**SHALBOURNE**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held at the Kingston Room, Thursday 20 May 2021 at 7.00 pm.**

**Minutes**

1. **Introduction**

Mike Lockhart, Chairman, welcomed those attending. The deeds of the village green were produced for inspection. He reported that the meeting in 2020 had to be cancelled as public gatherings of any size had been forbidden by the Covid legislation and no provision had been made for remote Parish Assemblies. The meeting this year had been reduced in scope to ensure Covid restrictions could be followed.

1. **Apologies**

None.

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were approved and the Chairman authorized to sign them.

1. **School Report**

The School Report, Attachment 1, was noted. It was reported that Jenni Blake would be stepping down as Chair of the School Governors. Tribute was paid to the work she had done.

1. **Shalbourne Relief Fund**

The accounts, Attachment 2, were noted.

1. **Shalbourne Connection**

It was reported that it was hoped to restart this soon.

1. **Village Hall**

It was reported that the hearing loop would be installed in the next sixweeks.

The meeting finished at 7.20pm.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**School Report**

**Shalbourne Church of England Primary School**

**The Annual Parish Assembly**

The Kingston Room, Thursday 20 May 2021 at 7.00 pm.

A strange year in the life of Shalbourne School but it continues to be a first-class centre for teaching and learning.

We are proud to be a church school and to be part of our village and wider community. We see our role as providing the best in education for every child, in a caring Christian environment that allows them all to develop their social and academic skills in preparation for their future. Working together in partnership with governors, parents, and the community, we strive to create a school environment that is worthy of all its children.

Jesus' parable of the Marvellous Mustard Seed is the Biblical underpinning of our school vision and core Christian values which are **compassion, honesty, resilience, and respect,** which our school community can articulate and discuss with meaning.

The past year has proved a real challenge, but we have maintained our high standards despite all the difficulties with the restrictions of the Covid-19 virus. Our active partnership with the local cluster schools which enables us to provide an enhanced and wide range of opportunities for the children in academic work, sport, music, and drama has necessarily been limited but contact is ongoing and will be fully resumed as soon as it is possible to do so.

Recent reports in the press and on social media have criticised the provision of food parcels for the recipients of free school meals. It may be justified in some cases, but here in Shalbourne it is a quite different picture. During the first lockdown, our usual provider of school meals was closed down and unable to supply the school and we were delighted that Polly Cox (Shalbourne Stores and Post Office) stepped in and provided some excellent food parcels for us until our regular supplier, Sue Brady, was able to take over again. Our weekly parcels were particularly good, with lots more food than the examples shown on TV. More importantly, our parents are happy with them.

Lockdown changes advised at the last moment, for example on the Sunday before school was due to re-open on Monday after the Christmas break; meant that our staff have been exceptionally busy and worked in their own time to be ready for the children to return. As well as preparing these lessons for the children of key workers who were actually in school, they produced separate ones for those children being home-schooled via online platforms. You could say, they are doing twice the amount of preparation and work.

In school the supervision is increased to maintain all the extra hand washing, cleaning etc. but also to keep the children learning and happy; these are strange times for young children to understand. Meanwhile, help is provided to the home schoolers; frequent interaction from the teachers followed up by supporting phone calls as necessary to ensure that online learning is as interesting and as stress free (for parents too!) as possible. Our safeguarding role is enhanced too as regular checks must be made to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the children. **Update**: *This report was written in February, currently, all children are back in school and our attendance levels are back to normal.*

Revd. Jo and Revd. Colin take an active part in the life of the school despite the current restrictions. The board of Governors were delighted to welcome Revd. Colin as our ex-officio foundation governor and hope that he will be able to develop the parish’s relationship with the school and help both groups towards a fuller understanding of how church and school can form a powerful Christian partnership.

Last July Miss West moved to a school closer to her home, we were sad to see her go but we were able to make a couple of interesting changes to the staffing. Mark Shearman who has been a regular supply teacher for us was able to stand in and continues to teach part time for us. Miss Richards has been appointed under the new apprenticeship scheme; this provides hands-on experience for new graduates and a chance to learn from excellent, experienced teachers during training, as well as the incentive of potential employment as a qualified teacher at the end of the apprenticeship course.

I repeat what I said last year, Shalbourne is a brilliant Church school because Head teacher, Mrs Ruth Matthews and the staff are totally dedicated to the welfare, achievement and spiritual wellbeing of all the pupils. As I write this report during the strange and unusual times of the Covid-19 pandemic the Parish Council and the community should be proud of their rather special village school and the extraordinary efforts being made to ensure that the welfare and safeguarding of the children is paramount.

Jennifer Blake 23rd February 2021

Chairman of the Governors Update: 16th May 2021

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**Shalbourne Relief Fund Accounts**

