

SOUTH BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 27th March 2023 at 7.30 pm at The Pavilion, Palstone Park Recreation Ground, Exeter Road, South Brent, TQ10 9JA.

Present:

Chairman Cllr Glyn Richards, Cllrs Cathie Pannell, Cllr. Guy Pannell (Also District Councillor), Peter Kelly, Stephen Hanney, Rich Fone, David Hancock, Alastair Childs, and 13 members of the public and Jane Sullivan. the Clerk to the Council.

The Chairman asked the attendees indulgence to move items 5, 6 and 7 to before 4 Chairman and committees reports.

1. Welcome, and apologies for absence.

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies have been received from Cllrs' Johnston, Zoe Richards, Pauline Richards, Ella Briens - DNPA, PS Booth, Totnes Neighbourhood Police.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings 2022 to be agreed and signed.

Taken as read and signed by Cllr. Glyn Richards.

3. Presentation of the Community Champion Award 2021-2022.

Nominees for the Community champion were:-

John Shepherd, for his work with the Community Website and the Village Hall,

Darcey Paine, for his work with the BMX track at Palstone Recreation Ground, and

Terry Jordan, for his work litter picking in and around the village.

John Shepherd was elected the Community Champion for 2023 at the Full council meeting held on 20th March 2023.

Commemorative Certificates presented to all nominees and the shield was presented to John Shepherd.

4. Chairmans annual report was moved to after item 7

5. Police report.

There are no directly report crimes for the area – and looking at the logs that have been called in from the start of the year they include the following. (This includes 999 calls, reports direct from police and 101 non emergency calls)

The South Brent area also covers part of the A 38 that runs alongside, which is the main resource demand)

40 calls to police since 01/01/23

27 X highway disruption – from drink drivers, broken down vehicle and a pig in the road or traffic offences.

4 x concern for welfare – 2 of these relate to the same person who we are in regular contact with.

1 x 999 call by child – no issues just playing with the phone.

2 x alarm activation – all in order on both occasions.

1 x report of someone having fallen on the moorland – ambulance and rescue requested support

1 x dog on dog attack

3 x domestic related - 2 calls relate to the same job.

1 x complaint against police

There really is very little.

We are working with 2 x street attached people in the area., which I have previously mentioned.

We do have a street with some ASB being dealt with.

We have been conducting speed checks in the area and will be progressing this to try and gather evidence to support any issues of speeding.

Obviously if you or the Cllrs feel I have missed anything or wish to direct any questions my way.

Also feel free to pass out the email address for the Totnes team to your parishioners –

TOTNES@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

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Natalie Booth
Totnes Neighbourhood

6. Report from Ella Briens DNPA ranger

South Brent Parish Meeting Report from DNPA Ranger Ella Briens March 2023

There are proposed changes within Dartmoor National Park Authority responding to the financial challenge of reduced core income and rising costs, therefore we have undertaken a business review that has been accepted resulting in restructuring and redundancies. You may have seen that the proposals include shutting down the Princetown VC (although we are now able to keep it running using some last-minute additional funds, but this will only be temporary). We are however seeking to diversify and grow our income streams - like the planned establishment of a charity that will be able to bid for funds that we (as a public body) are not eligible for, to run projects on the moor. I have been asked by other local Councils how best to support us regarding keeping our award-winning visitor centre at Princetown open, and any letters of support in the first instance would be greatly received on the matter.

Changes within the Ranger team – Local Assistant Ranger Ethan Parsons who has been working with us over 2021 and 2022 is thrilled as his position is to be made permanent. Ranger Paul Glanville retired and continues to help us as a volunteer warden, and Ranger Ian Brooker has also retired. These sector Ranger posts are not being replaced so Rangers are going to have to take on larger areas to manage the shortfalls. I will be taking on a new position within the team as Deputy Head Ranger from April – this post was created to help Simon Lee in his role as Ranger Team Manager, becoming Head Ranger. I will still retain a sector and this will include South Brent. So, covering the South Brent parish are Ella and Ethan, and our Head Ranger is Simon Lee slee@dartmoor.gov.uk. You will also see Andrea Roberts as she works in the neighbouring parishes together with neighbouring Rob Steemson and Assistant Ranger Stuart Hoopel (who runs the nearby Horns and Dendles volunteer work parties in Cornwood).

