



Culworth Newsletter

June/July 2021

CULWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Notice is hereby given of a public meeting of the residents of the Parish of Culworth to be held at Culworth Village Hall, Queens Street, Culworth OX17 2AT on Saturday 3rd July 2021 at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Explanation of the proposed sale, in accordance with Part 7 of the Charities Act 2011, of the Culworth Village Hall site and buildings and proposed transfer of the sale proceeds to Culworth Hill Field Trust, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which has been formed for the purpose of developing and managing a proposed new Culworth Community Centre at Hill Field, Queens Street, Culworth, and the need to call a public meeting in accordance with the Culworth Village Hall governing trust document to vote on the proposed Resolution set out below. Any questions.
4. RESOLUTION: "To authorise the trustees of Culworth Village Hall (registered charity number 304177), subject to the approval of the Charity Commission and conditional on the proposed new Culworth Community Centre being completed and operational, to sell the freehold property known as Culworth Village Hall, Queens Street, Culworth, Banbury OX17 2AT in accordance with the terms of the Culworth Village Hall Conveyance and Trust Deed dated 12th October 1938 AND, subject to the approval of the Charity Commission, to transfer the sale proceeds and the other assets, liabilities and contracts of Culworth Village Hall to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation known as Culworth Hill Field Trust (registered charity number 1178257)".

NB: Only residents of the Parish of Culworth and aged 18 or over are entitled to attend and vote at this meeting. The vote will be by secret ballot and supervised by an independent scrutineer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

under section 121(2) of the Charities Act 2011

The trustees of Culworth Village Hall (registered charity number 304177) hereby give notice that they propose to sell, in accordance with Part 7 of the Charities Act 2011, the land and buildings held on trust for the purposes of Culworth Village Hall, Queens Street, Culworth, Banbury OX17 2AT and, subject to the consent of the Charity Commission, to transfer the sale proceeds and the other assets, liabilities and contracts of Culworth Village Hall to Culworth Hill Field Trust (registered charity number 1178257), a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which has been formed for the purpose of developing and managing a new Community Centre in the Parish of Culworth.

A plan of this land may be viewed at the notice board outside Culworth Village Hall, Queens Street, Culworth, Banbury OX17 2AT and at the village notice board outside Forge Coffee, High Street, Culworth, Banbury OX17 2AZ.

Any representations about this proposal should be made in writing and sent to the Secretary, Sarah Powell, by email at spowell@jspmanagement.co.uk or by post to Thorpe View, The Green, Culworth, Banbury OX17 2BB by 29th June 2021.

Any representations received after that date will not be considered.

Julie Tinn
Chair,
Culworth Village Hall Trustees.

Dated: 22nd May 2021

From The Village Hall Trustees

Public Meeting Saturday 3rd July, 2021, 10.30am, in the Village Hall

Planning consent was gained in December 2019 to build a new Community Building on the cricket field. Since then the Culworth Hill Field Trust have been contacting possible funders to obtain the necessary grants to start the building. It has become clear that funders require assurance from Culworth residents that they are behind this project and that the promised funds from the sale of the current Village Hall site will be made available to help with the cost of the new building.

We need, therefore, to call a Public Meeting in order to gain consent from the residents of Culworth to sell the current Village Hall site and to transfer the proceeds of sale to the Culworth Hill Field Trust. **The current Village Hall will remain open and will not be sold until the new Community Building is built and operational.** Copies of the Charities Act Public Notice and the Notice of the meeting with agenda and resolution accompany this note.

Please come to the meeting, it is your Village Hall, and the new Community Building will be our future.

Minutes of the Culworth Village Hall Committee Meeting

held on Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.30pm

Those present:

Julie Tinn (JT)-Chairperson, Mark Izzett (MI)-Treasurer, Sarah Powell (SP)-Secretary, John Emmett (JE), Martin Rowling (MR), Margaret Watts (MW), Charlie Timmins (CT), June Oxley (JO) and Kirsty Hawkins (KH).

Minutes of the last meeting:

These were signed as a true & correct record.

Matters Arising:

On the previous minutes it was stated that this meeting would be on Tuesday 18th May; we had to move it to accommodate the Parish Council Meeting that is being held on 18th too.

At the previous meeting we were all asked to fill in a new form for safeguarding. There are still a couple outstanding.

The fire doors now comply with current regulations. JT thanked JE for arranging this to be completed.

Chairman's Report:

JT reported that the hall is now open again. Tai Chi is to recommence in June and the village café should restart in July. Phoenix haven't decided for certain yet but may restart film nights in the summer. Pilates will not be restarting as Jules, who runs it, is moving away.

Treasurer's Report:

23rd March to 17th May 2021

Current funds totalling £32,923.41 are held as follows:

National Savings Account £31,303.56

Santander Current Account £1,605.13

Petty Cash £14.72

One un-presented cheque – to Bee Safe Fire Services for £420.00 (including VAT)

Income since last meeting:

There has been no income received since the last meeting as the hall has remained closed, except for use as a polling station for the local elections on 6th May 2021. The hiring fee charged to the Council was £400 but this has not yet been received.

Outgoings since the last meeting:

Insurance: £118.34

Electricity: £66.82

Water: £14.07

The lottery licence has been renewed at a cost of £20. The payment to Bee Safe Fire Services mentioned above was for necessary repairs to the emergency fire doors.

Business

Opening up the Village Hall following lockdown

This has now happened following a risk assessment. The local elections were held here on May 6th.

Film Nights

As already stated, they may restart in the summer.

Public Meeting

We all agreed to keep with July 3rd for this village meeting, assuming the restrictions have been lifted. It will take place at 10.30am and JT has asked someone from Sulgrave to be the scrutineer; we will all be able

to meet him before the event. MR enquired how we are going to check that anyone voting lives in the village; we decided to get their name and address as they go in. Only over 18's will be able to vote. The poster will state that it is only for Culworth residents. Notices will go up around the village and JT will draft something to go into the newsletter. MI read us the resolution and we unanimously agreed on it. We all need to think of the question to go onto the voting form and to find a ballot box. JT will ask CHFT if they will also do a presentation and we will have the plans on display.

