

# BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

## 2022 ANNUAL JOINT PARISH ASSEMBLIES



### MINUTES [COMBINED EVENT]

Here are the MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly, which **combined the dual parishes of Beaudesert, and Henley in Arden**, held in the Memorial Hall, Henley in Arden, on Monday the **16<sup>th</sup> of May 2022**.

**In Attendance:** Cllrs Field [Chair], Andrews, Brady, K Easton, G Easton, Turner, Bainbridge and Harries.

**Present:** Cllr Matt Jennings, seven members of the public and those listed in these minutes under their presentation slot.

**Clerk's Note:** This was not a JPC business meeting, and no decisions were reached on any subject covered herein.

#### 1. Welcome by the Chair.

Chair called for all present to observe one minute's silence in recognition of the huge contribution made by Cllr John Horner to the community in his role as WCC County Councillor, who sadly passed away this month. She welcomed all to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies for absence from members of both Parishes

All present.

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the last meetings held by both Parishes

The Chair declared that she had read the minutes of the previous assembly meeting [Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021] and found them to be a true and accurate record of the proceedings, she proposed that they be duly signed, seconded by Cllr K Easton and carried by full agreement from all members present at the meeting.

#### 4. Beaudesert & Henley in Arden Joint Parish Council

*Report by Cllr E Field – Chair JPC*

Here is the Chair's Report:

It's been a surreal two years but finally we get to be together once more to celebrate the wonderful work that goes on in our town.

Tonight, is about celebrating the work that has taken place in our Councils and our voluntary organisations over the last two years and then to look to the future with our plans for the next 12 months.

When I became Chair in 2020, I formulated an Action Plan as a framework for the JPC to work through. This is split into different areas and each area is led by a specific councillor.

This is a summary of things we have achieved over the last 2 years:

- Developed a volunteer base over lock-down 1 to support the residents with shopping, prescriptions and advice and support.
- Worked with the community payback team to ensure jobs/projects around town are being completed. We have also employed Colin as a town handyman to work on these jobs and projects between the weekend visits from the Payback Team.
- Developed a new park in Riverlands which is proving very popular!
- Completed the outdoor gym at Jubilee Park.
- Improved signage around town.

# BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

## 2022 ANNUAL JOINT PARISH ASSEMBLIES

- Launched new website to encourage visitors to Henley.

### **Ongoing Issues**

- Car parking – this is reaching completion and should be fully resolved over the next few months – FULL COUNCIL
- Plans being put into place to add Sports facilities back into Henley, using 106 agreement from WASPS – COUNCILLOR JULIE BRADY
- Continue to attract visitors to Henley in conjunction with businesses and Court Leet and Heritage Centre – COUNCILLOR WENDY ANDREWS
- Continue to move forward with speed awareness projects such as 20 is plenty in conjunction with other partners – FULL COUNCIL
- Continue to work with WCC and Environmental Agency to reduce flooding incidents in Henley – COUNCILLOR KATE EASTON

The new action plan for the next 12 months is currently being worked on and will be published over the next few weeks.

If there are things you would like to see the JPC get involved with, please come along to our meetings. They are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm at The Memorial Hall. We are always keen to hear your views on life in Henley and will be happy to support where we can!

### **5. Town Welfare & Maintenance Group**

*Report by Cllr Andrews*

Cllr Andrews updated all on the encouraging response from residents on the work being carried out by our Handyman, Colin Harrison, who recently upgraded the toddlers play area with a new rubber chippings safety surface and containing border works to prevent overspill. She advised all that further work on upgrades were ongoing and would be reported on in the local media. Cllr Andrews invited members of the public to approach her on any aspects in improvements they might have or indeed report any damage that might be rectified by Colin and the PayBack Team. Progress had been made in joining with Shakespeare's England which would broaden the publicity base for the town along with improved signage and visitor advice projects.

### **6. Green Spaces**

*Report by Cllr Bainbridge*

Here is Cllr Bainbridge's Report

Beaudesert and Henley are very lucky to have three wonderful Green Spaces. The Jubilee Playing Field, Littleworth Field and the Riverlands. Each very individual, The play areas in the Jubilee Playground, Riverlands and the Skate Park are all monitored on a regular basis by an independent company and any remedial work is carried out. The Riverlands play area is very popular and the small children's' area is being refurbished with a new entrance, fencing and lovely bouncy new rubber chippings, The jetty has been rebuilt and now safe and the benches secured and paved. All this is thanks to Colin and his boys from the payback team But the area has almost become a victim of its own success. So we are looking at toilet facilities in the area. A major project. As an experiment we hope to install two temporary serviced porta loos for the summer holidays. We are also lucky that the Court Leet Brook Looker is actively keeping an eye on the River and removing any debris. Over a two year period we have contractors treating the Japanese knotweed and hopefully this will contain our infestation although never probably completely eradicate it. Himalayan balsam will soon be looking pretty along the Riverbanks, but this weed needs control and during the past two years a working party has been out pulling it out and helping to stop its spread. The working party will be out again this summer Littleworth Field is partly managed as a wild flower meadow. In the autumn it was mown with scythes in the traditional fashion to reduce its fertility. This spring there have been Snowdrops and primroses followed by cowslips and now buttercups.

# BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

## 2022 ANNUAL JOINT PARISH ASSEMBLIES

We have contractors who cut all the other areas on a regular basis and as is the current thinking do not pick up the cut grass but leave it as mulch.

We have used Mousley's this year as our primary tree surgeon who not only attended trees that have been on our survey but come out very promptly when trees have come down in bad weather. They always leave logs cut to manageable lengths for anyone to take away. Unfortunately we have had to fell several of our large trees as they were becoming very dangerous. We endeavour to replace trees where we can. As I said before we are so lucky to have these areas which during lockdown were an amazing facility which so many residents were able to enjoy.

May I ask that everyone respects these green spaces which unfortunately do get littered with picnic wrappings and bottles and also dog poo.

### 7. Planning Committee

*Report by Cllr Bainbridge*

Here is Cllr Bainbridge's Report

Parts of Henley and Beaudesert are in the Conservation area, and it is surrounded by the Green Belt and the Arden Special Landscape Area. The Town is very special and the JPC's Planning Committee recognise all these facts. There is the National Planning Policy Framework, the District Council's adopted Core Strategy and the Local Neighbourhood plan all of which we can refer for guidance. Four of the Planning Committee recently attended an excellent Planning course over three weeks. We have had over 40 applications to consider and recommend since October when I joined the Planning Committee. A vast range of applications from a downstairs toilet to the controversial Arden School site. We endeavour to be fair and impartial, respecting the planning regulations, the Historic fabric of our town and bringing local knowledge into consideration. It is important that the public realise that planning applications are often needed for even minor projects, especially tree pruning and signage in the Conservation Area. We do stipulate if a tree is felled one is to be planted in its place. We are very lucky to be able to consult David Tomlinson, an experienced chartered surveyor, who is able to guide us in our deliberations.

### 8. Stratford upon Avon District Council

*Report by Cllr Matt Jennings.*

*Cllr Jennings report can be found on the JPC website*

### 9. Henley Court Leet

*Report by the High Bailiff Laurence Marshall*

The High Bailiff began his presentation by reiterating on his promise on appointment as HB to engage more with the town. This had begun with inviting all residents who may wish to know more about the Court Leet to become jurors and attend the business meetings and have their say if appropriate. He went on to say that the CL were keen to join with, and support other Henley associations in growing a more accessible image of the body and their activities, such as visiting other Courts in Warwickshire, publication of a news sheet listing their activities and events, the organising and running of the 7 day event, Arts4All, which attracted several hundred locals to the range of events that took place over the week. He added that the CL were presenting an ambitious programme of events in the GH Gardens as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in early June, inviting all those in attendance to come along.

The HB was supported by Low Bailiff, Alistair Price, who reminded people that the Guild Hall was open to the public during the summer months between 2.30 and 4.30pm, every Sunday and that the hall was available for hire for private functions.

### 10. The HUB at Henley [Display]

# BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

## 2022 ANNUAL JOINT PARISH ASSEMBLIES

Peter Crathorne, Chair, HUB, invited Sophie, who replaces Racheal as EO for the group, to expand on the structure and activities of the group, which includes dedicated team of people who devote their time for the good of the young and older folk of Henley, full details can be found on their website, or in the Focus. Sophie made a special mention of the family beach event held in Littleworth, which they hope to construct as part of the Jubilee celebrations starting at the end of May. Full details of this event and other services provided by the HUB can be found on their website.

### **11. Henley in Bloom**

*Report by Mrs Sheila Davis*

Sheila updated all on the upcoming busy period when the HIB team are taking possession of literally hundreds of plants in readiness for planting out for the summer season and they will be most evident during the latter part of May into June and have a particular theme for the Jubilee.

### **12. Henley Flower Club [Display]**

*Report by Mrs Annette Walker*

Annette provided the assembly with a display board and details of when the group meet and insisted that anyone coming along need not actually take part initially but be shown demonstrations by experts so that they might be encouraged to join the meetings on a permanent basis. Anyone interested may wish to email Annette, details available from the Parish Clerk.

### **13. Henley War Memorial Trust**

*Report by Mr David Broadbent*

The HWMT is probably the least well known Charity in Henley, but it owns this Memorial Hall & the Sports Ground on Stratford Rd, so we are a major contributor to Henley. I was appointed Chair recently as David Jackson is tied with work commitments. The HWMT runs both the Memorial Hall & the Sports Ground on Stratford Road

Thanks to Marijana & Duncan Bainbridge the Memorial Hall basically runs at a small operating profit as a result of: Permanent Lettings to Montessori School & the Apartment plus regular users such as the Rural Cinema, Taekwondo and events like tonight. We wish to thank the JPC for the Grant provided to install Solar PV Panels which has resulted in 1500kW,hrs of generated electricity. The Sports Ground on the other hand runs on a shoestring. Whilst the Tennis Club is very successful & is self-managing as is the Bowls Club, albeit being somewhat financially weak as they have the same problem as we, in that maintenance of Grassed Areas is expensive. We cannot survive on lettings alone especially as most of our lettings are to young teams from the surrounding areas. Funding is an on-going necessity as we cannot raise sufficient funds from Lettings only, as most of our users of the Grassed areas are youngsters. The Football teams range from 7 to 17 year old, & whilst the Summer Cricketers are more mature their finances are in peril, as keeping a Cricket Square is very expensive.