Volunteer Wardens – thank you to our local VW's who help us out and continue to support Rangers with patrolling, Youth Rangers, local events like ditch-digging (such as the ones we ran at Shipley Bridge with Ivybridge Community College last month), litter-picking, fire-pit restoration, surveying rights of way and mapping swales and wildfires – Jo Burgess, Tim Ferry, Gordon Flower, Nigel Philips, Ian Johnson, Tim Brook and Janet Bombach have all been working around the South Brent area this year – Thank you 😊.

Public Rights of Way remain an important area of our work and as a reminder DNPA are responsible under a delegated agreement with DCC for roadside signage and the paths surface. Technically field furnishings (stiles and gates), fallen trees and overgrowing vegetation are the responsibility of the landowner - but we do what we can to help. **See CamsWeb** – <https://prow.dartmoor.gov.uk> – where you can report a problem and track issues on Public Rights of way. Do let us know of any fingerposts (especially roadside) that require replacement by contacting Ella directly. This year we are using a new ArcSpeed phone App to survey routes and photograph all infrastructure.

Patrolling and CSAS – Very busy visitor periods for the Ranger Service often equal a rise in issues like littering, camping in the wrong places, vehicle parking that blocks gates and highways, erosion and damage (especially from firepits) and dogs chasing livestock. We have sadly seen an increase in abuse and challenges, and we have been utilising bodycams as part of our tool kit together with the numerous yellow signs (which have currently been taken down for the Winter but will be returning from Easter). Nevertheless, most people are respectful of the moors and recognise how lucky we are to have them on our doorstep!

DNPA Byelaw review - The aim here is to simplify and update the byelaws that were originally adopted in 1989 - in consulting we have received over 4000 responses (for each amendment) and the final draft has been considered at a special Authority meeting however this work is now on hold. Due to a separate High Court challenge on people's right to Wild camp, this byelaw will not be currently amended (and remains as it is) until the legal action is concluded – currently under application to appeal but landowners have agreed and given permission regarding areas where people can partake in no-trace camping (there is an on-line map of the areas with permission).

Youth Rangers – following the success of the Ranger Ralph club (5-12year olds), we then started Junior Rangers (12-16year olds) and are now still also running a Youth Ranger Programme (16 years plus) which could lead onto a DNPA apprenticeship! **Engagement Ranger** Emily Cannon has been working locally with the Youth Ranger team so if you know any interested young Rangers do get them to contact the new Youth Ranger Officer Andy Bailey (who will be taking over from Emily in April) on abailey@dartmoor.gov.uk. Local YR projects have included working on the nearby historic Addicombe settlements above Ivybridge– bracken bashing the sites, and also Natural Flood Management building of wooden dams constructed below Hangershell. We have also been working with Ivybridge Community College as mentioned above with successful litter-picks, ditch digs and track maintenance.

Mervyn Newman has continued to work locally on the Dartmoor Invasive Species Project. Thank you to local Brent parishioners for their support in eradicating Himalayan Balsam and American Skunk Cabbage with particular reference to Sustainable South Brent members who have come along to (the often very

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muddy!) work parties that have kindly been promoted locally. As soon as I hear how the project is going to be taken forward, I will keep you all posted (originally funded by the Moor Otters Arts trail).

Additional fascinating project work has been taking place locally with **Tamsin Thomas who has been continuing with Our Common Cause Project** (working on Ugborough and Harford Moor). Here is a link to the project <https://foundationforcommonland.org.uk/dartmoor> for information, but in a nutshell Our Common Cause - Our Upland Commons is a £3 million project, helping to secure the future of upland commons in England. Ending summer 2024, 12 commons across four parts of the country are involved, including three in Dartmoor. It is led by the Foundation for Common Land. The project is made possible by funding from National Lottery players, grants from Esmée Fairbairn and Garfield Weston Foundations. Plus input from local funders, South West Water, the Duchy of Cornwall, the Dartmoor Preservation Association, Devon Wildlife Trust, Dartmoor National Park Authority and Dartmoor Commoners' Council. Tamsin's email is: Tamsin@foundationforcommonland.org.uk.