Buildings and renewals:

The porch roof needs repairing. JT will get in touch with someone who has done previous work on the hall.

There is a leak in the roof, but it is intermittent when water comes in.

JT suggested that in the autumn we need to have a working party paint the outside and wash the windows.

Henry, the Hoover, has a broken spring. KH will order a new part.

JT said that the storeroom door needs to be kept open as the fabric chairs were showing signs of going mouldy.

Any other business:

CT asked whether we wanted the curtains back up yet; it was decided to leave them for now.

JO checked whether there was extra covid rules to go on the booking forms.

JO had enquired whether the school basketball wanted to use the hall again, but she hadn't had a reply. She will ask again.

JT asked whether the next meeting should be an AGM as we didn't have one last year. It was decided that we should ask ACRE what the rules are and perhaps leave it until November when we would normally hold one.

MI advised us that there is a restart grant that we can now apply for. For our hall we would receive £8000. The committee unanimously agreed that we should apply as we may have to maintain the hall for many years.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22nd June at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Culworth Summer Party

*Community celebration to mark the end of
Lockdown*

On the Cricket Field

Saturday June 26th

All residents very welcome

Come and greet your neighbours!

- *A morning of sports and activities for the young and healthy*
- *Lunch time BBQ sponsored by the Parish Council*
- *An afternoon of fun games for all the family*

Book the date now!

More news to come - see the village website

Parish Council Launch Play Park Project

– Update

Thank you to all 136 people who took the time to participate and offered a total of 61 comments in the survey for the proposed Community Park. 69.85% of the participants were parish residents. The results can be viewed by accessing the new village website. For those without internet access, here's a flavour of feedback.

32.35% of participants had children/grandchildren/family members who attend the village primary school

When asked if a Community Park was needed in Culworth 72.79% Strongly agreed, 21.32% Agreed, 3.68% Disagreed & 2.21% Strongly Disagreed.

The level of votes for desired facilities had quite an even spread which included swings, climbing frames, outdoor exercise equipment, benches, slides and litter bins just to name a few.

Again, the spread of response in terms of potential benefits was pretty even, the majority sharing that they felt it would increase community spirit, fresh air and exercise.

Concerns from participants were mainly focused around potential litter, ongoing maintenance & vandalism.

The survey in its entirety including all comments, a letter of support from the village school and key notes of the proposal were circulated to all Parish Councillors for consideration before the meeting held on the 18th May.

At this meeting councillors voted in favour of the proposal and it was agreed that a working group could be set up to move the project forward.

Watch this space.....

At the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th May the Council agreed to take forward proposals for a Children's Play Area - much needed in Culworth. Following a survey organised by Karen Mullins-Blyth, which showed considerable support for the proposal, a Working party has been formed to progress the scheme. Firstly to research the potential sites and consult with the West Northamptonshire Council Planning Department as to their requirements and also with the landowners.

Secondly to establish costs and raise the necessary funds.

Council Appointments for the Municipal year.

Chairman: Andrew Wilby. Vice-Chairman: Stuart Rolt.

Finance Sub-committee: Cllrs Wilby, Mumford and Parish Clerk

Development Control Sub-committee: Cllrs Koster and Mullins-Blyth

Internal Controller of Accounts: Cllr Koster.

Village Wardens

Burial Ground and Berry Hill Wardens: Cllr Mumford and Parish Clerk

Tree Warden: Cllr Rowling

Rights of Way Footpath Wardens: Mark and Sarah Izzett

Defibrillator Wardens: Cllr Mumford and Parish Clerk

Telephone Box Wardens: Cllr Mullins-Blyth, Simon Theobald, Robert Probets

Council Representatives and Officials

HS2 Development: Cllr Rolt

Culworth Hill Field Trust: Cllr Wilby

School Liaison: Cllr Guinness

Culworth Community Project: Cllrs Rolt, Guinness, Wilby.

Newsletter Editor: Kate Smith Website Editor: Joanne Wilby

Play Area Project Team: Cllr Koster, Cllr Mullins-Blyth, Karen Mullins-Blyth.

Latest News Updates

Culworth Summer Party – Saturday June 26th – celebrating release from Lockdown.

Culworth in Bloom – Best kept Gardens Competition launched – Judging June 19th.

Bus Shelter repairs planned for early June. Phone Box upgrades in progress.

Dave Lewitt Memorial seat on Village Green - installation in progress.

HS2 on-line consultation meeting June 1st – see Website/Newsletter

Village Green Party 21st June

To celebrate hopefully the first day of release, please join us on the Green after 7pm bringing your own food and drink. The residents of the Green will decorate the area. Dress how you feel but in party/release mode.

Culworth in Bloom

Best Kept Gardens Competition

Judging takes place on Saturday 19th June

Results & prize-giving at the Summer Party on Saturday 26th June. Entry forms are available on the last page of the newsletter.



13+ years £2
2-12 years £8
Under 2's FREE

FUNTOPIA

AT DAVENTRY

THE INFLATABLE FAMILY FUN DAY

PAY TO PLAY ALL DAY!

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE

Pick 'n' Mix EVENTS

@funtopiauk

Daventry Country Park
12th June and 14th August
11am-5pm

Hidden talents

The village is full of talent in all spheres which perhaps we should acknowledge. Musicians we do have.

Sam Lunn known to many or some for his talent not only in coffee making but in his music at Forge Coffee and Culworth House had a sellout concert at Oxford Town Hall on Friday night. He performs as part of the band Samhain whose website is samhainmusic.com. Local radio has played Sam's music.

The Census 2021

The response to Census 2021 has exceeded all expectations with households across England and Wales making sure they count when it comes to local services like school places, GP surgeries and hospital beds.

