

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF GREAT ELLINGHAM HELD AT THE RECREATION CENTRE ON 18 MAY 2022 AT 7.00PM

Present: Cllr Betts (Chair), Cllr S Mellor, Cllr Hadley, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Wishart, Cllr Ewin, 3 members of the public and the Clerk to the Parish Council, Melanie Eversfield, were also in attendance.

- 1. Welcome and introduction – Councillor Tim Betts, Chairman –** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed Councillors and parishioners.
- 2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2021 –** The minutes, circulated in advance of this meeting, were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
- 3. Chairman’s Annual Report -** The Chairman gave a detailed report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. (Appendix 1).
- 4. District Councillor’s Report –** District Councillor Suggitt could not attend the meeting but had sent a report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. (Appendix 2).
- 5. County Councillor’s Report –** County Councillor Connolly could not attend the meeting but had sent a report, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes. (Appendix 3).
- 6. Reports from Village Organisations:**

Chit Chat Group – Ann Reeve

Although Ann could not attend the meeting, she sent the following report:

Our numbers are still stable around 35 each week however it would be nice if we could get back to the 50 or so a week who used to meet before Covid hit the country, however we are quite well known around the area and recently have had newcomers from Caston, Rocklands and Attleborough. We will be doing another leaflet drop to all the new houses in the village over the next couple of months. We appreciate that most of the group are of retirement age, but we stress that Chit Chat is for all ages therefore we welcome men and women of any age. to call in on a Wednesday morning.

We just ask for £1 a session to cover tea/coffee. We have once again started to sell plants, bric-a-brac, cards, books and other goodies plus our weekly raffle is a huge success.

We have 2 trips forthcoming. One on June 14th to Holt and then travelling to Sandringham and the other on August 11th, where we intend spending the day in Sheringham. Most of the group will be going to the afternoon performance of ‘Wait Until Dark’ at the Little Theatre. If we have spare seats, then we welcome other villagers to join us to make up numbers. An advert will be put in The Pump and in The Post Office if there are spare seats. Now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted we have just started planning our monthly

trips to local restaurants which is important because it is something for so many folk to look forward to.

Much knowledge is shared at Chit Chat from health concerns, local news and what is going on in and around the immediate and wider community. We all try and help each other; we listen to each other's concerns and much laughter is shared amongst us. We especially welcome newcomers to the village and genuinely assure anyone new they will be made very welcome. We are always planning to keep everyone 'on their toes' and enjoy the happiness which Chit Chat brings to so many people.

Ann Reeve & The Chit Chat Group: 07733211410/01953 882065

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I myself will be moving back to Great Ellingham early June, thus I will be more accessible to group members. Ann Reeve

Green Fingers Gardening Club – David Edgar

Although David could not attend the meeting, he sent the following report:

This report covers 2020 and 2021 up to the present date in 2022.

Activities have been severely impacted by the pandemic. We managed to follow our programme up to March 2020 but then activities were suspended until August 2021.

Membership and attendance were understandably affected in the early months but is recovering. We now have 38 members with another 3 or 4 due to join in the next month.

The club continues to meet at the Crown during the winter months (Thanks to William Mason) and an extensive and varied programme of visits has been planned for the summer months.

Recent indoor meetings covered topics as diverse as "Re-wilding" and "Carnivorous plants" and our summer outings started with a visit to a garden just north of Dereham.

Planning has been continuous with meeting dates having to be postponed when not possible.

Membership is constantly evolving with the influx of people to the village and there have been some changes to the committee.

Mike McBride has taken over as Chair with Vicki Smedley remaining as Vice Chair. Liz Wigg is a new committee member. She joins an unchanged team of Peter Clayton (New members), Karen Roseberry (Communications), Sarah Green (Secretary) and myself to make up the full committee. Planning future talks and visits remains the main focus of regular meetings.

Karen, a key member of the committee with an extensive network of garden owners and gardening experts has continued to maintain our own web site "greenfingersgardeningclub.org", as well as designing our annual programme leaflet. She designs and submits "Pump" and "Rocklander" inserts and is also responsible for email communications which include beautifully illustrated meeting reminders.

The Committee has organised member discount arrangements with Walnut Tree Nurseries and Wymondham Garden Centre. The Club is an associate member of the Royal Horticultural Society and is a member of the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society.

Recreation Centre – Report from Richard Ewin

Back up and running since covid – pre-school was only hirer during covid – couldn't access as many grants as some Village Hall's. Were able to access £8,000 in other grants. Groups have started to come back to the Hall – Pre-school are looking to extend where they have the play area so they can then have a mini forest school. It cannot take any more numbers though.

Upkeep of building ongoing no major projects.

Big event coming up for Platinum Jubilee celebrations – Thursday to Sunday.

Adi used to attend meetings need someone else now. Mark Hadley is the new rep. Several members joined the committee, so numbers are good, about 18 now. Planning the bonfire for this year with a mixture of loud and silent fireworks.

Great Ellingham Cricket Club – Report from Richard Ewin

Cricket Club going well, senior team on Saturday and a friendly team on Sundays and a midweek team, under 15, 13, 11, 9 teams, a ladies' team and potentially a girls' team. All-star's dynamo – 20 signed up 5-8 years dynamos 8-11 will start after half term on a Friday evening. Won every match so far and all going well. Has been an issue for several years where the odd ball will end up in someone's greenhouse. This year had 2 in quick succession so gone to Norfolk cricket board who will come and assess and see what can be done to prevent this in future.