I have also started to look at local areas with regards to **Natural Flood Management** – we had a successful pilot project creating different micro-dams out of stone, willow and oak, run by officer Kerry Smith - and I helped her with works on Lambsdown, Buckfastleigh West. This work will now also include the nearby Erme and the Yealm catchments - so do get in contact if you would like more information. You can email officers Kerry or Angelique on: ksmith@dartmoor.gov.uk or Angelique McBride on amcbride@dartmoor.gov.uk The Erme and Yealm are also two of our priority catchments for **Nature Recovery** so we are starting to speak to people (land managers / farmers / foresters) about how they would like to be engaged and participate. We will be offering advice, funding and looking to form cluster and catchment groups. This is not just about nature, we are offering a more integrated approach to delivery so are interested in speaking to landowners and managers about their interests and how we could support collaborative working. Do contact Chris Giles if you would like more information on nature recovery: cgiles@dartmoor.gov.uk

Our **Peatland Restoration team** (led by David Leach) completed last year the restoration of 22ha of peatland habitat at nearby Left Lake which straddles the boundary of nearby Harford & Ugborough Moors. Blocking old drainage ditches using peat blocks, timber blocks covered with peat and in one very deep ditch, granite. Restoration will raise the water table and conserve the peat by keeping it wet. Over time this will reduce carbon emissions from the degraded peat that has been dried by historic drainage. There are other benefits for biodiversity, water quality, flood mitigation and the historic environment (conserving pollen and other indicators of past environmental condition and land use in the peat). David can be contacted on dleach@dartmoor.gov.uk. I have been amazed how the work has 'blended in' although you will easily see the stone dams in place at Leftlake.

FIPL – Farming in Protected Landscapes - has everyone heard about the grant scheme open to agricultural landowners? Rangers have been promoting the scheme and encouraging landowners to make applications. Do look at our webpages for details. Grants are still available...

For information, a link to the **Dartmoor Hill Farm Project** latest newsletter can be found here: [LATEST NEWS | Dartmoor Hill Farm Project](#)

7. Wildanet Update

Report from Amanda Pennington

Wildanet are a Cornish company based in Liskeard who are building a full fibre network in Devon and Cornwall. Created in 2017 with around 20 employees, in December 2020 Wildanet secured £50 million of investment to build the network. This enabled the company to invest locally, expand rapidly creating good quality local jobs and address digital exclusion by building full fibre internet access to hard to reach areas. According to ONS (Office for National Statistics) Devon has 78,000 residents who have never been online. With improved infrastructure Wildanet aims to close the digital divide and bring better connectivity to North Devon.

Wildanet currently have 160+ employees and will be recruiting a further 70+ in 2023. In January 2023, Wildanet were awarded 2 Project Gigabit contracts worth £36 million by the Government department Building Digital UK, to level up hard to reach premises in Cornwall and deliver next generation connectivity. Similar Project Gigabit contracts are about to be announced for Devon which will help it's hard to reach areas get connected.

Wildanet like to make sure that they keep as many people informed about construction work in the areas where they are building, and that is why we are here today. Wildanet are building to 1,000 + premises in South Brent and these will be a mixture of residential and commercial/business premises. The infrastructure is being built in preparation for the 2025 copper wire/ISDN switch off so that people will have time to get their digital phones and internet access sorted out prior to this.

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Wildanet's build partner in South Brent is MMB, who have already started working in a few locations around town. The aim is to keep any disruption to a minimum, though by its nature construction work can cause temporary inconvenience. If there are any concerns locally please pass on our freephone customer services number 0800 0699906 or ask them to email the team via hello@wildanet.com

Wildanet will conduct a public engagement meeting when the build is nearing completion, so residents and local businesses will be able to come in and chat to Wildanet colleagues about what services will be available to them. We like to find a local public building that is accessible to hold the event (please suggest suitable if you can) and a local cake baker who can provide teas and coffees (also any local suggestion would be most welcome)

Wildanet also want to provide a free ultra-fast internet connection to a local community building that is on our build, to create a digital community hub so the community can benefit from free internet access – again any suggestions most welcome.”