As Jason Zawadzki, Deputy Director of 2021 Census Operations acknowledged:

"I would like to thank you for your support over the last few months; it has been invaluable to us and contributed to the high response rates we have achieved. Your support in the lead-up to Census 2021 and in the period around Census Day has helped boost return rates. We're committed to making sure that the census includes everybody, and your work with us has been a crucial part of the picture".

What happens next?

ONS call the anonymised information it releases, *census outputs*. It plans to release the first set of census outputs to the public in spring 2022. More detailed outputs will be published over the following year. All of the information and analysis will be made available on a specially designed website. To www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021outputs, learn more about the progress and development of the Census 2021 outputs.

Cricket Club



Culworth Junior Cricket Club

Restarts on Tuesday 13th April at 6pm on the cricket field (opposite the church)

Girls & Boys aged between 6-16 are welcome

For more information call Jim Powell on 07860 638557 or email jpowell@jspmanagement.co.uk

Culworth FC LIONS

The start to the season has both been exciting, rewarding and incredibly frustrating. We started in mid April and was really excited to see a new batch of children join the club, along with the children we had nurtured through many years of training. We were a tad worried that we would be severely depleted in numbers because we had heard reports that junior rugby, hockey and football was carrying on after Easter because they had lost so many matches due to COVID. Normally we are only competing against tennis because all the other winter sports stop at Easter. Fortunately we had a big group join us for the first night, and more come along each week as word gets out.

The weather has been both a benefit and an annoyance. It helped us in April as the grass did not grow so fortunately through the help of our sheep grazer Alan Collett, the sheep were kept on the field until the last minute, then because the temperature was so cold, the grass did not grow, which meant we could get on top of the field. Unlike other clubs, we

have an annual battle with the field, as it is a sheep field that we play cricket on, rather than a cricket field that has sheep grazing on it. In April the weather led us to have some very cold nights training, but in May it has led to either shortened training sessions, or even cancellations. Not easy when you have new children to cricket and am trying to get them match fit.

Even after making our excuses, today (Sunday 23rd May) we played an under 11 match against Byfield, where we had three newbies, and yet we only lost by 15 runs which was a great effort.

This year we are fielding an under 9 Kwik cricket team, an under 11 team, and an under 15 team. They play on Fridays, Sundays and Mondays. If anyone wants to come and watch and support Culworth, they are more than welcome. We are also trying to start an occasional adult team and a dads/mums, lads and lasses team, playing friendlies on Sunday afternoons. If anyone from the village would like to join in for an adults game please contact me on 07860 638557. Also if anyone would like to help with the ground maintenance, please also get in contact. Here's hoping for some sun and warmth for the rest of the season.

A plea from Culworth School

We had a Full Governing Body meeting recently and a Governor voiced their genuine worries regarding the speeding and careless parking of some parents outside school, and the speeding of vehicles in general through Culworth at school arrival and departure times. These worries were echoed by the staff and other Governors.

Regularly in the past, we have highlighted the need to drive safely, park thoughtfully, and be especially careful where there are children around the school environs, and I think it does no harm to remind everyone of this now.

We have nearly all been restricted in our driving over the past year, so maybe not concentrating as well as we used to, or maybe some of us are a little out of practise! Whatever, it would be an absolute tragedy if one of the children were injured, or worse, due to someone driving above the national speed limit. That, as you know, through Culworth is 30 mph, and most people adhere to that. But I would ask you to think about reducing your speed even further to 20 mph. This would be especially helpful in slowing down all the extra traffic we are experiencing due to the HS2 construction as they are speeding too.

I have written to parents and I will be writing to the HS2 Administration about this and would ask everyone to be more careful driving through the village. Of

course, vehicles come through from other villages, but perhaps at 20 mph we can slow them down too!

As always, we thank you for your wonderful support of our school.

With best wishes

GILL NUNN
Chair of Governors
Culworth & Boddington CE Primary Academies
Federation
EVOLVE Church Academy Trust

Upcoming HS2 Main Works Virtual 1-1 Engagement Events

We are continuing with our main works virtual engagement events in your area, as Covid-19 restrictions are eased in line with Government guidance. We are offering people the chance to meet with our engagement team on a 1-1 basis.

We would appreciate if you could take the time to share these events with your local communities and on social media pages to promote the events to all.

Our next session for the Greatworth to Southam area (covering Greatworth, Thorpe Mandeville, Chipping Warden and Wormleighton) is on Tuesday 1 June, from 3pm-7pm.

Book your 20 minute slot here: [Greatworth to Southam Eventbrite Link](#)

Who are the events for?

For members of public, landowners, local residents or businesses who have queries about HS2 works in their area.

How are they structured?

The 1-1 meetings are held on Microsoft Teams and each session is 20 minutes long. Attendees can submit themes or questions ahead of the session to ensure we can prepare information and maps in advance, and have the right specialists on hand, whether it be a member of Engagement team, Traffic & Transport or our Environmental teams.

If you have any questions on these events or any suggestions, please email us at Engagement@EKFB.com

Culworth Snappers

Camera club will be back in the village hall in June. The club night will be on Thursday 24th June starting at 19.30hrs.

Members will be looking at their images on the topic of "Gates".

New members welcome, come along and join us.

For further information contact John 07867918960.

T'ai Chi Chih

T'ai Chi Chih recommences 1st June, 12 noon, Culworth Village Hall.

If you've been before you're welcome to join us again.

If you're new to T'ai Chi Chih then why not come along and try it. It's suitable for all ages and abilities, is non strenuous and has been shown to be very helpful for general wellbeing, mobility, sleep and much more

Call me if you'd like to know more or book your place. Laurin 07887 404812"

News from St Mary's

Dear friends,

The storm.

