



# Hordle Parish Council

Serving the communities of Tiptoe, Hordle and Everton

## Minutes of the Parish Assembly Tuesday 4 May 2021 via Zoom.

Councillor Name		Councillor Name	
Maggie Hill ( Chair )	P	Pat Rendell	
Sue Knight	P	David Horne	P
Floss Morgan	P	Colleen Sambrook	P
Rob Tarbard	P	Ivor Spreadbury	P
Valerie James	P	Nigel Ferguson (vice chair )	P

P = Present.

**Present.** Tracy Predeth (Locum Clerk ) Chris Halling (Deputy Clerk and minutes) Hampshire and District Councillor Carpenter and 2 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

### Chair's Report for Parish Assembly - 4th May 2021

The Parish Assembly last year was cancelled at the last minute due to the Covid19 pandemic and approaching lockdown. None of us knew how we would deal with this unprecedented and frightening experience. However, our community must be congratulated on how they swung into action forming assistance groups for the vulnerable. Hordle Parish Council initially responded by acting as an Information Hub and then more latterly by setting up a community group of volunteers to offer direct support with shopping and pharmacy collections. Calls were responded to seven days a week. Information leaflets providing a contact email address and phone number were delivered to every home in the Parish Council area. Thank you to the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and the volunteers for providing this invaluable service.

As a result of Covid restrictions we have been unable to hold any meetings in person. We have dealt with planning applications and urgent Council decisions by means of email until we began to hold informal Zoom meetings at the end of last year. Since Christmas we have continued to hold formal Zoom meetings to which the public have been invited and, whilst these have proved to be successful, we look forward to being able to resume meetings at Hordle Pavilion on 18th May with Covid precautions in place.

There have been two staff changes. Our Parish Clerk, Susan Witcher, retired after 12 years of service and our Handyman, Paul Dennis, left us at Christmas. I am delighted to tell you that we have been successful in appointing a new Parish Clerk, Sarah Pitt, who will start work on 17th May. Sarah is very competent and experienced and we all look forward to working with her. Meanwhile, we have had the able assistance of a locum Clerk, Tracy Predeth, for 15 hours a week and our part-time Deputy Clerk, Chris Halling, has been working extremely hard to cope with the shortfall. Bob West is our new Groundsman/Handyman and once again he is very experienced in the role at other Councils and is enjoying his new position.

We have welcomed Sue Knight as a new Councillor this year and Marion Still and Claire Horswell-Buirds have both stood down. Councillor Nigel Ferguson was elected as Deputy Chair. Another new Councillor will be elected at the meeting following this one.

The new Parish Council website is nearing completion and should provide easier access to information on meetings, activities and events.

Over the past two years much work has been undertaken to improve the recreation grounds with new footpaths round Hordle and Everton, improvements to the MUGA, removal of the unused cricket nets and new bins and benches installed. The pump track at Dudley has been resurfaced to a very high standard and continues to be popular.

Some projects have been delayed due to Covid restrictions but we are now on track to replace and refurbish the equipment and surfaces at Everton Play Park and install additional play equipment at Acacia Open Space. We plan to approve quotes at the Council meeting on 18th May.

During periods of less restriction volunteers have continued to work in Golden Hill Woods and to maintain other areas of Parish Council land so thank you to them all for their contributions to our environment.

The Speed Indicator Device System (VASLR) has been approved and we are about to purchase the equipment. Thanks to Councillors Rendell and Tarbard for their hard work on this project.

Councillors have met with the developers of the sites off Hordle Lane and Everton Road. We have been firm in our requests for green open space, sufficient parking and the need for allotments. As a result of these meetings the Hordle Lane developers have gone back to the drawing board and the Everton Road developers have produced a Design Vision which appears to meet our requirements. We will continue to work with them to make sure that residents are consulted along the way.

I have attended informal meetings with Andy Boettger, the Chairman of the HCA who is in the early stages of forming plans to improve the Pavilion for community use.

My thanks go to all the volunteers who are the backbone of the community - Hordle Care, Everton Community Association, Hordle Community Association, the organisations for young people and the sports clubs. Thanks, too, to the District and County Councillors, Fran Carpenter, Alvin Reid and David Hawkins for attending our meetings and for their support. New Milton Town Council have kindly lent one of their staff to undertake our playground inspections until Bob is trained at the beginning of June.

Finally my thanks go to all the Councillors for their tremendous support and willingness to adapt to the changing circumstances, and to the staff for their resilience during these difficult times.

**The Chair invited the Chair of the Hordle Community Association to update the meeting on plans for the Community Association and the Pavilion.**

The chair of the Community Association explained that the Community Association had concentrated on managing the Pavilion and running the summer and Christmas fetes. They had now extended the community use of the building and started running regular

sessions of bingo quizzes and film nights as well as the popular Saturday morning café. They have some new people on the committee as well as some established members and want to move forward with offering more of a community centre approach to what they do. They are hoping to make use of redundant space in the Pavilion and have had an architect draw up some initial ideas as to how to extend the floor space for community use while maintaining facilities for sports use. They will need to fund raise and get grants to make this a reality and they have started to explore some options. They realise that this will be difficult to do under the current license arrangements and want to discuss with the Parish Council moving to a lease arrangement. They have funds of £70 K in the bank. They are also keen to link with other community groups in Hordle and are starting to meet with them. They are also discussing whether it would be possible to hold short notice social events which they can promote on social media. They are discussing this further with the Chair of the Parish Council.

The Community Association were thanked for attending the meeting and it was agreed that the Partnership working between the Parish and Community Association should continue.

There were no further matters for discussion and the meeting closed at 6.55

Signed..... Dated.....