rear of 38/39; The unconditional sale has been completed to Ridgevale Estates.
- Houses at 38/39; There was limited response to the marketing and the potential buyers subsequently withdrew. We have considered a joint venture with a builder but again this has not progressed. We have some ongoing discussions but are likely to remarket in the foreseeable future.
- 22/23; We hope to exchange contracts on the sale in the near future.
- Allocated land for 8 new homes at Rooktree Farm; We are in discussions with a potential partner.

Farmcare Trading Limited (Wellcome Trust)

The Down Ampney Estate – Estate Report year to 30th April 2021 for Down Ampney Parish Council meeting on Monday 24th May 2021

There has been progress regarding certain capital projects on the Estate over the last year. In particular these are:

- Farmcare has transferred 0.26 acres of land adjacent to Down Ampney church for an extension to the graveyard. The site was conveyed to The Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance who will be responsible for the new boundaries to the site.
- Farmcare have undertaken various tree safety surveys over the Estate and as part of that survey, a group of Poplar trees have been felled adjacent to the roadway, west of Down Ampney Church. The site will be re-soaked in the future, if no natural regeneration occurs.
- Farmcare have contributed to the improvement works around the war memorial. This related to the fencing around the site, which was in need of replacement.
- Dukes Brake Cottage, at the north-western edge of the Estate, has been sold to a private individual who we understand is looking to renovate the property, so it will become a family home.
- We have undertaken improvement works to the grain stores at Airfield Farm. New concrete floors have been laid to the principle sheds to ensure that the storage is compliant.
- The farming regime over the last year has remained unchanged, with the principle cropping being under an arable rotation (wheat and barley). Farmcare continues to grow maize as a break crop, which is clamped at the airfield until being moved off-site as digestate. Last year was challenging weather wise, and so far, this year different weather challenges have been experienced. Nevertheless, the farm looks well, and we hope for some early summer sun now, to move crops on.

19 May 2021

**Statement for Down Ampney Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting
Proposed sand and gravel quarry at the old airfield near the villages of Marston
Meysey and Down Ampney, Gloucestershire.**

Hills Quarry Products submitted the planning application for the proposed quarry to both Wiltshire Council and Gloucestershire County Council on 20 April 2021.

The application has not yet been placed onto the online systems for either local authority and consultation notifications have not yet been distributed.

This delay is due to a very small area of the proposed quarry being located in Wiltshire and, as a result, Gloucestershire County Council is liaising with Wiltshire Council on the formal process that will allow Wiltshire Council to delegate decision making to Gloucestershire County Council.

We expect, but cannot guarantee, that this will be concluded in early June, but are reliant on Wiltshire Councillors making that decision.

Once resolved, the normal consultation process will be started by Gloucestershire County Council and will include the ability for members of the public to submit feedback to the Council's planning officer on the proposals.

In the meantime, should there be any questions from the meeting relating to quarrying on the Wellcome Trust estate, or any other activities, we will be happy to receive these via email and answer as best we can.

In addition, a hard copy version of the submitted planning application will be provided to the Chairperson of Down Ampney Parish Council, Councillor Ray Jenkins.

**Peter Andrew
Group Director
Hills Quarry Products Limited**

Village Hall report.

Before COVID 19 struck the Hall was reporting the best performance since we reopened following the Fire in 2005. Bookings were at a record and plans for refurbishing the Hall and giving remote access to Customers reducing the load on volunteers were in place. Covid 19 brought all of this to a sudden end and put significant constraints on how we could use the Main Hall. Strict guidelines were issued by the Insurance company and Government put the responsibilities on the Hall Committee concerning Social distancing etc in September. At the start of this year the government then introduced their 4 Stage guidance plan. We are now the final stage (4) and expect to return to "normal" operations "no earlier than 21st June".

There has been a tremendous response from our customer base:

1. An organisation have paid for the use of the Hall despite not using it as a thanks to way the Hall have helped them in the past,
2. A wedding which was booked three years has been repeatedly re-booked as the Covid 19 Plans changed and is now scheduled for 17th July.
3. The many village clubs who use the Main Hall and Dakota Room as their venues have indicated they will return.

