

**REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF PRESTON CAPES PARISH
scheduled for 20th May 2020, prevented by Coronavirus lock-down**

Contributors:	Dixie Hughes	Parish Council Chairman
	Cllr Robin Brown	Northamptonshire County Council
	Cllr Rupert Frost	Daventry District Council
	Cllr Bill Dearn	Preston Capes Educational Charity
	Mike Delacoe	Preston Capes Village Hall
	Claire Hoare	Preston Capes Neighbourhood Watch
	Penny Eves	Preston Capes Women's Institute
	Sgt Sam Dobbs	Neighbourhood Sergeant, S Northants
	Gerard Hoare	Warden, Church of St Peter & St Paul
	Gary Denby	Parish Clerk

Welcome and any announcements from the Chairman Dixie Hughes

1. Reports received from village organisations

- 1.1 Cllr Dixie Hughes - Parish Council Chairman (Appendix A)
- 1.2 Cllr Robin Brown – Northamptonshire County Council (Appendix B)
- 1.3 Cllr Rupert Frost – Daventry District Council (Appendix C)

- 1.4 Gerard Hoare – Church Warden, St Peter & St Paul (Appendix D)
- 1.5 Mike Delacoe – Preston Capes Village Hall Trustee Report (Appendix E)
- 1.6 Penny Eves – Preston Capes Women's Institute (Appendix F)
- 1.7 Cllr Bill Dearn – Preston Capes Educational Charity (Appendix H)

- 1.8 Claire Hoare – Preston Capes Neighbourhood Watch (Appendix G)
- 1.9 Sgt Sam Dobbs – Neighbourhood Policing in South Northants (Appendix I)

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Chairman

.....
Date

APPENDIX A: Cllr Dixie Hughes, Chairman of Preston Capes Parish Council

At the last Annual Village Meeting on Wednesday 22nd May 2019, nobody had any idea how different the next 12 months would be...

First I should report that there has been no official guidance re Annual Parish Meetings, specifically, at all; hence this collection of reports...

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My report that evening, in 2019, included the information that, *"There will be elections to the Shadow West Northants Unitary Authority in May 2020. Shadow Executives for the UA will be selected from those elected and will determine the structure, budget and service delivery models for the new council. Vesting Day will be, again quite aptly; 1st April 2021"*. That, of course didn't happen...

Now: There will be elections to the Shadow West Northants Unitary Authority in May 2021. Shadow Executives for the UA will be selected from those elected and will determine the structure, budget and service delivery models for the new council. Vesting Day will be, again quite aptly; 1st April 2022. We'll see...

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Since the last APM, on behalf of the Parish Council, our Vice-Chairman Councillor Bill Dearn has organised two Sunday litter picks; on 20th October 2019 and 15th March 2020 (the last village group gathering prior to "lockdown"). On both occasions we collected the usual stack of evidence of the abysmal disregard so many have for the state in which they leave our hedgerows and roadsides...

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On Sunday 7th July 2019, marking Armed Forces Day, the Parish Council fulfilled part its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant by raising the Armed Forces Day flag on the church flagpole. And on Sunday 1st September we raised the Red Ensign to mark Merchant Navy Day; honouring the work and historical sacrifices, of British Merchant seamen, women and boys. Regarding both flag-raising, the Parish Council thanks the Church for allowing us to use its flagpole and especially the splendid work of the volunteer "flag-yeoman" Richard Hale

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On 25th September, due to 'popular demand' the Council had two "Dog Pooh" bins installed at either end of the High Street; their installation cost came out of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); though the contract for the weekly emptying of these bins comes in the Council budget.

CIL was also used to buy two new Parish Council Notice Boards. One is attached to the Village Hall; and its installation on 23rd March 2020, constituted my first session of

lockdown “exercise.” The other notice board has been installed in Little Preston; for which we thank Mervyn Maddison.

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Since the 2019 APM the Council has held ‘normal’ meetings seven times; the last being on 18th February 2020. Item 10.1 on that agenda was a planning application, which as a statutory consultee, the Parish Council was required to consider.

This happens with every planning application made within the Parish. The Council will usually inform the Planning Department, at DDC, as to whether it supports or objects to an application. If an objection is made, the Council will only ever do so on planning grounds.