4.Chairman’s Annual Report including reports from Parish Council Committees.

I will now put before you reports covering this past year from our Chairmen of Committees:

Chairman’s Parish Report for 2022/23 Cllr Glyn Richards

We have endured another year of challenges, Lucy Bruckner resigned as Clerk to the Council in December, replaced with Jane Sullivan in January and we lost three councillors. We give our grateful thanks to Lucy, Jill Cruz, Ian O’Connor and Rachel Rafiqi. This brings the number of Councillors that have left since the election in 2019 to eight along with two Clerks, most citing difficulties in dealing with a particularly challenging Councillor.

Our various committees have met as and when it was necessary, and the Parish Council has met many times to conduct Parish Business.

These are the reports covering this past year from our Chairs of Committees and working groups:

a. Planning, Cllr. Richard Fone

This is my second year in post as Chairman of this committee. As was the case last year, these figures refer to the 2022 calendar year.

Applications details

- 33 Planning applications were received, down by 3 on the previous year
- 22 Planning Applications were in Dartmoor National Park Authority area: 21 were granted and 1 was withdrawn
- 11 Planning Applications were in South Hams District Council Area: 8 were granted, 2 refused and 1 permitted development

None of the planning decisions made by the planning authorities differed from the view of the Parish Council Planning Committee.

Application by type

4 (4 in 2021) Commercial Applications
4 (8 in 2021) Agricultural Applications
25 (24 in 2021) Householder Applications

Changes

There has been a slight fall (down 3) in applications compared to 2021. As in previous years, householder applications form the majority of the applications (25). Commercial applications remain the same (4) but there has been a drop of 4 in Agricultural applications. It is really encouraging to see that the recommendations of the Parish Council Planning Committee completely agreed with all the decisions of the two planning authorities. Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Planning Committee for their service to the community this year.

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b. Finance & Human Resources, Cllr. Alastair Childs.

Unfortunately, Alastair Childs, Chairman of the Finance and Human Resources Committee is on holiday, so I have added these details.

The Precept request for 2023-2024 is £88,700, increased from £83,625. This shows an increase of 6%. However, when the recalculation of the Council Tax Base caused by recent new housing is taken into account the actual increase is closer to 2%.

Through careful management of reserves, the parish council has been able to minimise this year's precept request against its working budget.

Alongside Local Project and Community Benefit Funding, Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) empower local authorities to make contributions to certain charitable funds **and** not for profit bodies providing public service in the UK.

Examples of Local Projects are funding for Community Buildings or Allotments, just to mention a couple. The Community Benefit Fund has provided small grants of up to £250 to several local organisations. As this fund is due to come to an end shortly, we are in contact with the Solar Farm Operating Company, to enquire if this could be extended as it provided extremely valuable financial support to so many local groups.

Parishioners are always welcome to attend Finance & Human Resources Committee meetings with any queries and can view our meeting agendas on the village notice boards and online accompanied by minutes of the meetings.

c. Land and Estates, Cllr. Peter Kelly.

The Stockbridge Lane Toilets that are owned by the Parish Council and cleaned under contract by South Hams District continue to be well used. The door closer on the Gents Toilet door disappeared during November, this has been replaced and is working satisfactorily. Some damage has occurred to the Disabled Toilet, which is currently being repaired. All the toilets were decorated both inside and out by the Community Payback Team from the Probation Service. The Playpark Toilets/Shelter which are also cleaned by South Hams were also decorated both inside and out by the Community Payback Team.

The Toll House which is owned by the Council has had no problems this year, the clock continues to be serviced every year by the manufacturer.

All the seats and signs in the parish are inspected and any repairs or refurbishment carried out. The bench at Splatton has been replaced with a new bench.

The three bus shelters are all regularly inspected. This year all the Bus shelters have been decorated both inside and out, again by the Community Payback Team. It is hoped to re-decorate the shelters on an annual basis.

Also, various grass areas are cut by contractors employed by the Parish Council, this is supported by payments from South Hams District Council and Devon County Council for the areas in their ownership. A new specification for the Grass Cutting has been written, this includes for control of those areas that the grass can be allowed to grow along with any wildflowers. There has also been appointed a contractor to use a high temperature non-chemical foam system to clear the weeds and vegetation from the gutters and pavements in the centre of the village.