In response we have implemented simple recovery plan:

1. The whole hall has been re-decorated.
2. Statutory tests (Security, Fire and PAT) have been implemented as required
3. Maintenance has been phased to reduce load on our finances but be ready by the 21st June. Please note we did receive a £10,000 grant from the Government via CDC which has helped us manage the many pressures that COVID 19 brought on the Hall. This hopefully will mean the minimum effect on our finances in the longer term

More importantly we must thank the Hall committee members for their support and particularly Peter Baillie for the way he has kept in touch with all the organisations that have used the Hall in the past difficult times and the positive way he has updated the Web site to make clear to potential customers how they can progress in the future.

David Job -Chairman

Shop Society Report

The Shop story is different and therefore a different strategy had to be made to maintain its service levels. Particularly Accounts were introduced and Papers were collected outside to minimise congestion in the Shop.

Valiantly the Village Shop has stayed open through all the different phases of COVID 19. A tremendous effort by the Committee as a whole. To combat the virus and meet the Governments directives hard decisions had to be made by the Committee to ensure that the Shop maintained the services Customers needed. I stress Customers meant those from the village and outside are required.

1. Firstly the opening hours were limited to mornings only.
2. Strict control of Customers entry to the Shop and Post office involving Hand sanitisers, social distancing and the wearing of masks
3. The Café service had to be severely limited no baking and then gradually brought back to the original levels as the Government Stages developed.
4. The Range of stock had to be changed to suit people working from Home.

To implement these we brought new people on to the Committee particularly Tony Peel who brought enthusiasm and new ideas how to document the new procedures that were required. He worked closely with Peter Baillie who used his knowledge of the EPOS system to great effect. Pam Cook was tasked with looking for new suppliers to source the change in products the new customers wanted and achieved this effectively. Keith Cook and Sarah Cook provided the support Pam needed. Most importantly our thanks go out to the many Villagers who manned the Shop, delivered papers and helped in those early days.

We like the Hall received a £10,000 grant but ours was taxed leaving only £8000. This has been used to buy the new awning to keep people dry and orderly when queuing for the shop and extra table for customers to enjoy their tea with cakes. In this difficult time the Shop did make a profit and increased their reserves whilst all these changes were being implemented. A highly commended effort by all-Thank you Down Ampney for supporting the Shop Committee in these difficult and unprecedented times.

Pam Cook- Chairman

Down Ampney Community Garden

The Down Ampney Community Garden continues to go from strength to strength. Building on these strong foundations, all plots remain taken and indeed are quickly taken up when they become vacant, with gardeners enjoying a wide range of successful produce over the last 12 months. The whole garden remains primarily an organic, environmentally friendly green space and enjoyed for the first time the distribution of its own home-made compost amongst gardeners in the last few months.

The heritage tyres are now producing more fruit as they mature and it appears the most recent additions, The Siddington Russett, Ampney Red and Ashmeads Kernall will bear fruit this season

The water butt is in the process of being replaced and with other improvements to individual plots planned the overall objective is to retain a good quality and varied environment for the benefit of the whole community. The community garden has been a boon during the pandemic.

The community garden committee is pleased with the ongoing support from the Parish Council and looks forward to many more years of prosperous fruit and veg production.

Down Ampney Community Garden Committee

DOWN AMPNEY NEWSLETTER - report by Su Moody, Editor

After many years of service, Marilyn Robson and Sheila Burgess chose to retire as Editor and Treasurer of the Down Ampney News. After some persuasion, Su Moody took over as Editor and Jenny Collyer as Treasurer. The magazine was renamed the Down Ampney Newsletter in full agreement with Marilyn. There was a smooth handover with the new team launching the first issue in April 2021. We must express our thanks to previous and new distributors who have taken on the voluntary role of issuing the publication to almost every home in the village. As no advertising invoices were issued during lockdown, we are currently following this up to generate the income to pay for printing. We have changed printers from Busy Fingers to Publica Group, the printers for CDC who are considerably cheaper. Thanks to Ray Jenkins for making this suggestion. For future reference, the deadline for all issues has been set to 19th of each month unless otherwise stated. As always, any group, charity or individual may publish in the Newsletter for free, whilst local businesses may advertise at a low rate. Thank you for your time.

DRAFT

What a year this has been for us as individuals, families, public and private bodies, indeed as a nation and as an entire global community. The effects of the pandemic have hit hard with personal loss, financial loss and uncertainty, erratic schooling, and the toll on general physical and mental health and wellbeing being amongst the numerous adverse effects the virus has leashed upon us.