The current grant of £3,200 is required urgently to take advantage of the Spring/early Summer growth period. We are consistently looking for means of raising more funds simply to maintain a good playing surface & good drainage to extend the playing season. We have recently refurbished the Pavilion which is now called The Arden Recreational Centre or the ARC. This is now available for lettings for Family Parties etc.

We recently had a 3 year old Children's Party at the ARC which was very successful & have received a request for another in October. In addition we have booked the Theatre Company Tread the Boards from Stratford to present 4 shows of the 3 Musketeers on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August.. We intend to promote these shows as a full family day out, to include a Bouncy Castle, Face Painting together with a BBQ & Bar.

# BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

## 2022 ANNUAL JOINT PARISH ASSEMBLIES

The Trust Committee has also booked the Platinum Swing Band with Singer Suzie Wood for July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Memorial Hall. Please put these dates in your diaries & let your friends know

Finally the next Rural Cinema is on the 26<sup>th</sup> May again here at the Memorial Hall.

The Film is DREAM HORSE, it's a great film & if you have never attended the Rural Cinema a great film to try us out. with

The Doors, & the Bar, open at 7pm with the film starting at 7:30pm.

### **14. Henley & Wootton Scouts**

#### *Report from the Group*

Unfortunately, Jo was unable to attend the meeting due to Covid restrictions but provided the Clerk with a updated report on the progress of the new accommodation for the scouts at the ARC grounds. A copy of her presentation, which was shown to the assembly, can be found in supporting documents on the JPC website.

### **15. Henley Christmas Lights**

Unfortunately Sue Westmacott was unable to attend the assembly so her report which follows was read out by the Clerk.

Sorry that we have no representation tonight. The Christmas Lights Committee will be doing the usual fund-raisers this year. We have launched a monthly 100 Club which we hope will help generate the money needed to continue our beautiful lights.

Plans this year include to replace the middle section of the High Street with more modern, energy efficient bulbs. We are thinking about having a Christmas tree somewhere on the north entrance into the Town, if this is viable. We will no longer have one Outside the old Police Station, as this is usually surrounded by parked cars and is a disappointment because of this.

Otherwise, it's all full steam ahead raising the much needed funds. Switch On will be Saturday 26th November. Hope you have a good night.

### **16. Probus**

Alistair Price informed the assembly on the activities of the group, his report follows:

National body of retired or semi-retired professional businessmen. Henley second largest in the UK with 60 members. Meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Hockley House Hotel on A34 between Henley & Hockley Heath. Subscription £20 p.a.

Meeting starts at 12:00 with speaker for 45 minutes followed by Q&A. We then have a set lunch costing just £10. We have a wide variety of interesting speakers. The last was Mindu Hornick , who was just 12 when the Nazis sent her to Auschwitz for Czechoslovakia. She then spent 3 years at that dreadful camp, survived the war and came to live in Birmingham – she is now 93.

Our next speaker on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June is David Lodder, who is Lord of the Manor and will be speaking on his role as Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, the role of High Sheriff of Warwickshire and also the link with the Crown, which will be very interesting as the date just precedes the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

We welcome guests who might be interested in joining us and if you are, contact either Andrew Yarwood our secretary or myself as Speaker Secretary. Partners are invited to our Summer & Christmas lunches. In some areas Probus has set up women only Clubs. EG Alceste

### **17. Open Forum**

#### 17.1

Mr. Peter Crathorne raised the question of JPC banking levels which the Clerk addressed and advised was available to all on the JOC website.

# BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

## 2022 ANNUAL JOINT PARISH ASSEMBLIES

17.2

Mr David Broadbent raised the matter of why the balance was nearly £200K and the Clerk explained that this was due to two special payments, such as the first tranche of the precept, £125K and an s.106 payments [WASPS] amounting to £50K. The Chair advised that it was best practice to ensure that funds did not drop below 50% of the precept value.

17.3

A member of the public raised the question of how much the JPC would be providing for the Henley Rail station project, the Chair advised the assembly that the JPC had no involvement in this matter and that all funding was the responsibility of the Friends of Henley Station.

### **18. Vote of Thanks & Formal Closure**

The Chair concluded the meeting with a round of thanks for all contributors and attendees and wished all the societies the very best of luck with their endeavours for the coming 12 months.

Clerk's Note: Henley WI and Henley Community Library, did not address the assembly, apologies were received by the Clerk from the HCL.

**Signed .....**

**Date.....**