As I sat down to breakfast I looked through the window to enjoy the antics of the birds on the seed-feeders - except...there was no feeder-stand! But then I saw it - obviously the wind had picked it up and thrown it fifteen feet across the lawn. I decided to hang the feeders from the clothes line until the wind dropped but didn't imagine the birds would be able to hold onto the wildly swinging containers. How wrong I was; the little coal tits, which are nesting in one of the boxes I had put up, were indeed straight on to them, hanging on for dear life, literally - they were desperate to defend the dear life of their chicks, flying backwards and forwards to the nest, despite being blown wildly about on the feeders.

It reminded me of one of my favourite poems, 'The Darkling Thrush' by Thomas Hardy, who writes that, during an evening storm, 'an aged thrush, frail

gaunt and small, in blast-beruffled plume, had chosen thus to fling his soul, upon the growing gloom.'

The poem, like Hardy's work in general, depicts life on earth, both animal and human, as being in the grip of an unsympathetic force. Whether it is extreme weather itself, or illness, or the pandemic, or any other personal struggle, there is always the need find to find 'some blessed hope' and strength to survive such threats. Though Hardy moved away from his earlier strict orthodox beliefs, he was not the atheist some have claimed; he remained profoundly Christian in many ways. Poems like 'the Oxen' express a longing for belief that I think is shared by many today. The difference is, that whereas in Victorian days you were either 'in or out', I like to think that today, my church has wider doors to welcome in those of all faiths and none.

With my best wishes,
Rev. Mike Chesher.

01295 768626

07751801305

m.chesher559@btinternet.com

Church Spring Clean

Many thanks to everyone who came and helped with the church Spring clean in March. What a difference many hands do make.

Churchyard Clear up

This will take place at the end of July /beginning of August. This year's display of snowdrops and primroses were magnificent, in part due to our annual clear up. Thanks to all those who help with the mowing. There are still a few dates that need to be filled. The rota is on the church table.

Library

Just a reminder that there is a huge collection of books at the back of the church. Something to suit all tastes. Why not pop in and see if there are any new books you may like to read.

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride

The Ride and Stride is the foremost annual fund raising event to help preserve churches and chapels. St Mary's has benefitted from a grant from them on both occasions when the lead was stolen from our church. This year's event will take place on Saturday 11th September. Our church will be open but if you would actually like to take part and get sponsorship further details will be available shortly. Half of any sponsor money goes to our church and the other goes to Northamptonshire Historic churches trust.

P.C.C.

The annual PCC meeting was held on Tuesday 18th May. After 25 years as secretary, Phillida has decided to call it a day. She has felt she must now change her allegiance to Woodford Halse, having moved there a



few years ago. She has done an amazing amount of work for our church over many, many years, especially in the last few years trying to find grants for the roof. Huge thanks to Phillida.

Plant Sale There will be a small plant sale outside the church on the morning of **Saturday 5th June from 10 am** onwards. I have a few tomato, courgette and runner bean plants left over. If anyone has any excess plants please bring them along. Any proceeds will go towards the church redecoration fund.

Village Cafe

Hopefully we will be able to resume our monthly village cafe when all regulations have been lifted. I am aiming for the first one to be on the first Saturday in August. The village hall is booked for the first Saturday in July. Please look out for any further notices.

Services

Our services are now back to normal, if wearing a face covering, not being able to sing and not being able to take the wine at communion is normal. We are allowed to have 4 people singing in a choir and so when we do have 4 willing singers, choral music can be heard at our services.

Culworth Benefice Services June/July

6th June 1st Sunday after Trinity *11a.m. Benefice Holy Communion Edgcote (note change of time)
6p.m. Evensong Culworth

13th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity

10 a.m. Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney 10 a.m. Holy Communion Chipping Warden 11 a.m. Family Service Culworth

20th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity

10 a.m. Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney
10 a.m. Mattins Chipping Warden
10 a.m. Mattins Culworth

27th June 4th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 Holy Communion Culworth
10 a.m. Mattins Moreton Pinkney
10 a.m. Family Service Chipping Warden
11 a.m. Mattins Edgcote

4th July 5th Sunday after Trinity

10 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion Culworth
6 p.m. Evensong Culworth

11th July 6th Sunday after Trinity

10 a.m. Holy Communion Chipping Warden
10 a.m. Family Service Moreton Pinkney
11 a.m. Family Service Culworth

18th July 7th Sunday after Trinity

10 a.m. Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney
10 a.m. Mattins Chipping Warden
10 a.m. Mattins Culworth

25th July 8th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 Holy Communion Culworth
10 a.m. Mattins Moreton Pinkney
10 a.m. Family Service Chipping Warden

11 a.m. Holy Communion Edgcote

CULWORTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY APRIL27TH 2021 VIA ZOOM

1. Stuart Rolt Chair of Culworth Parish Council welcomed 29 members including 7 councillors and the Clerk Mrs J.M. Rowling
2. Apologies 4 received
3. Minutes of 2019 Annual Parish Assembly had been circulated in 2019. No Assembly in 2020.
4. Chair of Parish Council Stuart Rolt thanked all parish councillors for their contributions over the past 6 years, the Emergency Team of Andrew Wilby, Peter Coville the Clerk and himself, District Councillor Mary Anne Sergison Brooke who is retiring after over 30years of loyal service to us all helping residents and Parish Council in her quiet way. Cllr Rosie Herring who is retiring but seeking election in the Middleton Cheney ward for West Northamptonshire. County Councillor Ian Morris who is retiring. Mrs Joanne Wilby for setting up the new website and Cllr Koster for taking on the newsletter from Mrs Howse and now passing it onto Mrs Kate Smith. Email address of newsletter culworth.newsletter@gmail.com
5. Financial Report was available. Dick Winter the volunteer internal auditor, who is retiring was thanked for his work for over 20years. The content of the report will receive questions and adoption at May AGM before PKF Littlejohn the external auditors examine the accounts.
6. Culworth Charity Account. Martin Rowling Chair of trustees stated that at Christmas 17 households within the parish received a cash benefit from the Charity. After the deduction of agents fees, the net rental income was £2121. The main income is derived from an arable field at Wappenham, a small paddock at Silverstone let for grazing and an annual wayleave payment for an electricity pole and an underground broadband communication cable. Mrs J Howse is the current other trustee.
7. Open Meeting
 - a. Resident asked for the correct website address. The Chair of PC explained that the long current hugo fox address would be amended to a .gov.uk one as

soon as approval was granted. The old website would then be closed.

