

# Hatch Beauchamp Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall

## 1. Present:

Cllr David Graham – Chair of Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council  
Cllr & WI Representative - Donna Davies  
Cllr Tony Murphy  
Cllr Caroline Noble  
Cllr Ben Toms  
SCC Cllr John Thorne  
TDBC Cllr John Williams  
Clerk to HBPC: Chris Pitman  
Mr. Stephen Williams - Chair of Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall Trustees  
Mrs Imogen Graham – Hatch Amateur Theatre Society (HATS)  
Rev Christabel Ager – Hatch Beauchamp Kids (HBK)  
Mr. Derek Cooper – Hatch Beauchamp & Neroche Garden Club  
Several members of the public

## Apologies:

Cllr Stephen Fiander  
Cllr Hilary Scott  
Cllr Robert Fowler

## 2. Matters arising:

A member of the public queried why Hatch Beauchamp's council tax for year 19/20 had risen, but the precept demand had remained the same as the previous year.

Cllr Williams has retrospectively been able to provide the following explanation:

*The same monetary value of the precept didn't increase, but because the tax base reduced, the amount per band increased:*

Yr 18/19:

Tax base: £263.63  
Precept: £6,500  
Band D rate: £24.66

Yr 19/20:

Tax base: £257.30  
Precept: £6,500  
Band D rate: £25.26  
Increase: 2.46%

*The base can change for a variety of reasons including entitlement to discounts and CTRS as well as number of properties in each band.*

A member of the public asked for an update regarding the state of the pavement between the Hatch Inn and the village playing field and further into the village. It appears that any money available has gone into major projects. SCC Cllr Thorne was able to update the meeting:

*Despite pushing at every opportunity to have the pavements in Village Road resurfaced, the best I have been able to do is get county to agree to what is called micro-surfacing treatment. This will allow the sub-structure to remain undisturbed, which is the county's big concern because the coal tar material is carcinogenic and removing this alone would cost more than the entire reconstruction works. There is no timetable for when the micro-surfacing will be carried out. County in the meantime are carrying out regular inspections and will repair anything considered to be a highway defect.*

### **3. Minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018:**

Cllr Graham noted that as these meetings are held annually, the minutes are cleared a year out of date. It was therefore proposed and agreed that the minutes are to be circulated more promptly and that reports from the organisations attending the meeting are submitted to the clerk electronically.

### **4. Report of the Chairman of Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council:**

This year, as a council, we said goodbye to some and welcomed others. Suber Valmiki and Liz Kingston left us and Caroline Noble and Ben Toms have joined the council. Chris Pitman has established herself as Clerk and has been a hugely positive presence. I would also like to thank our Planning Committee under Tony Murphy – they have been busy this year – and all others who have taken on special responsibilities such as footpaths and the website. Donna Davies, as ever, has been a great support and source of advice as well as a key link to the Village Hall trustees. A very special thanks to her for bringing you all together tonight as organizer and for arranging for the refreshments.

Last year's annual parish meeting occurred in a difficult hiatus for the Council. We are out of that now. It's definitely a time to look forward.

What are we trying to achieve?

First of all, a village that can talk to itself when there are things that need to be talked about. The village website, the Facebook pages, the newsletter all, hopefully, contribute to that objective. The village Facebook group has 176 members, the website is adding new unique users every day, and our newsletter has 70 subscribers. We would like to see even more of course, so that we can be sure that we are covering the whole village. Special thanks to Bev Bush, Caroline Noble and Steve Williams as our website Admins and to

Sue and Kevin Comer-Jones for hosting the steering group. And also, a shout-out for Clive and David Weidmann for independently pioneering the Hatch Beauchamp Photos and News page.

My second objective feeds on the first. We need to be a council that can take a balanced view on what is best for our village and those who live here. To do that your council needs to know what's happening and what people think. Sometimes there are difficult decisions. Different interests do not necessarily coincide. I guess the most important item shared by all villagers is the property they live in. When new plans are proposed, whether it's a new roadwork or new housebuilding, there will be differences. We will do our best to get these big issues right – with your help. I think there will be some more coming down the line this year.

The next most important issue facing us is probably the care of the village and the maintenance of services that enhance our lives, even, in some cases, are essential to you're being able to live here. That's why we care about our Village Agent, our school, our Village Hall. None of you could have failed to be aware that services to our village are being reduced. Maybe villages like ours will have to act more independently to get what they need. Later this year we will ask you some big questions: What is most important to you? What services are most vital? What improvements would you like to see? Can we afford them? If we cannot, how do we raise the money?

Most people who live here like living here because a village is a community in a way that a city block or even a suburban crescent is not. Our village hall is an expression of that community, along with our school, our pub, our hotel, the businesses in the village. A key part of community life is the activities that will be reported to us tonight, activities which bring people together, entertain, support, encourage. Those who will be presenting are among those who spend voluntary time to make these things happen. So, my final thanks tonight go to them, the doers who make things happen in our village, who make the community work.

Thank you.

## **5. Reports of representatives of local organisations/groups:**

### **WI Report:**

I am delighted to report that Hatch Beauchamp WI continues to thrive with a membership of 35 members from Hatch Beauchamp and the surrounding villages.

Our WI became the lead for the year for our Taunton Vale Group of WI's, comprising Creech St Michael, Curry Rivel, Hambridge & Westport, Burrowbridge, North Curry and Stoke St Gregory. This tasked us in providing additional activities to which the Group were invited and included amongst other activities an afternoon quiz (our WI won the quiz shield!), a group walk culminating with a superb lunch provided by The Hatch Inn and our Group

Carol service held at St John's church which was attended by over 70 WI members. A collection at the service in aid of the Taunton Food Bank raised an astounding £225.

