

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 6th 2023

Those present: Cllrs J Musgrove (Chairman), C Pryke (Vice- Chair), S Eyres, S Morris, S Booth, D Goodrham and N Enderby.

1. Apologies for absence-

District Councillor M Nairn

2. To ratify the minutes-

To minutes were signed on May 5th 2022 as a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th April 2022.

3. Chairman's report-

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2023.

As some of you will be aware 2023 is the end of the four-year cycle as with Local Councils. All Parish Councillors have to be re-elected through the Breckland Council system. We are losing some councillors this time and we are actively looking for new councillors to join.

Election applications have now closed but we will be able to co-opt additional councillors after the May meeting and before the June meeting.

If anyone is interested in joining us then please contact the Clerk.

I would take this opportunity to thank councillors Goodrham, Enderby and Booth for their years as councillors. We also lost Councillor Allen during the year and again thank her for her support during her time as councillor. May I also thank the remaining councillors for their continued support throughout the year.

My thanks to Louise Morris our clerk. The job of chairman would be impossible without the Clerk's continued support and guidance. The Clerk is a permanent position of employment and does not have to be re-elected.

District Councillor Mike Nairn is retiring from the Council in May and we thank him for his continued support over the years and wish him well in his retirement. Our thanks also to County Councillor Fabian Eagle for his support during the year in particular assisting in financing the new drop curbs in Wissey View and The Malsters.

Our Christmas Tree switch on continued to be a success in 2022. The Parish Council changed to having three smaller trees rather than the one larger one. This made transportation, positioning and decorating much easier than when we had one large tree. We purchased new lights and decorations to accommodate the three trees. This seems to have been a great success commented on throughout the village. Many thanks to the supporters in 2022 for their efforts and donations to various charities. Many thanks to the supporters who assisted with the trees etc on the day.

The Mundford Pride Award has been awarded twice during the year to members of the village. To David Goodrham for his work in the village over the years and to Joan Griggs for her 50 years plus of playing the church organ.

The Platinum Jubilee was celebrated with various groups holding events in the village. The Parish Council purchased large quantity of bunting and table flags etc for the use of the various groups. The Scarecrow competition was a great success with the main prize being a family ticket to Banham Zoo. There is to be another scarecrow competition for the Coronation weekend. Details in the Messenger.

The Mundford Messenger continues to be much appreciated in the village. I would like to thank the team behind the production and delivery of the magazine for doing a great job.

Once again, our village looks a picture with all its floral displays only possible through councillor's hard work and our friends in the village who turn out every year to plant more bulbs. We planted a new tree adjacent to the Jubilee bed to commemorate the Queen's platinum jubilee.

The allotments continue to go from strength to strength. We have added additional allotments by dividing the larger ones into two allotments each. All twenty allotments are now occupied. Work has progressed on the allotment hut (previously the Scout Hut) with some new roofing and further gutters to provide the maximum amount of collected rain water for the use of the allotment holders. Additional facilities have been provided for storage of tools etc. The original brick-built storage building is now being used for the Parish Council gardening items using fuel as a safety precaution rather than the all-timber allotment hut.

The Parish Council has purchased two World War one commemorative items for the village. A new bench near the memorial near the roundabout and a new rubbish bin in St Leonards where the old phone box stood.

Signed by the Chairman _____ on Thursday May 11th 2023

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We have also purchased six new flower planters to replace the old wood half barrels. Three of these have been purchased with money bequeathed to the Parish Council specifically for floral garden items.

The Parish Council purchased a new small petrol mower to replace the very old one used by the church for cutting the areas around the graves. We have committed to replace the church fence onto Wissey View in the autumn this year.

The memorial has been cleaned during the year and requires some additional maintenance to the top section which will be carried out by Bretts from Watton later this year.

The defibrillator outside the Fish Bar has been fitted with a new illuminated box as the old one ceased to work. Our thanks to the Fish Bar proprietor for his continued support in providing the electricity for the box free of charge. It is good to see that we now have three defibrillators available to the public 24/7 in the village. The additional two being installed by the bowls club and football club.

The walking trails map on the village green has been relocated into a more accessible location as it required some maintenance. Our thanks to the trails and footpath department of the local council for their assistance.

I would also like to thank our band of litter pickers who meet every six weeks or so when it has been possible. Once the daffodils have finished, we will arrange the first litter pick of the season.

The Stanta Tour went ahead in 2022 and was, as usual oversubscribed and a great success. Our thanks to the Clerk for organising it. There will not be a Tour in 2023. The next being in August 2024.

Our thanks to the village church for accommodating our water tank and trailer for the flower beds during the winter months in their lock up with their mowers etc.

A quick note about finances. Our precept remained at £33,000 for 2022/2023 but will increase by inflation for 2023/2024 as per the end of year financial report.

Obviously like everyone else our costs related to energy for the office and the street lighting has increased considerably. We continue to finance the Community Car Scheme in conjunction with Breckland Council. Our thanks to Ann Shepherd for her hard work in scheduling the drivers every week.

We as a Parish Council try to be fair in all our support for local organisations whilst continuing with our responsibility to maintain street lighting, grass cutting, maintaining flower beds and general maintenance of the Council owned items around the village. Our monthly finances and bank balances are displayed on the Parish Notice board outside the shop every month following the Parish Meetings.

I would just like to make a few additional thank you's to everyone in the village who helps however small it is much appreciated. The Cricket Club and Bowls Club for the use of the facilities for our meetings. and once again to the Clerk for her endeavours throughout the year. May our village continue to prosper.

4. Open Forum

N/A

The meeting closed at 7.22pm.