The Council continues to employ a Lengthsman to keep the drains and gulley clear in the more rural areas of the Parish.

Inspection of Railway Wood and Cutting at the Recreation Ground is carried out on a regular basis. This is an area that continues to be well used by families and other walkers.

The Councils in association with the SSB 4B's group the Vision 2020 report is being progressed, various areas previously earmarked for possible enhancement using suitable trees, bushes and wildflowers have been progressed. After consultation with the residents, the areas to be enhanced will be the Queen Mothers Garden in Clobells, the Playpark at Sanderspool Cross. It is hoped to make a start on the garden area at the Entrance to Chapel Fields in the near future.

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The Jubilee Memorial in Wellington Square has been cleaned and refurbished, it is now cleaned on a yearly service contract. The cobbles in Wellington Square will be cleaned by the Contractor in the coming year using the hot foam method.

The Playpark at Sanderspool Cross, which is well used by families has been inspected on a monthly basis, with several items of equipment being repaired with replacement of worn or damaged parts. The small gate onto Exeter Road has been replaced and is now operational.

The Parish Plan has been reviewed for key items that will require the attention of the Land and Estates Committee and are regularly reviewed.

The Land and Estates Committee continue to be responsible for any other items that the Parish Council deems to pass to the Land and Estates Committee.

d. Parish Tree Warden – Cllr. Lisette Granados – no report received.

Media Working Group, Cllr David Hancock

The Media Working Group has met when necessary, throughout the year and continued to produce the Parish Newsletter four times a year. The newsletter is available online and emailed to subscribers (via the sign-up on the website). There are also 200 copies printed and distributed at prominent sites in the village, such as the Toll House

Platinum Jubilee Working Group, Cllr Cathie Pannell

I am pleased to report that the majority of the events sponsored by the Parish Council to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from 2nd to the 5th June were a great success and much appreciated by Parish residents, despite the horrendous weather on the Saturday which saw a thunderstorm of almost Biblical proportions.

Alongside the planning in the months beforehand we also arranged the supply of red, white and blue flowers for the planters around the village, most of which were in flower in time for the events. The programme began with a well-attended Bingo evening at the Palstone Pavilion on Wednesday 1st June. Thursday saw some of us dressing the village for a party with bunting, and the judging of the best dressed window and garden competitions, won by Goldie's Dog Boutique and Spa and Anne Collier respectively.

On the Friday evening more than 100 people enjoyed our Film and Fashion Show in the Village Hall. We screened the colour film of the Coronation – A Queen is Crowned – and staged what turned out to be a very popular Fashion Show displaying costumes in vogue during the Queen's lifetime – from the 1920s to the 2020s. Thanks to the Village Hall and the Dramatic Society for organising this.

Saturday morning dawned with threatening weather, which became steadily worse. By 11am a violent thunderstorm seemed to be stationed over South Brent, with constant lightning and torrential rain. Eventually we had no option but to move the Street Party into St. Petroc's Church, because of both the rain and the danger from the constant lightning strikes. In the event this turned out to be a highly popular venue, with some 200 people attending over two hours, several of whom admired the church building which they hadn't been in before. We enjoyed a bring and share lunch, with some beautifully decorated and delicious cake, and a constant supply of teas, coffees and soft drinks by courtesy of the South Brent Women's Group (formerly the WI). Our thanks to the Vicar for enabling this, and to the bell ringers who rang in celebration both for this and other events over the weekend.

By 12 noon the Palstone Park Recreation Ground was under water, and we had no option but to call off the children's sports and family games, and the Bouncy Castle, as these would all have been too dangerous. We were happily able to continue with the children's art activities in the Pavilion, which were thoroughly enjoyed by about 40 youngsters (and their parents). Our thanks to the Scouting Organisations, who had planned the sports afternoon and arranged a variety of activities. We hope they will keep their template for another such occasion.

The climax of the celebrations came on Sunday 5th June, with a very well attended – by some 150 people – Civic Service in St. Petroc's Church. Thanks to the Vicar and Churchwardens, the church choir who

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sang the special Platinum Jubilee Anthem, and to Cllr. Kelly for representing the Parish Council as our Chairman was away.