- b. Concern expressed traffic from HS2 and large farm vehicles were making local driving a hazard. Banbury Lane footpath parking and outside Forge Coffee made it difficult for pedestrians to walk on the pavement. The Chair stated that the police were aware of parking on the pavement but due to the narrow road without that, traffic would be a standstill or there would be damage to vehicles. Vehicle activated signs are soon to be erected within the village paid for by HS2 after a three year battle. Residents had suggested double kerbs would stop parking. Those residents could also be asked by Parish Council to park elsewhere. Concern was expressed at the lack of visibility when leaving Banbury Lane. For further discussion at May 18th meeting.

8. Village Hall Report –

Julie Tinn Chair of Trustees The Coronavirus, Covid-19 has had a profound effect on the Village Hall year. There have been no classes, coffee and chat, monthly cafes, Snappers photography groups, meetings or gatherings in the Hall from mid March 2020. We hope to open up again on 17th May. We briefly opened the Hall on November 2nd last year having carried out all the necessary risk assessments, cleaning and sanitising only to close it again on November 5th when we went into lockdown again. Village Hall meetings have been held via Zoom. Our last film night was on 7th March 2020, showing the film Judy, when the 54 attendees did not know how much we were going to be affected. We hope to resume the film nights this summer, fingers crossed. Financially, we have had no income from hirings and have still had to find funds to keep the Hall in good working order – new fire doors will be installed before we open up again. Fortunately we were eligible for the small business grant offered by the Government.

Charlie Timmins joined the Committee in May 2020 as a Trustee. June Oxley resigned as Secretary in November but stayed on as Bookings Clerk and Sarah Powell took up the role of Secretary. All other Trustees

and officers remained – the AGM was postponed until further notice.

Since the last Parish Assembly work has continued on the new community building project although finding the necessary funding has been difficult due to funders closing their doors to new projects for the time being. We are hoping as things get better that funding opportunities will open up again.

The Village Hall Committee had fixed a date last year for a Public Meeting to gain village consent to sell the current Village Hall site conditional on the new community building being finished and operational. However, this was cancelled due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus and the restrictions imposed on gatherings. We have recently made a new provisional date of 3rd July for this meeting.

The Committee agreed not to increase the hiring rates for the Hall this year. The Hall remains a popular, well-appointed venue and an asset to the community.

9. St Mary's Church 2020.

2020 began with a very leaky roof. The lead had been stolen in September 2018 and although we got planning permission quite quickly from South Northants District Council for the roof to be replaced with terne coated stainless steel, we also needed permission from the Diocese – and they took their time! Therefore in January 2020, through no fault of our own, we still had a tarpaulin covering which, after 18 months, was not as efficient as it had been initially. A very wet winter meant that the rain poured in every time it rained, and despite valiant efforts the pews and walls of the south aisle and the general deterioration of the paint and wood work in the whole church was most depressing. The pews were eventually removed when it got too bad.

We carried on with our normal services until 15th March. Gerald Cadogan took the last Evensong on that day before we were forced to close the church entirely for the first lockdown due to Coronavirus.

The roof was repaired during this time. We were fortunate that the roof men carried on working during the lock down. Two of them came from near Bedford, a journey of over an hour every morning. They started the preparatory work on 6th March. Fortunately, for much of the time after this, there was little rain,

because the roof was completely open to the elements.

At Easter, although the church was closed and boarded up with scaffolding all round, Amanda put up an Easter message and display, the weather was lovely and the primroses looked magnificent.

The roof is bright, hopefully will mellow with age and also will deter any future thefts. We were fortunate to have had the support financially of many people in and out of the village to whom we are extremely grateful.

The Parish Council were able to give us grant and thanks to Phillida's diligence we were able to get grants from other sources. We have as yet not been able to hold a service of thanksgiving but hopefully we will be able to in the not- too- distant future.

The church remained completely closed due to Covid restrictions until 8th June. We were then able to reopen it for private prayer and also open up the library. As you can imagine after such a long time and so much major building work, there was a huge clean up operation to be done. Jose rallied her troops, and John and Christine sorted out the books.

Huge thanks go to everyone involved.

Services started again on 5th July and from 8th August face coverings were required. We then maintained our normal services until the next lockdown – 1st November, Gerald took Evensong.

The same day saw the final service taken by our Rector, Brian Fairbank, which was a benefice communion at Chipping Warden.

Brian Fairbank had been rector of Culworth for 8 years. Initially the benefice consisted of 6 parishes but last year Sulgrave and Thorpe Mandeville moved to the Chenderit benefice, leaving the Culworth benefice with four parishes, Culworth, Chipping Warden, Moreton Pinkney and Edgcote.

We held one wedding in 2020, no funerals and no christenings.

We were expecting a long interregnum but fortunately we didn't have to wait long before we had a new rector. We were very lucky to get a new incumbent so soon after Brian left, as the process will usually take many months of waiting. Reverend Mike Chesher is our new rector. Culworth is now 'House of Duty' benefice which means the incumbent receives no stipend and will work Sundays and 2 other days. His appointment was announced on 10th January and Mike was inducted via Zoom on 7th March and I know many

people in the parish were able to join in the service. We hope he will spend a very happy time here.