On this occasion Members decided to object to the application; and agreed on the wording the Parish Clerk would use in his message to the Planning officer. As a result, the applicants’ representative asked if the Council would revisit its decision...

When the Council decided not to withdraw its objection, the applicant issued a Freedom of Information Act Request for copies of all correspondence and communications within the Council, relating to that application...

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The next Parish Council Meeting, due on 17th March, was cancelled following government advice re Covid-19...

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As far as virtual meetings are concerned the Parish Council is in an awkward position. One of our Members is not online at all, and at least one other has no backroom, study or shed from which to use zoom... I decided therefore to conduct our meetings by way of “email exchange” (with hard-copies for our offline Member). This we did for the April and May meetings.

We have now been advised that this process is “unlawful;” because it is not one of the methods of virtual meeting set out within the Covid-19 regulations... (It is not however “illegal” because nowhere within the regulations; or guidance; is email-exchange expressly forbidden.)

We have now cancelled all further meetings, until we are able to once again meet “Face-to-face;” for which we await the Village Hall Management Committee’s permission.

APPENDIX B: Cllr Robin Brown, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)

Woodford & Weedon Division – ANNUAL REPORT April 2019 to March 2020

The advent of the Lockdown has fundamentally changed the way I and many other County Councillors are working, personally at my age I am in the high risk group and since early March have avoided all gatherings.

My role in the last twelve months has been restricted to attending full council meetings and observing various budget scrutiny sessions. At the same time endeavouring to attend Parish Council meetings when practical. Mostly I have helped various Parish Clerks and/or Chairs to progress outstanding queries, my network of contacts helping me to access the right departments more often than not.

All should be aware that the elections scheduled for May 2020 have been cancelled. The Government will appoint elected members to lead the two unitary councils and probably from September 2020 the shadow form of governing the Unitarys will commence.

As the County Council has managed to continue balancing its Finances there should be no holdup to completing the move into unitary government next year. The new elections planned for early May 2021 will then have councillors democratically elected to take the new councils forward. I will not be standing in that election.

With regard to the current crisis it is good to see the government has at last recognised that Adult Social Care needs adequate funding, the extra funds provided to Councils now exceeds £4.5Billion much of which will ensure social care, working with the NHS and maintaining emergency services will be provided.

I wish everyone the best for the next twelve months, keep safe and be well.

Cllr Robin Brown

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APPENDIX C: Cllr Rupert Frost, Daventry District Council (NCC)

With everything "on hold" there is not much normal council business to report but hopefully these points (below) are useful if you don't know about them already.

- Northamptonshire's "volunteer army" now stands at 12,755 people who have completed 551 urgent food deliveries and 264 medication deliveries.
- The launch of Northamptonshire Children's Trust has had to be delayed so unfortunately we will not be able to meet the July start date.
- Application DA/2020/0178 (Work to trees in a conservation area, Medlars, Church Way) was granted under delegated powers last Thursday 16th April.
- Schools in Northamptonshire are providing a valuable service for key worker parents. More than 90% of the county's schools are open for the children of key workers during term time, with a high proportion remaining open over the school holidays.
- District council car parks have currently suspended charging and NCC has suspended on-street car parking charges to help support key workers going about their business.
- Preston Capes Conservation Area Review is still in its early stages, Anna Wilson is the contact officer at DDC.
- Elections to the new unitary councils will now take place on 6th May 2021, 134 existing councillors (including me) will sit on the "Shadow West Northamptonshire Council" until 1 April 2021.
- We have been warned about a lot of topical scams being perpetrated so hopefully this postcard (attached) is useful.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home decontamination services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend, help to protect your family, friends and neighbours from scams.

Read it. Share it. Prevent it.

#Coronavirus #ScamAware

Friends Against SCAMS

Contact
For advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS
Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

APPENDIX D: Gerard Hoare, Churchwarden, Church of St Peter & St Paul

2020 Church Report.

A year ago we were in inter-regnum, that is in between appointed rectors, or 'in vacancy'. This year we are more fortunate but face difficulties brought on by corona virus as well.