By the afternoon we were blessed with better weather and blue skies for the arrival of Common Players to present their open-air production of Alice in Wonderland at Palstone Park. This attracted an audience of some 400, with a large proportion being families with children, and proved to be a great hit. We rounded off the afternoon with a barbecue and a live music performance by the local band Ukelective. This was another great success, with around 200 people staying to relax in the sunshine. Our thanks to the Palstone Park Recreation Committee for their help and assistance with all the events at the Rec, and to those who ran the barbecue.

Finally, a very big thank you to the other members of the Working Group – Cllr. Johnston, Sue Astal-Stain, Paul Astal-Stain, Nat Cook, Jane Sullivan, Cllr. Guy Pannell and our Clerk Lucy who also attended some meetings and gave us advice and support. We are grateful to all the other members of our community who helped at the various events. We couldn't have done it without them. Thanks also to our County and Districts Councillors who supported us financially, this amounted to £1000.00. I am pleased to report that nett expenditure on these events is likely to be around two and half thousand pounds – that's half our budget of five thousand pounds. Even after adding the costs for the Jubilee plaque and bench (less fixing) total expenditure on the Jubilee is likely to be less than three and a half thousand pounds.

Beating the Bounds working Group, Cllr Katherine Johnston.

A working group headed by four councillors and aided by the Clerk have held two Beating of the Bounds working group meetings, the last via Zoom, when we were glad that Tim Harvey could join us from Mexico.

It was decided that the northern (moorland) bound of the parish will be beaten on September 23rd 2023 and the southern bound possible the year following. Booking will be on Eventbrite before the event.

Tokens and registration will take place at Heathstone Head where a programme with a map will be given out and walkers will be counted in at Bullhornstone. The day will end with refreshment in a local hostelry.

Dogs will be allowed if kept on a short lead but horses, for safety sake, are not permitted.

The parish council is grateful for the help given so far from parishioners who attended the meetings. A lot more help will be needed before and on the day to make this historic occasion a fun day and a good re-enactment of an ancient tradition.

I thank all Councillors and our new Clerk Jane Sullivan for their hard work. I also wish to thank John Shepherd for his work on both the Parish Council and Community website after years of valued service. We are also very grateful to our County Councillor Dan Thomas and our two District Councillors, Peter Smerdon and Guy Pannell for their very regular attendance at Parish Council meetings and for their assistance on so many matters.

As you may be aware there will be an election on Thursday 4th May 2023 and I would encourage everyone to consider standing for election to the Parish Council and also to make their voice heard by casting their vote.

Thank You

Cllr. Glyn Richards.
Chairman, South Brent Parish Council.

8. Presentations from organisations which have received a grant of £500 or more from the parish council or the Community Benefit Fund during the financial year 2021-2022:

- a. **Sustainable South Brent.** No representative attended.
- b. **The Recreation Association.** Report from Peter Kelly. SBRA Report on Grants Received from the Parish Council 2022/2023

Footpath

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As with any large projects which take place at the Rec we have learnt to be patient. The footpath project has been no different. After 7 years it is very satisfying to report that the footpath was completed in October 2022. We are grateful to the Parish Council for their contribution of the final £2,000 to enable the footpath to be completed. We also acknowledge the many grants received from other sources including, Devon County Council (Public right of way dept), DNPA, both County and District Councillors and some of the S106 monies from South Hams, as well as a small contribution from the Rec Association. The cost of the stage 2 & 3 was £48,892, including the ramps and the Stage 1 the overall cost of the complete footpath was over £67,000.

We are pleased that the project has been well received by the community and has certainly improved access so everyone can enjoy the open space.

Multi Games Court Cleaning.

With the help of a £1,000 grant from the Parish Council we have been able to have the courts cleaned and re-sanded which will prolong the life of the carpet. The facility is generally free to use and is very well used by all ages.

Thank you to all Parish Councillors who give up a Wednesday evening to attend our committee meetings. We are grateful for their time and input. But finally, the Association is most grateful to the continued support of the Parish Council in keeping the Recreation Ground available to all Parishioners.

c. Ivybridge Youth for Christ bus *Bridge Project (Youth Bus)*. Report from Katy.