On a positive note, we have been relatively “lucky” here in the Cotswolds that the rural nature of our lives has meant that we have been so far spared the terrible case numbers and subsequent deaths, although every life lost is a tragedy. We have also witnessed, and in many cases, been part of, a tremendous community effort to look after the most vulnerable amongst us and to rally whenever help has been needed. It was heartening to know that in both the thick of the pandemic, and during the recent vaccine rollout, the number of volunteers has way exceeded the number of people requiring help. What a fantastic testament to the caring nature of Cotswold District residents which has been echoed all over the UK.

From a District Council perspective, the action plans put in place last February/March carried us through the last year. Staff were re-deployed, moved to working from home, adapting and continuing to deliver everyday services for residents as well as picking up the extra responsibilities required to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents faced with the pandemic.

Here are a few of the highlights of work done:

- 716 Residents given emergency support via the Help Hub
- £39.2million worth of business grants paid out
- £18.6million of rate relief paid out to support local businesses
- 90,485 telephone enquiries dealt with by customer services during the various lockdowns
- 152,737 waste and recycling containers emptied weekly
- 1,157 extra tonnes of recycling collected
- 3850 Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents were contacted during the November lockdown alone
- over 400 residents were visited in person to ensure that their needs were being met and that they were safe
- almost 90% of staff were working from home
- over 120 staff were re-deployed to support the Council’s Covid response

The last year has seen some new faces at the District Council, including a new Chief Executive, Rob Weaver, a new Climate Change officer, Chris Crookall-Fallon, Paul James heading up Economic Development, the creation of a Sustainable Transport manager, Hannah Fountain and a Head of Communications, Mark Pritchard to name but a few. These people have been brought in to ensure the safe running of the council after an LGA peer review carried out in late 2019 suggested some changes were necessary and also to help deliver on the Council’s priorities. These individuals are working hard and have begun to show their worth with Chris Crookall Fallon in particular, securing £1.2million of funding to install carbon reduction and energy saving measures in Council buildings.

Key strategy documents were published on Green Economic Recovery, Affordable Housing Delivery, Climate Emergency and Leisure for the Cotswolds, as well as the annual budget which managed to

balance maintaining high quality service delivery, along with investment for key priorities whilst mitigating the severe losses brought about by the pandemic.

A new fleet of waste collection vehicles, with new routes and additional kerbside collections was introduced just as we entered the first lockdown in March last year, and whilst there were inevitable teething problems compounded with large numbers of staff being off sick with Covid or self-isolating, the service managed to find its feet and was generally back on track by the end of the first period of lockdown. The service has been under enormous pressure as people have either been in full lockdown or generally working from home for over a year, with household waste streams seeing a minimum 20% increase. Every time a review is suggested, we seem to go back into lockdown, and finding a new “normal” or “baseline” is difficult for the time being.

Keeping the wheels of local government turning has been a challenge, and I commend all Parish Councils for adopting virtual meetings and grappling with previously unknown technology (who had even heard of zoom, pre-March 2020?!). The Council has taken this opportunity to ensure that not only have virtual meetings been possible and streamed live to residents, with the already approved upgrading of technology in the Council Chamber, we will be able to continue to facilitate this widening of democracy as we move back to in person meetings from the 7th May 2021.

I look forward to seeing whether the new Crowdfunding scheme – Crowdfund Cotswold will help to deliver for communities with exciting plans for their villages and towns. It has been successful in similar areas to the Cotswolds and offers the potential to maximise our existing community grants scheme with pledges able to be made by businesses, individuals, other public bodies etc.

I also have great hopes for the Civic Pride programme which will roll out over the next 2 years. Boosting officer resource to tackle low level environmental crimes such as littering and dog fouling as well as increased street and verge cleaning will hopefully begin to restore some pride in our district which has become rather shabby looking in some areas.

The Cotswolds continues to have very low levels of crime and we are lucky that our community police officers from Inspector Simon Ellson through to our local PCSOs work hard to do what they can with limited resources and a large geographical area to cover. I have met with them regularly this year and in particular have asked for increased speed patrols with their speed guns to catch motorists breaking the limit and endangering lives. We have talked about holding community meetings as lockdown eases further so that everyone can have a chance to meet their local police team.

A great deal of work has gone on in my own portfolio- Housing and Homelessness – to help the most vulnerable in our community and to try to prevent homelessness. We took out a lease on a property in Tetbury with 9 self-contained units for emergency/temporary accommodation which has been very useful. We have also committed to a Housing First scheme to help the most complex people sustain a tenancy and have joined in a number of County wide schemes which should help reduce homelessness.

