

GUSSAGE ST MICHAEL WARD ANNUAL MEETING 20 May 2025 Minutes

Present: Cllr Ken Lannon, Cllr Susan Hanstead,
Diane Norman, Peter Bending, Ian Hanstead (minutes).

Apologies: Dorset Cllr Piers Brown, Tony Norman, Els Riley.

Minutes and Matters Arising from 21 May 2024

None.

Dorset Councillor Report

None. (Note: apologies received after meeting as he attended on the Thursday, two days after meeting).

Report from the Church

The PCC for the Parish of the Gussages includes Gussage St Michael and Gussage All Saints meets regularly throughout the year and has been working to support the benefice during the period of interregnum which followed Reverend Robert Simpson leaving to take up a new post in Wales.

Church services are held every Sunday including the outreach Breakfast Church taking place monthly in alternate village halls (Gussage St Michael and Gussage All Saints). Benefice Communion is once a month and it enables attendees to meet with other worshippers from the other parishes within the benefice. Special thanks go to both Simon Tong and Rev Robert Prance who have lead services in the benefice throughout the interregnum.

The parish has also given to local and international charities including Samara's aid in Syria, Embrace the Middle East, and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf by holding special services such as Animal service in July, Harvest Festival Service and a Crib service from which donations were given.

The DCC (District Church Council) has also been working hard with the upkeep and maintenance work on the church and organising fund raising events such as Christmas Raffle, Coffee Morning, Bake Off and The Great Gussage Tractor Run. Our thanks go to the DCC whose members give freely of their time and skills.

Also thanks to those who mow the grass, arrange flowers, clean the brass, wind the clock and clean the churches their help and work never goes unnoticed.

Following a successful round of interviews we are thrilled to welcome the Reverend Angus Mayhew as rector of the Knowlton Circle Benefice. Angus officially took the post in March this year following his induction service at Cranborne church. Angus has been getting straight to work taking services,

and getting to know the community and attending various events, so I am sure you will have the opportunity to meet him if you haven't already.

Thank you for supporting the churches and do please continue to come along to the events that are held.

Hall Report

We continue our spud n spouts – having had 7 since this time last year. The next will be on Friday with a talk by Howard Wells. These are a jacket potato suppers followed by a talk. Please look out for our events on the monthly newsletter, the monthly Circle magazine and the noticeboards - if you know of any speakers, please let us know.

We have unfortunately lost some of our regular hirers. The ones still are going ahead: bridge, painting class and pickleball - details of these on the monthly newsletter.

Thank you to Caroline Gordon for planting and looking after the planters at the entrance – they look lovely!

Thank you to everyone who attended the beacon lighting to commemorate VE day. There were over 50 people there. A big thank you to Richard and Nigel Friend for arranging the beacon and transport.

There is a WhatsApp group set up by Kate Mitchell to enable someone within the group to alert the other members that the defibrillator is required. The people in the group do not have to do anything other than respond to the request, if asked. If you would like to join the group, and you live in Gussage St Michael, please send your name and mobile number to Kate 07947 476038. In an emergency, always call 999 first. The emergency services will advise if the defibrillator is needed, and the defibrillator itself will talk you through the steps.

Looking forward: We are having a 'silent disco' on the 12 July – see the newsletter for more information.

We will continue to provide a range of activities to encourage more people to attend. We are always looking for new events to increase attendance. Ideas welcomed.

Parish Councillors' Report

Since the last meeting both councillors have:

- represented Gussage St Michael at the Vale of Allen Parish Council meetings,
- represented the village in discussions and meetings regarding the C2 (top road)
- been involved in committee and resident meetings, for the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Commented on several planning applications that were submitted, and comments made.

- Agreed that the salt supply held at Lower Farm for application. A big thank you to Nigel Friend for applying to our roads when necessary.

Looking forward:

- Continue to represent the village at meetings.
- Investigating options for the replacement of the bus shelter
- Neighbourhood Plan will be on going and a Steering Group will be set up supported by volunteers – watch this space! Awaiting funding as the Government has just retendered the administering body.

In Piers Brown's absence, some of his report would have been:

- A354 – Accident Collision Danger Spot sign erected before the Thickethorn Cross junction. A 50mph speed limit is being applied for continuing from Cashmoor towards Chettle.
- C2 – from A354 to just passed Parsonage Hill, the road is just about to be resurfaced (a year later than expected).
- C2 – Bowerswaine to Horton Inn – Dorset Council took the cheapest option from their Collision Reduction Team and had installed new signage and painted white road lines. They will review its effectiveness in a year's time. Residents are asked to report to the Parish Clerk any incidents, accident, bumps, hold ups etc for the Parish Council to submit as evidence pushing for further works.

Financial Report

The parish budget was explained comparing last financial year with the current year. No significant variations were proposed.

The meeting was asked about the:

- replacement bus shelter as funds were available in a project fund. It was agreed to replace with a similar style as a 'typical rural bus shelter'
- possibility of white 'entrance' gates located behind each village sign. The meeting was not in favour of this as a future project as it becomes an asset and an on going maintenance liability.
- Possibility of having 'Slow' signs in white circles painted on the road – near Sovells, Field Corner and Applebank. The meeting was in favour of this as a future project.

Meeting ended 19:45