Huge thank you to South Brent Parish Council for supporting the Youth Bus. We come to the village every Wednesday and play games either inside the bus or outside if the weather holds, provide hot chocolate and a place to meet and chat. The money goes towards equipment, and upkeep of the bus. We support 55 people aged between 11- 18 years old since 2019.

d. *Arthouse*. No representative attended.

e. *South Brent & District Caring*. Report from Susanne Archard.

South Brent & District Caring report for the Parish Council 22-23

Change of staff – Susanne Archard Coordinator since June 2022, previously Office Manager took over from Jane Sullivan. New team with Lucy Jonas as Office Manager, & Sue Gaskin recently started as Sessional Worker supporting groups.

We were awarded £3000 over three years from the PC, and this is the report for Y1. As the money is not ring fenced it is general report of our activities from April 22 – March 23.

We currently support over 100 volunteers to help deliver essential groups and services to local people. We couldn't do as much as we do without that volunteer army. And last year in May during the Jubilee week we were awarded the Queen's Award for voluntary service acknowledging the great service and dedication of these volunteers.

April 2022-March 2023 supported 110 people at 171 Groups, Like Coffee Morning, Foot Care, Lunch Club, Friends Day Wednesday incorporating the Memory café and Carers group. Lunch Club served 623 lunches, and 556 transports were carried out during this period. This is just an example of some of the work we do.

Still carrying out all other core work like befriending, form filling and help with paperwork, shopping, our groups, and bespoke personal support.

New developments this year Compassionate Café (bereavement café) – running since Sept 2022 following need recognised in the community by Community member Jean who has been bereaved herself. All volunteers trained by St Luke's Hospice and café runs 2x month on Saturdays. Seen as a model for other burgeoning groups wanting to offer similar in Tavistock and Ivybridge.

Walk and Talk – used to be with Walking for Health/ramblers now fully part of SBADC, all volunteers under our wing, and they have coffee in the warm space after. Weekly Group.

Operation Xmas – 70 cakes made by community members delivered to nominated people in village who might be isolated over Christmas. Also a bag of gifts all donated to us by the community, toiletries and chocolates etc. Very well received, lots of lovely feedback. Started in Covid lockdown, may continue again this year.

Warm Space – Collaboration with Sustainable South Brent. Developed after discussion with OSCC manager about their spaces, then SSB started to rent the Moor room and we were able to partner with SSB. Offered warm space Mon-Fri- 9.30 2pm from Dec 22 – end of March 2023, with games, chat, support, coffee morning, cost of living advice, digital support, hotdesking and device charging, Soup &

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Warm clothing, energy café event, health watch visit & SSB drop-in. All 12 volunteers trained and supported by staff cover. Partly funded by South Brent Community Energy Society & a Crowdfunder with Coop Warm Space Boost funding. Stats for visits – only Jan figs so far 112 visits average 8/day. Majority of people looking for connection & company.

Intend to offer a warm space again winter 22-23 in the same space and working towards keeping space open for Spring and Summer due to need.

For any more information about our activities and this report please contact Susanne on 01364 700282 or info@sbadc.org.uk

- f. **Explorer Scouts.** The Explorer Scouts presented at a previous Parish Council meeting. Tim Haley thanked the Parish Council for their financial support over the previous year. He explained that whilst Scouts was free to attend, some of the activities did require payment and the Parish Council money was used to help support those who cannot afford to pay. It is also used as seed money to allow the Scout leaders to book and pay deposits on activities, which is often repaid once the money has been recouped. There are currently around 70 in Scouts and 35 in explorer scouts, with a long waiting list. They would like to encourage leaders to come forward.
- g. **VRAA.** – Kay Reynolds attended and thanked the Parish council for their continued support. She will send photographs through of the new shared community shed, which replaced the dilapidated shed. The Parish council have contributed towards some tree surgery work done and are currently trying to get planning permission to install more solar panels.
- h. **South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau.** No representative attended.

9. Parishioners' questions. For parishioners of South Brent.

Discussion regarding the speed of vehicles in Exeter Road and pleased to note the police attendance to monitor this.

Cllr. Richards – thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 8.41pm.