We have also put money into 2 schemes which will deliver on our commitment to social rented homes in the District as well as reducing carbon emissions with funding for better insulation, air source heating systems and PV panels.

We continue to demand more from large agencies over flooding and sewage discharges which were exacerbated over Christmas by the heavy rainfall. The Council stepped in quickly and helped the residents most affected by offering hotel accommodation, co-ordinating pumping and

Of course, these have been trying times and not everything has been easy. The planning department in particular has found adapting to working from home very challenging given the number of large documents involved and there has been an increase in planning applications which has led to some applications taking much longer than usual to be determined. It was felt that the department was not functioning as it should and is currently going through a thorough review to identify where the problems are and how best to solve them.

It has been an honour to be your ward member for 2 years now and I look forward to working with you over the next year.

Wishing you, your families and communities all the best.

Lisa

Tel: 01285 653405

Lisa.spivey@cotswold.gov.uk

DRAFT

GCC Report

In the last twelve months the pandemic has dominated. Gloucestershire is coming out of this difficult period better than many other areas in the country. Noticeably there has been excellent joint working between a number of bodies including the NHS, the county council, district councils and the community at large, all of whom have worked well together, especially noticeable was the community spirit.

The county council adapted very quickly to virtual meetings and circa 90% of officers at any one time working from home. The road resurfacing programme continued without a break and the now the results of the recent election are known will be further taken forward by the conservative administration.

Turning to Down Ampney. The parish is facing a number of significant challenges. I sent through an e-mail just before the election clarifying that the prime responsibility for the Ampney Brook rests with The Environment Agency, since the river is classified as a main river, and that body is responsible for monitoring the level of pollution. The EA is often a difficult body to deal with, in my experience often being rather evasive. I am certain the county council flood risk manager will help as much as he can. Both Moreton-in-Marsh and Fairford town councils have had serious concerns about pollution in the Windrush and Coln respectively following a significant increase in the number of new houses at both locations and would also be in a position to give advice.

I attended a virtual police meeting earlier this year as an observer when the police were discussing the issue of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras. There are quite significant resource issues for the police when these are introduced across the county. This initiative being taken forward with the county council road safety manager, who will be able to keep the parish informed. I have also been in touch with the experienced planning manager responsible for taking forward the application to quarry the airfield and he is well aware of its historic significance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents of the Down Ampney, and in particular the parish council, for their support across the years and wish you all well for the future. Down Ampney has a unique history, long may it continue.

With best wishes to all.

Shaun

Annual Report from Down Ampney School Governors May 2021

In common with every other establishment most of the past year has been taken up in responding to the Covid pandemic.

At the start of the first lockdown the governors spent a considerable amount of time creating a detailed risk assessment, following all government and local authority guidelines, to ensure that the school would be a safe place for pupils and staff. The governing body met remotely on a weekly basis in order to keep abreast of government announcements to review and update the risk assessment and the school remained open for vulnerable children and those whose parents were key workers. Part of our remit was also to consider how home schooling was being delivered and to ensure that every child had access to support.

In July we were able to open the school to all pupils and again in September. Governors gave due attention to staff mental well-being through phone calls and e mails. During the second lockdown the school was again open to vulnerable pupils and those with key worker parents.

The other key role for governors during the past year has been to secure the appointment of a new head teacher following the resignation of Mr Clark. The post was initially filled on a temporary basis to enable us to prepare thoroughly for recruiting the right person. The response to our advert and application package was extremely pleasing numbering thirteen interested parties; a large number for a primary school. A panel of governors was appointed and after short listing their followed a rigorous procedure of tasks and interviews, made more difficult by the fact that they needed to be done remotely on a day when we had no electricity in the village! However, Mrs Gray was invited to take up the post, a decision warmly endorsed by the Diocese and the Local Authority advisors and to our delight she accepted. A decision was also taken to recruit a further class teacher to enable the class numbers to be reduced in order to help pupils to make accelerated progress following the disrupted year of schooling. Miss Homan-Green joined in September and has quickly become a key member of the team.

Building on the good rating by both OFSTED and SIAMS the governors continue to work with head teacher and staff to create and deliver an ambitious school development plan, monitor the budget, oversee the premises and to carry out their role in both supporting and challenging the head teacher.

Penelope Morse
Chair of Governors

Down Ampney PTA
Chair's report for 2020/21

This year the PTA was co-chaired (again) by Emily Nott and Katie Vince.