We appointed a strong candidate as Rector elect in early March but this could not be confirmed until mid April and the formal announcement of the appointment of the **Revd Malcolm Ingham as Rector** to this parish together with Badby, Newnham, Charwelton and Fawsley was finally made here, and in his parishes near Peterborough, on the 26th of April. He will live in the rectory at Badby.

We are now at the fraught stage of waiting for the tenant to vacate the house, carrying out some improvements to the house when it is vacated, and enabling the Ingham family to move in soonest. Owing to C19 it is likely no big Installation Service will be possible and Rev Malcolm may be licenced by the Bishop of Peterborough on Zoom. The point is we do not know exactly when he can start his ministry here, so all enquiries for a priest's visit, weddings or funerals must continue to be channelled through the churchwardens, full details on the back page of the monthly Link magazine.

Our fine Grade II* Church building is due for another five yearly Inspection report by our Architect this year. We are fairly confident that most matters are in reasonable order and hope we can use saved funds not so much for repairs, but to take forward some plans to improve facilities in the church and safety in the churchyard. We have been delighted with the Sound system installed last year, with loop, which is a great bonus for the hard of hearing, weddings and large services.

The PCC is very grateful for the wide support the village give to the church, and we cannot thank sufficiently all the people here who give generously, and work, support and attend our various functions Please remember it is everyone's church, our church, and it is there for all of you to benefit from, especially for happy or sad family occasions and of course Sunday worship.

V Brassey /Gerard J Hoare

APPENDIX E: Mike Delacoe, Preston Capes Village Hall (Charity 282040)

Trustee Report for the Village Hall APM 2020, prepared by Mike Delacoe

The Charity Trustees and Officers during the year to the 31st March 2020 were:

Peter Bull (Trustee) Dixie Hughes (Trustee & Parish Council Rep) Mike Delacoe (Trustee) Andrew Bracher (Treasurer), Sylvia Delacoe (Licensee), Gerard Hoare (Parochial Church Council Rep) David Grahamslaw Various WI Reps. Rachel Bracher, Debbie Cox.

General Events and Fundraising Activities:

We continue to run the monthly Friday/Sunday & Christmas Bars, Spring and Autumn Quizzes, the 100 club and Local Lotto, however the biggest events this year were:

The 5th Inter village croquet competition held in June (won by Preston Capes for the first time!)

The July Sunday bar was also the day of the Village Garden Festival. A beautiful day with plenty of outside visitors enjoying the gardens, tea/coffee & cakes, plus freshly made pizza!

The Annual Village 'Cook Out' was again held in warm weather, ensuring a good turn out.

As a bit of fun we held a Village 'Bake Off' spread over four Sunday bars. This light hearted event provided some interesting nibbles!

A 'Travel Club' was arranged. This used the facility of the DACT Mini Bus to visit Kew Gardens and

Hampton Court, unfortunately other planned destinations were cancelled due to poor response. A similar poor response resulted in the cancellation of a planned 'International Supper evening'. I suppose if you don't plan new activities, you won't know if they are going to be popular.

Following on from the previous year's well attended Auction, a similar event this year was not so well supported. Lessons were learned, and it was agreed that this will be a biennial event.

We now have a Preston Caps mascot (a small Teddy). He is available for families to take on holiday and photograph him enjoying himself. These photos appear on the Village Hall Website, and a world map showing his travels is in the hall. He is a very popular Teddy!

Due to damage by tree roots, a portion of the dry-stone wall collapsed. Planning consent was given for the offending tree to be removed, and subsequently the wall was rebuilt. This incident underlines the need to maintain suitable for cash reserves in the bank, to not just cover running expenses but potential unexpected events as well.

All of these events and activities take a considerable amount of planning and work by Committee members and their families, for which I would like to say a big 'Thank You'.

APPENDIX F: Penny Eves, Preston Capes Women's Institute

Preston Capes WI currently has fourteen members and meets in the village hall on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Over the past twelve months we have had an extremely varied and interesting number of speakers and are happy to welcome guests and prospective members (who can attend as non-members up to three times per year).