Back to 2020. The church remained open for private prayer and the library. We were able to reopen the church for December services, and although we held our usual services over Christmas, numbers were down dramatically. For example Christmas Day usually see a full church with about 150 in the congregation; this year we only had 35. We were fortunate to have the Ven David Painter, retired Archdeacon from Oakham, to take our Christmas Day Holy Communion. However the church looked magnificent with the Christmas decorations organised as usual thanks to Diana and her team.

However in 2021 we closed again. Gerald took Evensong on 3rd January and the services stopped until Evensong on 7th March – Gerald taking the service with Mike, our new rector there. We continued to keep the church open for the library and private prayer.

Hopefully all services will continue as normal from now on.

During this time Jose organised a short service every week from our Rural Dean, Rev. Carolyn Oley to be delivered or sent by email to anyone who needed it.

Much of our other activities came to a halt during much of the year. We were able to have our Lent Quiz and one of the Lent lunches before the first lockdown. The money from the Lent Lunch went to Banbury Citizens Advice which launched an appeal to help people isolated by Coronavirus get essential food and supplies. No village cafes or coffee and chats have taken place since March 2020, no fete to raise money for church funds. Plant sales and the Culworth 5 miler, along with the Christmas candles raised money for church funds. The collection from the Carol Service went to The Children's Society.

We have continued to be supported by a regular team who have helped to keep the church clean, and our annual Spring Clean this year took place in time for the Easter services. The churchyard has likewise been maintained by an energetic group of mowers and trimmers. And the efforts of the annual churchyard tidy up in August can be appreciated by the wonderful Spring flowers. Thanks to everyone.

Marion Bullock very kindly mended 4 of the kneelers in front of the altar rail and more recently some pew runners.

After many years as secretary of the PCC Phillida Walker has felt she must now change her allegiance to Woodford Halse, having moved there a few years ago. She has done an amazing amount of work for our church over many, many years, especially in the last few years trying to find grants for the roof. Huge thanks to Phillida.

As usual the mainstay of our church as always is Martin. He is always there. He opens and shuts the church every day, keeps a check on all the maintenance requirements.

10 Culworth Junior Cricket Club

2020 was a weird year for all of us. The cricket club obviously could not do anything during the full lock down. Then as the restrictions were relaxed gradually, we were allowed to do 1-2-1 coaching sessions in the nets, then we were allowed up to 5 children together in a session, so we split the tuesday evening into two groups- 6-7pm is 5-9 year olds and then 7-8pm was over 9s.

During the first lockdown of 2020, which coincided with the start of the cricket season I sent out a weekly email. This had training videos, showing the parents drills that they can do in the back garden with their children. The idea was not to let the children and the parents forget cricket.

We normally stop after the schools close in July, as getting teams together in August is always difficult because of family holidays. 2020 was no different, but what we did do, which was new for our club, was we arranged some matches in September. Over one weekend we had a under 11 match against Towcester, which was well supported. Then we had a Dads, lads and lasses game against the Eydon Occasionals, who are their Sunday afternoon mens team. This was a great success. We had five dads (mums were invited to play) and six children aged between 11-15. We narrowly lost, but everyone enjoyed it, and we have another game against them scheduled for this July, and we may try to get another two matches planned against other sides.

We hope 2021 will be better. We had a spring clean on Saturday 3rd April and training sessions have started. Even though we are competing against football, rugby and hockey who are extending their seasons, it has been nice to see that we have had at least 12 new members join, of which half are girls. We have also had a resident of Culworth join us as a coach.

Even if you do not have a child of the right age (6-16 yrs), the club is always looking for people to help as either coaches, or to help with ground maintenance, or to act as admin support, or become a scorer. It is a hugely satisfying job when you see the smiles on the childrens faces, and the good thing is that it is all done generally in the sun. If you want some green exercise, why not offer to mow the ground? Or you could mow the wicket, which gives you a nice walk in the sun.

If you are an adult living in or around Culworth and interested in playing cricket please get in touch with the club, as if we have enough interest, we could start a Culworth Occassional team, and play a couple of games a season and have some training sessions.

We are fairly confident this year that we can run an under 9s kwik cricket team, an under 11s, under 13s and an under 15s team. Their matches are on a Friday night, Sunday morning, Monday and Wednesday evenings. So if you would like to come and watch, you are more than welcome.

To find our more information about the club, please call Jim on 07860 638557, or email me on jpowell@jspmanagement.co.uk.

11. ABILITY Community Bus Service. Margaret Watts

The service to Banbury commenced in July 2019 running initially on a Thursday morning.

As there was sufficient demand the service then increased by running a Monday afternoon service.

Ability also offered trips mainly to local garden centres and these were greatly enjoyed enabling the ladies to mix socially.

In March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and the first lockdown the bus ceased running but resumed after lockdown measures lifted offering a Thursday service to Banbury for essential shopping from the summer of 2020.

In December 2020 again trips were made to local garden centres adhering to Government Guidelines which are strictly operated at all times.

The service continues at present once a week to Banbury and service for an additional day will be reviewed in good course.

12. Culworth Snappers Camera Club. John Emmett

Culworth Snappers is now in its 7th year.

We normally meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Culworth village hall. During the pandemic the monthly club nights have continued via zoom.

Each month there is a topic which has been selected by members, these are then discussed on the club nights. As well as discussing images, members will discuss any new ideas or queries they might have. At our club nights we also include regular technical sessions where members share knowledge and experience on a wide range of topics such as image composition, know your camera and astrophotography.

As the lockdown eases we hope to get back to our outdoor photoshoots which are popular with the members. Previous shoots have been at Chesterton Mill, Stowe, The canal at Cropredy We have some interesting locations planned for the future.

Earlier this month we had a guest speaker Tony Worobiec a professional photographer who gave an excellent presentation on "Lowlight and Night Photography".

You can now follow us on Facebook under "Culworth Snappers" where you can find images taken by members. Topics this year includes Lockdown; Kitchen Utensils; Gates; Woodland; Life's back to normal; Wheels; Minimalism; Windows.