2020 was an extraordinary year for everyone. Most of the PTA activities planned were hampered by the pandemic and the associated lock down or social distancing measures in place. It was not possible to hold the Summer Fete or the Christmas Bazaar and a Jumble Trail planned for September (to compensate for this) had to be cancelled last minute due to restrictions. All of this has, of course, had an impact on fundraising.

On a brighter note, we were able to organise a Christmas Display competition and a Christmas Raffle, which helped to spread much needed cheer in the run up towards Christmas. The raffle raised a whopping £1,353! Sam Fryer-Ward organised Christmas Cards designed by the children and we continued regular Bags4Schools collections (thanks to Laura Wright) which bring in additional steady income. We also held a school uniform sale.

As a small village school, we rely heavily on the support of parents, carers and villagers. We would like to thank everyone for keeping positive over the year and making the activities we were able to organise a success.

Mr Clark left the school in the Autumn term and the PTA coordinated contributions towards a gift and collected good bye messages from parents and carers. Everyone was sorry to see him leave but thankful for the amazing work he did in his time at Down Ampney. Mrs Gray joined as interim head teacher and absolutely everyone was thrilled when she took on the position of permanent Head Teacher in March 2021.

Throughout this turbulent and challenging year all the staff at Down Ampney Primary School have been incredible. For managing to provide both effective in school teaching and home learning, whilst also presenting a happy face and unwavering enthusiasm we would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU!

Looking ahead to 2021 it will be a priority to recruit new members to the PTA. We will have to wait and see how quickly we bounce back from the pandemic but as soon as we can, we will be organising PTA events!

Thank you to everyone that has been involved in any way with the PTA this year.

Emily and Katie.

Down Ampney Tennis Club 2020/21

Despite the pandemic and all its consequences for social and sporting activities, DATC had a successful year during 2020. The Club did everything possible to support play and keep courts available as far as was consistent with Members' safety and Government guidelines.

The Club decided to reduce membership fees by 50% in recognition of the reduced possibilities of play. Despite this a significant increase in membership kept the club income at almost previous levels. The financial reserves grew slightly during 2020 to put the Club in a healthy financial position although we are approaching the time for courts and netting to be upgraded. Careful planning, forecasting and management is still required going forward.

Clubspark was the other major influence on the running of DATC during 2020. This award-winning sport management software for sports' governing bodies enables the easy management of memberships, campaigns and tournaments ...

Clubspark proved enormously helpful during the pandemic. During 2021 we will explore how Clubspark can be used further but already court booking, membership records, communication with members and court utilization statistics have markedly improved.

A survey of the membership, in anticipation of the ability to do more as a club, indicated the main requirement for members is to play with friends and family. Based on the activity prior to the pandemic it is expected more coaching will be offered, social events will be resumed and that once again entering teams into the leagues can be considered.

Coaching numbers were healthy and despite the challenges coaching of juniors and some adults has been maintained.

Membership

	2020	(2019)
Family memberships	38	(24)
Single Members	48	(29)
Juniors Full	2	(3)
Junior Coaching	1	(3)

I believe the Down Ampney Tennis Club played a significant part locally in assisting people to participate in an outdoors activity which is healthy and sociable during a momentous year with many restrictions.

Ray Charman

Chairman DATC

Down Ampney and Local Ladies

Like all other clubs and societies, it has been a quiet year for the Down Ampney & Local Ladies group, or DALL as we are known!

DALL is a social group providing friendship, fun, social interaction and support to the ladies from the village of Down Ampney and surrounding area.

We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Dakota Room at the Village Hall, and we had three social meetings in 2020 before Lockdown began, after which our monthly meetings stopped. When restrictions eased a little over the summer, we tried to arrange a picnic for members, but, despite scheduling three separate dates in August, it rained on all of them and so the picnic did not go ahead!

The group remained dormant until April 2021, when we arranged two outdoor meetings for a group of 6 members; one was Afternoon Tea and the other Pizza & wine. We are building things up with Drinks & Canapes for 25 people at the home of one of our members tomorrow evening, followed by a Scavenger Hunt on 8 June.

We are hoping to re-start the monthly programme on the first Tuesday in July, with a Welcome Back Picnic at the Village Hall, and will continue meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. We are finalising the programme for the rest of this year, and this should be available soon. Planned activities include an evening with a local artist, quiz night, desert island discs, Christmas crafts, and wine tasting. We also arrange social events outside the village such as meals out, and are planning to start a monthly coffee morning soon... watch this space!

