

## **MOSTERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.00pm Via Zoom**

Present: Cllrs N Hickman, R Fry & C Lamb

In attendance: 7 residents. The meeting was led by Cllr Neil Hickman, Chairman of the Parish Council.

**Mosterton Art Group - John Greenbank** reported that the Mosterton Art Group are very active on Zoom and the internet currently during this period of restrictions. The group are keen to start meeting in person again at Mosterton Village Hall as soon as regulations allow, although there is understandably a lot of nervousness about the Covid situation, and the group will wait to see what the rules for the resumption of face to face meetings look like before making any decisions about when to meet.

**St Mary's Church PCC – Sue Pakes** reported that this has been a very difficult year last year, with the repeated lockdowns limiting the opening of the church. The church has been able to reopen since Easter Sunday. Events which were able to take place included a Harvest Takeaway Supper and an outdoors Christingle service, with thanks to the parish council for the use of the village green. It was reported that outgoing have remained the same but donations and fundraising events have been significantly reduced. However, a band of volunteers have maintained the church and yard with the cleaning, flower arranging and general maintenance efforts. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for the donation of allotment rents. Rev Fiona Beale organised a group of volunteers to help local residents through the lockdown.

**Village Hall – Sarah Chaffey** reported that not many functions or fundraising events have taken place this year. The Village Hall did receive a Covid-related grant from Dorset Council, and some maintenance work has done. The Community Post Office continued throughout, but without tea and cake. The Village Hall has a robust Covid safety policy, and the hall will start to be reused from 17<sup>th</sup> May. The Gardening Club will be holding their plant sale outside. There will be limits on the number of people able to attend events in the hall, and the plans are for a cautious reopening. The committee has welcomed some new members, and there is hope that a welcome back event may take place over the summer.

**Fred Young Trust – Graham Fry** reported that the Fred Young Trust is a small charitable trust based in Mosterton, for the benefit on Mosterton resident. Recipients of funds are primarily aged 70+, but other residents may make an application for support. An application form can be obtained from Toby Eeles, David Baldwin, Graham Fry or Dinah Brazendale. The income is derived from the rental of 2 fields totaling about 13 acres. In 2020 £1000 income was raised, with £900 in grants paid out, plus a £250 cash advance was made to Rev Fiona Beale for immediate relief and assistance during the Covid situation. People encouraged to come forward if they have a need.

**Scouts - Shelly Lancaster** reported that having emerged from the Covid lockdowns we have just under 50 youngsters in our Group ranging from age 6 to 14 and are currently meeting outdoors at Littlewindsor. We encourage the young people to take part in a wide variety of activities and learn by doing, enjoy what they are doing, have fun, take responsibility, make choices and to undertake new and challenging activities. As Scouts, we are guided by the following values: integrity, respect, care, belief and co-operation. Through Scouting they have wonderful opportunities to take part in a huge variety of activities (canoeing, climbing, surfing, hiking, camping, sailing, target shooting and flying to name a few) and to join other Scouts – trips

and visits, camps, expeditions, international trips. Their time within Scouting also gives youngsters the foundation blocks needed for taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. A recent activity that the entire Group has taken part in is the planting of over 400 trees so if there's a community project which anyone would like us to be involved with please ask. Similarly, if anyone has an interest or skill that they would like to impart to our youngsters please let us know.

**Mosterton Preschool - Written report submitted as follows:** Thank you for the invitation to the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 4th May, unfortunately, I cannot attend on this occasion, nor can any of the committee members. I have written a few words that can be read out in the meeting on our behalf. Mosterton Pre-School is charity run and led by committee. I am relatively new to the committee, taking over as Chairperson in November 2020. Our pre-school is managed by Lea and Lorna who do a fantastic job and are committed to their roles of providing outstanding early years provision to the children. We are currently at full capacity on most days in both our Busy Bees (older children) and Caterpillars (younger children) which is fantastic news. We are also at full capacity in Busy Bees for 3 days a week in September – which is usually our quietest period! The Pre-School have recently had installed 'sound clouds' in all the rooms, which soften the echoey sounds for the children and really help those children with hearing impairments; as well as making the rooms more cosy and homely. These were successfully funded by several charities that the managers applied for. The outside areas at the preschool have also had a spruce up recently and are looking fantastic, with a pirate ship made from tyres and a wildflower area made with an old rowing boat! As with many other charities, the Coronavirus pandemic has hit our fundraising hard, not being able to do any events for the first 7 months, despite remaining open for the majority of the pandemic. Thankfully, things are slowly on the up now and we were able to organise some 'Covid friendly' events at the beginning of this year; including a very successfully cream tea delivery for Mother's Day. Upcoming events include: Father's Day sweet boxes in June, hopefully a jumble in July and a raffle. More exciting fundraising events are being discussed but are at the realms of the government restrictions around Covid-19. We are always looking for volunteers to help us put on our events and for fresh and interesting ideas. Our committee meetings are open to anyone, so you are welcome to join our next one on Tuesday 6th July at 7:30pm, please email [mostertonpreschoolchair@gmail.com](mailto:mostertonpreschoolchair@gmail.com) for more details. Finally, on behalf of all committee and the staff at the preschool, we would like to say how grateful we are to the local community and the Parish Council for all the support in recent times and that we continue to thrive in our new building thanks to you all. Beth Andrew – Chairperson

**Mosterton Craft Group** Carol Foice reported to the clerk ahead of the meeting that the group sadly no longer meets.

**Speedwatch** - Bill Benge reported that the Speedwatch group have had a very patchy year, due to the Covid lockdowns. The group has lost some members, but hope to restart properly in about a weeks. The Speed Indicator Device (SID) gets moved regularly up and down the village, and this seems to have a good impact on drivers passing through the village.

A resident requested that the 30 mph sign at the northern end of the village to be moved further out. This has already been requested by the parish council.

**Parrett & Axe School** - No representative present at the meeting

**Gardening Club** – No representative present at the meeting

**Ramblers** - No representative present at the meeting

The meeting closed at 7.26 pm