Future Club Nights this year (Thursdays)
20th May; 24th June; 22nd July; 26th August; 23rd September; 21st October; 25th November;
The membership consists of people with various degrees of expertise from beginners to keen amateurs. They use a wide range equipment from mobile Phones to the latest mirrorless cameras.

This is a very friendly local club, why not come and join us. Membership is only £20/annum, to cover things like the hiring of the hall and guest speakers etc.

13. Culworth Hill Field Trust Chairman John Duggan

The Chair Stuart Rolt announced that Mr Duggan had had a serious cycling accident in the afternoon and was now in John Radcliffe. He asked that the good wishes of the meeting for his speedy recovery be sent to him and to his family. Norman Green presented the report instead.

CHFT PROGRESS BRIEFING NOTE 24th April, 2021 • As highlighted in a Country File programme, community facilities are increasingly important in providing essential services in rural communities. This is particularly so in the light of the impact of Covid-19 and the likely impact of Climate Change. People are likely to travel less, be more likely to work from home and be more reliant on local community facilities for their recreational and social welfare.

- Culworth Hill Field Trust was set up specifically to deliver and manage the new Community and Recreational Facility to replace the existing village hall and cricket pavilion. Both are in a bad state of repair, continuing to deteriorate and are not fit for purpose. Post Covid-19 it is increasingly important that we find a way to build this new facility.

- Mrs. Trott's generous donation of the land was for sole purpose of building the new facility. The Parish Council (PC) now own the land for this project on the clear understanding that it will be transferred to CHFT in due course. The PC also has a long lease on the rest of the cricket field (Hill Field) for 50 years, of which 43 years are still remaining, the freehold of which is held in trust by Mrs. Trott's family.

- We received planning permission for the new Community and Recreational Facility late 2019. It will expire in December, 2022, unless a substantial start on site has been made. Now the principle of development on the North East side of the cricket field (Hill Field), has been established, getting a new planning permission, when required, is expected to be reasonably straightforward.

- Our prime objective remains, albeit over a longer time scale, to deliver a new community and recreational facility, at the lowest possible capital and operating cost. possibly with smaller changing rooms, that can be used by the cricket club. We will carry out a value engineering exercise with a view to reducing the scale and size of the new facility, possibly with smaller changing rooms. Our intention is to do this without materially changing the appearance of the current

design of the building. In due course, we will request a pre planning application consultation with the planners to get their feedback.

- The cost estimate for this project, now two years old, is £974k. To date we have raised £42k from the villagers, the Parish Council and SNC, to pay for the cost of getting planning permission and £250K of match funding commitments. This is comprised of £75K from HS2, for the specific purpose of constructing the new facility, and an estimated £175K, subject to the village approving the sale for residential development. This leaves an estimated funding gap of £724k, before the value engineering exercise has been carried out. We continue to explore potential sources of funding.

- The Coronavirus pandemic and its economic impact, has led many potential funders to temporarily close their doors to new grant applications. We will continue our fund raising efforts; we have made an initial applications to Sport England and we are awaiting their response. The funding outlook is expected to improve 1 over time, but realistically we do not expect any substantial grants for capital projects to be available in the next two to three years.

- In conversations with villagers, some of whom have already generously made a donation, a number of constructive fund raising proposals have been put forward. In particular the offer to donate land for a crowd funding project to plant trees, and an offer to organise a major social event. Along with other local fund raising initiatives, they have the potential to raise a total of £100k once we have reduced the funding gap.

- The Village Hall Trust was poised to call a Public Meeting to gain village consent to sell the existing village hall site before the first lockdown. It intends to call the public meeting as soon as possible in the circumstances. This is necessary, to demonstrate to other potential sources of funds, that the village are doing everything within their power to help raise the funds necessary to get this new Community and Recreational Facility built.

- We are likely to be living with the impact of Covid-19 and Climate Change for the foreseeable future. Despite the challenges, all the CHFT trustees remain committed to getting this done; the village still needs these new facilities. To date the burden of the work to get this far, has fallen on a small number of people. We need the support from a younger generation of villagers, with the drive, vision, and necessary skills to get this done. We need your active support, participation and commitment to deliver a new Community and Recreational Facility for Culworth.

Questions included that if the changing rooms were modified for a smaller building would that comply with Sport England requirements. If built in stages would this be even more costly. It was noted that both buildings Village Hall and Cricket pavilion are not fit for purpose. Would the new planning application be met by funds from the Cricket Club and Village Hall who had received coronavirus support grants?. Mr Green continued to state that all potential sources of funding were being explored.

14. Culworth 2021 Cllr Andrew Wilby.

The Parish Council supported that launch /rebirth of village activities as lockdown eased or ceased. A steering group had been formed from Volunteers.

a) June 26th 2021 on the Cricket Field from 10am onwards games and fun for the children followed by a free BBQ and silly games for all ages. Village Walk, Cricket. Event may go on into the evening.

b) Culworth in Bloom Best kept garden and allotment to be judged between 19 and 20 June by Debbie Rolt and Mary Gribbin.

c) Request for more people to join the steering group. Plans to carry out survey to assess village skills and needs. History Group and much more.

15. Culworth Community Park Karen Mullins Blyth reported on survey monkey and hard copy results. 136 responses with 61 personal comments. Further details will be presented to Parish Council on 18th May 2021. Questions included ownership of the Recreation Field which is the Trustees of the late Commander Crutchley. Funding may be sought from HS2.