Our monthly meetings are well attended and we have welcomed guests to our open meetings throughout the year which gives them the opportunity to see and hear what we are about..... an inspiring and inspired group of women who enjoy meeting up to share their knowledge, learn to develop new skills and add their voice to issues that really matter on local, national and international matters. We are keen to add our skills wherever we can within the community and we were delighted to assist with the Village Fete in June by providing traditional teas with lashings of home made cakes. We raised sufficient funds from this event to donate a new picnic bench to the school.

Our 'New to You 50/50' sale was again a great success & raised funds for our WI Bursary to Denman (the WI's residential adult education College) & Village Hall funds. Thanks especially to Chrissie Williams, Jan Walton & Sue Comer-Jones for masterminding this massively popular biennial event.

Once again we assisted at the Taunton Flower Show with the selling of raffle tickets in support of the show & were resplendent in our WI sashes! The day is always such good fun & a chance to engage with the public.

We continue to support the visits from the mobile library each month and support 'The Hub' with a good number of residents attending, demonstrating a need for the mobile library service in the village.

New members are always welcome. We're a friendly bunch who meet on the second Thursday of every month (except August) at 7:15 p.m. Come and see just what we are all about. We could surprise you!

Donna Davies – President  
Hatch Beauchamp WI

### **Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall:**

We have obtained planning permission to build a new village hall. At present we are attempting to have a footpath changed on the official map in order to progress with the building of the hall. Having had a meeting with the County Councillor we are being told we need to address this issue with TDBC and bear the cost for the change. These costs could be as much as £1500 so we approached the District Council to reconcile the charges. The correspondence goes on a bit round in circle but hopefully it can be resolved.

We have recently held our AGM and have unfortunately lost 4 stalwart members of our committee and are looking to replace them. So if there is anyone here tonight who can help then please collar me tonight.

It is said that strong Communities and village assets, like our hall, are built on:

- Good Management – which we have

- Connectivity and Communication – new village website
- Recreational Spaces – which we have
- Response from the Community – not as good as it should be
- Central recognised hub – the village hall

The most important factor in a Strong Community is good management of the communication process. This enables ALL to be able to communicate and feel connected to the community as a whole. Also there needs to be recreational spaces and most of all a response from the community on any issues that need to be raised.

All of which can be incorporated into our new hall facilities thus catering for the community as a whole.

Stephen Williams  
Chair of Trustees

### **Hatch Beauchamp Kids:**

HBK (Hatch Beauchamp Kids) is offered to children in Years 2 to 6 by the Seven Sowers Benefice. We meet weekly in term-time from 6.15 – 7.45 on Thursday evenings in the Village Hall or in the school when the WI has the hall. We ask for £1.00 per child per evening to go towards the cost of hiring the hall and resources.

The children enjoy a range of activities, from strenuous games to craft and the occasional drama sketch. In the summer, they love playing out in the field and on the play equipment. We also have a short quiet time to reflect on a thought-provoking theme such as 'Our Emotions' or this term 'Heroes', some biblical heroes, some more recent. The theme may be introduced by a short DVD clip, or Powerpoint presentation or discussion starter.

Numbers in the club fluctuate from year to year, our highest having been a regular nineteen; at the moment we have eight regulars, one from North Curry School and seven from Hatch Beauchamp School, and a few others who drop in occasionally. We could accommodate more and would love to have them.

The aim of the club is to give the children a good time and enable them to grow and develop physically, emotionally and spiritually. Since September 2017, Mrs Holly Stevens, our Children's, Schools' and Families' worker, has been ably leading the club, but she is now on maternity leave and we are delighted to have Mrs Julie Kimber in charge for the next year.

Rev. Christabel Ager

### **HATS (Hatch Amateur Theatre Society):**

HATS going forward:

I'm Imogen Graham – chair of HATS, our village theatre group:

HATS (Hatch Amateur Theatre Society), is ten years old this year. Since 2009 we have staged some memorable productions, in Pat Hunt's garden, many times on the terrace at Oakfield House and of course on stage at the village hall. We have great fun and are proud to be able to raise a little money for worthy causes like the Village Hall and local Charities, principally the Beacon Centre. Our aim is to entertain, and contrary to some reports, we are not trying to be highbrow or intellectual in any way! Anyone who comes to a performance will endorse that! However, we are serious about putting on a well-rehearsed, competent performance and a worthwhile play. It's important for the village to have a variety of community events and we wish more people would join us – we need younger members! With this in mind, David Derbyshire, who is one of our members, is masterminding a village pantomime to be performed in the village hall in December. He will be launching it in April and I know hopes to recruit as many people, young and old and children too, as possible. It's about time we had a panto – a great way of bringing people together and a rather apt way to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So watch out for updates on the village website and our facebook page.

Right now we are planning our summer production and there is still time for anyone who would like to help out to come forward. This will be performed at Oakfield House on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It's not just about the acting. We need behind the scenes and technical skills too. Don't forget, it's fun!

Thank you.

### **Hatch Beauchamp & Neroche Garden Club:**

A brief resume of the garden club activities during the past year. Our members enjoyed a variety of events of which the visits to other members gardens proved very popular. A selection of gardens of all shapes and sizes, but all sharing the same theme of a love of plants, design and nature. All the visits included home made afternoon teas and the chance to meet up with like minded friends.

For the coming year the committee have a programme in mind to include, as well as members gardens, visits to commercial nurseries and the Abbey Farm at Montacute - sure to be popular, and local Greenshutters Nursery. All this will be discussed and outlined at our forthcoming AGM on 20 March (to include Prosecco and nibbles) and as always, we welcome suggestions from members. We look forward to another successful year and to expanding our membership

Best wishes and happy gardening from the H B & N Garden club team.



6. There being no other business, Cllr Graham thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to this years meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

DRAFT