Great Ellingham Primary School – Report from Julie Dekker (Executive Headteacher)

It was noted that there are 181 children at the school at present which means it is over capacity and proving quite a challenge.

The school welcomed its first Ukrainian refugee who lives in the village and is settling in well.

There will be more job adverts for at least 3 TA's for the children with special needs etc. There is a healthy budget so putting that into staffing.

Rosie Hall has been at the school for 17 years and has now moved on. The school are sad to see her go but new teacher has been recruited.

At Easter Callum Richards has been moved from deputy to head of the federation and is Lead teacher at both schools.

Kayleigh Blake is the new deputy.

A lot of time is being taken up with safeguarding.

Both schools are overdue Ofsted, which is tiring and no warning really.

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee – Federation Day next Friday – street party at lunchtime 77 at Rocklands and 181 at Great Ellingham. They will also plant a tree in the forest school area, a crab apple tree with a plaque. It was noted that the Platinum Jubilee mugs that the Council have arranged will be handed out on the Friday morning.

St James' Church – Report from Charles Mason

For the past year there has been a revised service pattern: one Sunday a month 10.30am and 4pm on other three Sundays. Charles will become a Church Warden.

Rev Christina Mason has retired leaving Sue Strutt as the only registered priest.

Norwich Diocese is having financial problems and therefore reorganising again – sherlock benefice will be joined with Hingham – 13 churches with one priest and a team. This may take years to happen but may lose sherlock identity.

Bob Cobb winds clock and had a nasty accident – major lasting problem with his leg and a lot of issues. Closed bell ringers tower off to stop people.

Church tower lights for xmas would like to raise some money for a more permanent solution as the wiring is an extension lead from the vestry to a gang plug – served well but needs sorting – could cost several thousand pounds. Not ideal. Would be looking to see if the PC would contribute to it.

Deopham Green – thank you for donation – book all done and will bring along to next meeting to show us. Still trying to sort the museum bits.

Thank you for contribution towards the grass cutting.

7. Matters of concern to Parishioners – There were no matters of concern.

8. To confirm the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting as 19 April 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

APPENDIX 1

Annual Parish Council Meeting 2022 - Chairman's report

1. Thank you to our clerk, Melanie; to parish councillors; to our County Councillor, Ed & to our District Councillor, Sarah for their contributions and support.
2. I have continued to deliver 'letters of welcome' to new residents. These are triggered when new residents appear on the Electoral Roll. However, for the large developments, I have and will find a new resident to deliver them as soon as someone moves in. e.g., Ellingham Green - Samantha Perkins – my thanks to her.
3. After several years as parish councillor, Adie Partridge has resigned for personal reasons, we thank her for her service.
4. I have been in frequent contact with the various developers presently engaged in major projects. I am pleased to report that they have been very helpful so far. Issues have arisen but solutions have been implemented quickly.
5. The Speedwatch Group started up again in May 2021. We are a small group of 9 people who hold a session every week. If anyone thinks the village has a speeding issue, don't complain – join us!
6. The Parish Council bought a new Speed Indicator Device in May via the Parish Partnership scheme. The extra messages of "Thank you" or "Slow Down" seem to be having a good effect.
7. Again, via the Parish Partnership scheme, the PC has invested in three more village gateways. These will be erected once the various developments, near to the entrances to the village, have been completed. They are designed to re-enforce to drivers that they are entering a built-up area with a 30mph speed limit.
8. The PC has assessed several planning applications during the year. Any submission to Breckland Council includes a clause to ensure the village's Dark Sky status is maintained.
9. Our village school has a roll of 175. It presently has 181 pupils. We are working on a project to build two new classrooms, which will go some way toward enabling new families to have their children educated in our excellent primary school.
10. The PC contributed £300 to the Pre-school Charity in May and regularly encourages groups to apply for funds for special projects.
11. In May the PC bought two new general waste bins. The scourge of litter continues to blight the village however, despite the residents who go out regularly litter-picking. We thank them for their efforts.
12. The project to build the roundabout at the junction of the B1077 / C136 was completed last summer. Whilst it caused a lot of disruption, it has improved the flow of traffic, but it has left us with a challenge to create a safe school crossing. In the short-term this was done by recruiting an additional crossing guide. A more permanent solution is under discussion with NCC Highways. The roundabout will be planted in the Spring '22; the cost will be covered by a donation from a local business.
13. The PC paid for the church clock, which is a war memorial, to be repaired and for the clock face to be re-gilded.
14. Elizabeth Burrows, the Chairman of the Attleborough Health, Care and Well-being Trust made a presentation to the PC. The discussions lead to the PC making a

contribution of £1,000 to the charity and Cllr. Neill Wishart agreed to join the board of trustees.

15. In April 2022 two new bus services were introduced. It will now be possible to leave the village at 2pm arriving in Norwich at 2:30pm & catch a return bus at 5:25pm at Norwich Bus Station.
16. The PC agreed to pay for the binding of a book which commemorates WWII.
17. The PC contributed £163 to the newly formed Needlecraft Group.
18. As the area to the South of the village will join the Civil parish at the next election, the Chairman has been reporting any issues that have arisen to the PC. These include planning applications by PF Southgate; D Reynolds; Anglian Demolition. Plus, the reinstatement of the advance warning signs of the weight restriction in Wroo Road on the A11.
19. The PC hosted a Tea Party at the Crown for members of the GE Covid-19 Support Group and the chairman presented a plaque to its leader Gail Dorrington.
20. The PC bought 200 "Slow down in our village" bin stickers.