16. Updates on HS2 Cllr Stuart Rolt attends the regular forums with HS2 and local Council members including the MP.

a) Proposed layout Magpie to Marston Crossroads/ Greatworth Junction. A revised layout was proposed to maximise safety. The road from Magpie past end of Bulls Lane to Thorpe Mandeville would be closed with the Greatworth Green tunnel being built and the new road going over the tunnel. Road closure likely until 2024 but no start date known yet. It is thought that the Banbury lane from the village might not be closed. Many residents expressed huge concern that the safety aspect of Marston crossroads currently poor. Traffic in the Banbury Lane would be a hazard. Road surface poor due to potholes and road erosion maybe caused by large vehicles. School buses have used this route for years. Could village join with neighbouring villages for a combined approach to HS2 for a resolution.

b) Traffic through the village is principally for staff or equipment to travel from one site to another. Any causes of concern require the time place and number plates of vehicles involved. These are forwarded to HS2 for prompt resolution. Clerk to put contacts for HS2 in newsletter and website. Cllr Rolt will ascertain which rights of way are being affected although he wasn't aware of any closures. Fences have appeared in fields for what purpose.

c) Magpie compound is a base for 80 workers. It will also the concreting plant. Light intrusion is being addressed once the site is fully operational and it is in Banbury Lane.

d) Sound Barrier at Lower Thorpe was part of the agreement for Culworth. This is now on latest plans. Cllr Rolt was thanked for his work with HS2.

It is noted that once lockdown is eased, there will be opportunities for discussions and workshops showing the archaeology, developments of the sites and environmental supports.

17. Local Government Future. Cllr Wilby reminded

residents that following the financial issues of NCC the Government inspectors had recommended that Northants be divided into two unitary authorities North and West Northants. West Northants consists of SNC, DDC, Northampton Borough and services of NCC. Resulting in 93 councillors. Culworth is in Silverstone Ward which will be represented by three councillors. West Northants is one of the wealthier authorities with reserves of £93 million. Currently all planning policies will be retained and served by a local committee. Shadow Authority in place for one year. It is important to vote on May 6th for this, Police and Crime commissioner, and Parish Council.

No further business meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Next meetings 20th July, 21 September 2021, 16th November.

Want to know what is happening in the village?

Here are some of the websites that may be helpful

Culworth Village website

Culworth Facebook

Culworth Community Facebook

Next door Culworth

Red Lion website and Facebook

Forge Coffee website

The Covid 19 support group is on facebook, at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/376450889905095/>

Jose has a village network list of emails. She sends any news or information out to all people on that list, including missing dogs, break-ins, 'What's On' etc. etc. in fact anything to do with village life.

*If you would like to be included, please email her...
culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com*

Whilst the Parish Council fund the publication of the newsletter, the views expressed in it may not be those of the Parish Council

Please send items for the next newsletter to the editor, Kate Smith via email culworth.newsletter@gmail.com copy dates are

23rd July for Aug/Sept edition

24th Sept for Oct/Nov edition

26th Nov for Dec/Jan edition

Do you have a local business, please tell us about it via the village newsletter

Culworth Parish Council

Receipts & Payments Account for the Year ended 31 March 2021

	<u>2019-20</u>			<u>2020-21</u>
Receipts				
	19,500	Precept		23,730
	140	Burials and Monuments		
	300	Hire of Cricket Field		
	96	Bank Interest		49
	5	Wayleave		5
	500	SNC Ability Bus Grant		
		Community Infrastructure Levy		2,668
	1,395	VAT Recovered		1,008
	<u>£ 21,936</u>			<u>£ 27,460</u>
Payments				
	2,256	Street Lighting (inc Maintenance)		3,120
	915	Village Maintenance		740
	847	Burial Ground Maintenance		877
	1,373	Culworth Castle Maintenance		1,523
	810	Recreation Field Maintenance		440
	383	Cricket Field Maintenance		340
	10,000	New Village Community Facility		
	832	Dog Fouling Bins & Maintenance		1,168
	500	Ability Bus		
	185	Church Clock (Parish Councils Act 1957 1.2)		185
	594	Newsletters and Reports		182
	156	Website Fees		155
	5,200	Clerk's Salary		5,200
	1,111	Administration Expenses		1,247
		Bank Charges		54
	352	Insurance		365
	379	NCALC, SLCC & ACRE Subscriptions		385
	150	Hire of Hall		
	196	Training		38
	200	Audit		200
	1,008	VAT Recoverable		1,356
		Section 137 (max = £8.32 x 315 = £2,620.80)		
	17	Royal British Legion / War Memorial		17
	2,000	Contribution to Church Roof Repair		17
	2,017			
	100	Section 142 (Citizen's Advice Bureau)		
	<u>£ 29,564</u>			<u>£ 17,592</u>
Summary				
	22,297	Balance brought forward from last year		14,669
	21,936	Add Receipts (above)		27,460
	44,233			42,129
	29,564	Less Payments (above)		17,592
	<u>£ 14,669</u>	Balance carried forward to next year	£	<u>24,537</u>
Represented by:				
	9,148	Business Reserve Account		
	5,521	Current Account		24,537
	<u>£ 14,669</u>			<u>£ 24,537</u>

CULWORTH IN BLOOM 2021

Best Kept Gardens Competition

Judging takes place on Saturday 19th June

Results & prize-giving at the Summer Party on Saturday 26th June

ENTRY FORM

You may enter as many categories as you wish – please tick the relevant Entry boxes

Category	Entry	Points to note:
Garden - Front	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If you are entering your back garden or some of its features into the competition you should either plan to be present when judging takes place or ensure that access is possible and practical in your absence – please complete the judging preference section below.</i>
Garden - Rear	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lawn(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hanging Baskets	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Window boxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tubs/Containers	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Judging Arrangements

There will be two judging slots on Saturday June 19th – please tick those you prefer

Judging	Prefer	Points to note:
9am – 12 noon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You do not have to be at home, unless you need to let the judges in to any area of your garden.</i>
2pm – 5pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	
We plan to be at home	Yes/No	

Name(s):	
Address:	
Contact number(s):	
Email:	

Closing Date for entries: Thursday June 17th 2021

Please return completed forms to:

The Forge Coffee Shop, The Red Lion, or Mumfords Butchers

Or scan and email to culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com