Last summer we helped with the afternoon teas for the very successful village Garden Festival, and also supplied some food for the village hall's annual Cook Out. In the Autumn we filled shoe boxes for the charity Teams4U and finished the year with a Christmas lunch at Denman College. In the New Year we supplied cakes for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice in Northampton, as part of the arrangement that the hospice has with our County Federation.

Unfortunately, because to the lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, both our Spring Coffee Morning & Cake Sale and our Easter Saturday activities had to be cancelled (although it is hoped that the former will take place later in the year).

Penny Eves (Secretary – Preston Capes WI)

APPENDIX G: Cllr Bill Dearn, Preston Capes Educational Charity (309846)

Report at 20th May 2020

The Charity was formed in 1981 and brings together the former Church School proceeds of sale and the Apprenticing Charities. Following the sale of the school, all the funds were amalgamated into one entity for the benefit of the Parish. As indicated in the name, the Charity is registered with the Charity Commission.

The Trustees of the Charity are the Rector and two Churchwardens (Gerard Hoare and V Brassey). The co-optative Trustees are Graham Stanton and Bill Dearn (who is also the Treasurer). The families of the Trustees are debarred and have not and cannot benefit by way of awards from the Charity.

The essential criteria of the Charity are that applications should be for and from young persons under the age of 25 years, who are resident in the Parish and require assistance with grant aid for educational, extra-curricular activities, sports equipment, training etc (the following gives more detail of the eligibility criteria for grants).

Following discussions at the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting, your trustees considered the request to expand the Charity's application of income to include 'Twilight' awards.

However, in the Trustees' view the Charity has insufficient current net annual income to adequately fund the present demand under the current constitution. Therefore, the Trustees will not be considering the proposal further.

At April 5th 2020, the Charity's funds had a **total value of £119,464** (2019 £143,849). The current gross income for 2020/21 is forecast at approximately **£4,000 per annum**, being the amount the Trustees can apply towards the minimal running costs and grant awards of the Charity.

The investment portfolio of the Charity (valuation of 05/04/2020 at £113,485 (05/04/2019 £139,394) is managed by JM Finn & Co, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. It should be recognised, however, that the valuation at 5th April 2020 has been adversely affected in the short term as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The net income of the Charity, after running costs, is spent on annual awards. The detail of these awards is strictly confidential but in the financial year ending 5th April 2020, £2,805 (2019 £3,170) were paid by way of 14 awards (2019 11 awards).

Letters seeking applications from families resident in the Parish with eligible young people for the 2020/21 academic year will be delivered shortly.

Bill Dearn, Co-optative Trustee / Treasurer. 20th May 2020.

The areas in which the Charity may be able to help eligible young persons [less than 25 years of age], under the Charity Commission Scheme, are as follows:-

- a) In awarding to such persons scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, maintenance allowances or grants tenable at any school, university or other educational establishment approved for the purpose by the Trustees.
- b) In providing for such persons financial assistance, outfits, clothing, tools, instruments or books to assist them to pursue their education [including study of music and other arts]., to undertake travel in furtherance thereof, and to prepare for and enter a profession, trade, occupation or service on leaving school, university or other educational establishment.
- c) In providing or assisting in the provision of facilities not normally provided by the local education authority for recreation and social and physical training [i.e. sports equipment] for such persons who are receiving primary, secondary or further education.

APPENDIX H: Claire Hoare, Preston Capes Neighbourhood Watch

Any emails from Neighbourhood Watch source which have local relevance are forwarded by email to the village network. Dixey Hughes posts the same on the village Facebook page.

There have been two or three incidences of opportunist break-ins to workman's vans whilst parked in the village.

Unless incidences are reported at once to the police, and an incident number given, they never appear on the Neighbourhood Watch communications. **Always** get a photograph if possible, which can be circulated around the villages, also make/number/colour of vehicles. These details are so useful.

There has recently been a couple of vehicles involved in car theft, noted in other villages, the details posted immediately on Facebook and shared.

APPENDIX I: Sgt Sam Dobbs, Neighbourhood Policing, South Northants

Sgt Dobbs announced his retirement from a direct role in Northamptonshire Police at his talk to the Parish & Town Council meeting in January 2020 (attended by Dixie). However, he is developing a new police union representation role, so we may yet hear from him again. In the meantime, we await a new contact for South Northants Policing.