

Randwick and Westrip Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Thursday May 15th at Randwick Village Hall

The meeting had been scheduled to start at 8pm but as there were many members of the public at the meeting from 7.15 onwards and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council had finished by 7.30 the chairman decided to start the Annual Parish Meeting early.

Present: *Approximately eleven members of the public and four members of the parish council.*

1 Minutes: *The minutes of the 2024 annual parish meeting were read to the meeting, confirmed, and signed by the chairman of the parish council, who chaired the annual parish meeting.*

2 Matters arising: *None.*

3 Chairman's report: *The chairman of the parish council in 2024/25, Cllr Alun Davies had written a report on the activities of the council during 2024/25, which was read out by the clerk.*

Cllr Alun Davies had commented on a number of matters.

The council continued to be active seeking resolutions to issues raised by parishioners.

Meetings had taken place with GCC Highways throughout the year about ongoing problems of speeding traffic through the west side of the parish and it was anticipated that from the 25/26 budget, road marking and signage would be improved.

Despite much effort, the parish continued to have disparity in its broadband speeds especially in Westrip. The parish council wished to publicly thank the members of the Broadband Working Party for their efforts and persistence in pursuing this matter.

The parish has undertaken a housing needs survey but was unable to take forward any recommendations at the present time with the uncertainty about planning regulations with the current government reviews.

The lease for part of the Jubilee Field between the parish council and GCC had been renewed, as had the loan of the portrait of William Knee to The Museum in the Park.

The Council continued to monitor the overflow parking area at the Village Hall and liaise with the Village Hall and Playing Fields Trustees on this and other matters concerning the relationship between them and maintenance of the Village Green, playing fields and playground.

In conjunction with parishioners and the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee, the parish had obtained a painting of the Wap by a local artist and this was now

housed in the Village Hall. The council expressed its gratitude to the artist, who, despite being offered a purchase price, agreed to donate the painting.

Plans for a Social Circle on the Village Green were approved by councillors and the chairman was currently waiting in anticipation of its realisation.

The parish was waiting for Stroud District Council to ratify its Conservation Area Statement, which had been some two years in the making. This had been very frustrating, considering the amount of work that had gone into it.

Further to the issues with speeding through the parish, the council had approached both primary schools with regard to children designing signs asking drivers to reduce their speed. Six entries had been singled out for production and would appear in the parish in the months to come.

Grants had been awarded to Cashes Green Playgroup and to Randwick Scouts for a new section, 'Squirrels', for younger members.

The council had taken over the responsibility for paying for the maintenance of the defibrillators in the parish, (Village Hall and Carpenters Arms Public House), purchasing new pads and batteries for them and ensuring regular checking. It had funded a case for the unit held and maintained by Randwick School, for it to be placed outside for public use, but had made no commitment for its ongoing maintenance. Negotiations were in progress for an additional unit to be placed at The Vine Tree Inn.

The parish was supporting the production of leaflets for a Randwick Heritage Trail, that it was hoped would obtain external grant funding to produce a supporting video / social media presence.

4. Annual accounts: *The receipts and payments account was available at the meeting. The council had used part of its reserves to lower the precept for 2024/25. The precept for 2024/25 was £941 lower than in 2023/24.*

The accounts had been audited and would be available for public inspection in June and July 2025. No matters were raised by parishioners.

5 Matters raised by electors:

A parishioner asked whether the council had any plans for replacing the Bodpave surface of the overflow parking area at Randwick Playing Fields. Cllrs agreed to consider this at the next meeting of the parish council.

A parishioner asked about the social circle/boules pitch and whether it was intended to be freely used by the public. The chairman explained that it was a project carried out by RVH&PFC but understood that it would be freely available and suggested that the parishioner contact Mr Alan Tomlinson at RVH&PFC.

A parishioner spoke about traffic speeds through the parish and the deaths of a number of cats that had been hit by vehicles. The chairman outlined the road safety

measures that the council had managed to get from GCC Highways and other things that the parish council had done. The vehicle activated speed-sign was regularly moved around the parish and had consistently recorded an average speed of vehicles of about 24mph. The council had tried to start a Community Speedwatch Group to monitor speeds but had not had any parishioners volunteer to join a group. The council would ask GCC again about its criteria for installing traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and would reconsider forming a Community Speedwatch Group at the next parish council meeting. The council would also ask the local PCSO to attend a meeting to discuss speeding in the parish.

A parishioner asked about ways in which the parish council communicated with parishioners; this was principally via the noticeboards and the council's website. County Cllr Horrocks explained that he was looking into communications between the County Council and residents in the Rodborough Division and would keep the parish council informed.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.