If anyone would like to get involved in the group, we report each month in the village Newsletter, which includes our contact email which is DALLdownampney@gmail.com

**APPENDIX A – DOWN AMPNEY PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS – Y/E
31/03/2021**


Down Ampney Parish Council

Annual Accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2021

I confirm that these accounts are a true and fair reflection of the transactions of Down Ampney Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2021

Signed:



Chairman

Date 04-May-21

Signed:



G Dillon
Clerk and RFO

Date 04-May-21

Down Ampney Parish Council

Income and Expenditure Report

For the year ended **31/03/2021**

	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 Actual to date	2019/20 Actual
INCOME			
Precept	20,910	20,790	20,500
Grants rec'd Re Neighbourhood Plan		-2,468	4,095
Licence receipts	100	25	0
Insurance claim		0	3,350
Donations		0	0
Interest		70	99
TOTAL INCOME	21,010	18,417	28,044
EXPENDITURE			
ADMINISTRATION			
Clerk Honorarium & Expenses	3,250	3,250	3,250
Subscriptions/Memberships	200	344	15
Website, IT, software	900	87	1,227
Insurance	700	740	585
Village Hall Hire	200	0	0
Auditors Fee	200	0	200
Printing, Postage & Stationery	50	90	0
Expenses/travel			
Training	150	0	130
	5,650	4,512	5,407
DONATIONS/GIFTS			
British Legion	60	60	30
Churchyard extension			3,000
Church Remembrance display		0	0
Others:	200		25
DA News volunteers' retirement gifts		200	0
Gardening Club competition donation		100	
Donation towards village masks		57	
	260	417	3,055
GRASS CUTTING and GRAVEL LAYING			
Gravel laying at Village Hall			
Contractor Grasscutting	7,000	8,060	5,620
Additional requests			
Hedgecutting	400	1,480	0
	7,400	9,540	5,620
OTHER PAYMENTS			
Neighbourhood Plan costs	3,000	290	2,171
ROSPA	95	155	83
Other expenses			
Village Planting	0		
Defibrillator annual fee/Costs	200	243	100
Village assets		0	449
Repairs & Maintenance	4,000	1,525	4,232
	7,295	2,212	7,035
TOTAL PAYMENTS	20,605	16,681	21,117
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	405	1,736	6,927
Neighbourhood Plan Note			
Monies allocated by DAPC in 19/20 and 20/21 c/fwd as not spent			5,676

Down Ampney Parish Council

Balance Sheet

As at

31-Mar-21

Account	As at	
	31.03.2020	31.03.2021
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
A&L Business Deposit Account	£ 12,585	£ 12,655
A&L Current account	£ 15,774	£ 16,895
Down Ampney Community Fund	£ -	£ -
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	£ 28,359	£ 29,550
Other Assets		
DAPC Fixed Assets	£ 575,523	£ 575,524
VAT Refund due	£ 1,407	£ 1,953
Loans	£ -	£ -
TOTAL Other Assets	£ 576,930	£ 577,477
TOTAL ASSETS	£ 605,289	£ 607,027
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Other Liabilities	£ -	£ -
VAT Control	£ -	£ -
TOTAL Other Liabilities	£ -	£ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	£ -	£ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	£ 605,289	£ 606,926
Represented by:		
Balance b/fwd	£ 598,835	£ 605,289
Transferred to fixed assets	£ 449	£ 1
Surplus for the year	£ 6,005	£ 1,736
	£ 605,289	£ 607,026

**Down Ampney Parish Council
Fixed Asset Register**

02/03/2007 Playground Equipment	£42,805.00
02/03/2007 MUGA	£47,627.00
02/03/2007 Village Hall Rebuild Cost	£450,000.00
02/03/2007 War Memorial	£4,520.00
02/03/2007 Play Area Gates and Fences	£4,768.00
02/03/2007 Bus Shelter	£11,693.00
02/03/2007 Tennis Courts and Fences	£1.00
02/03/2007 Land in Linden Lea	£1.00
02/03/2007 Car Park, Gardens, Village Hall etc	£1.00
02/03/2007 Stone Cross Memorial	£1.00
31/03/2014 Defibrillators x 2	£3,850.00
30/06/2017 Resilience shed	£2,000.00
19/12/2018 Village noticeboards	£4,640.00
21/09/2018 Playground fencing upgrade	£3,167.00
09/01/2020 Laptop	£449.16
31/03/2021 Arnhem Memorial	£1.00
	£575,524.16