

ILKETSHALL ST MARGARET PARISH MEETING

These are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd May 2022 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Alastair Tomkin, Chairman, Juliet Haley, Georgina Mayhew, Roger Webb, Brenda Mace, Julia Coles, Ann McVicar, Jane Waring, Clerk and 13 village residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Judy Cloke and Ann Heason

2. Current Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her hard work and Raymond Todd for giving his time and expertise on making the smart new noticeboard for High Street. He also thanked Valerie Carroll for undertaking the annual internal audit. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

3. Election of New Parish Meeting Committee

Invitations to serve the meeting were responded to by Mrs. Mace, Mr. Tomkin, Mr. Webb, Mrs. Mayhew, Mrs. McVicar, Miss Haley, Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Coles. This being maximum number of members allowed, these members were thanked for their offer and elected 'en bloc' by Karen O'Brien and seconded by Rob Hardman.

4. Election of Chairman

The current Chairman stood down having completed his initial 2-year term and Cllr David Ritchie kindly took the Chair for the election of the new Chairman. Alastair Tomkin being the only applicant for Chairman was elected unanimously.

5. Minutes of the Previous Half-Yearly Meeting – November 2021

The minutes of last year's Half-Yearly Meeting number 158 were read by the Clerk, proposed as correct by Roger Webb and seconded by Valerie Carroll.

6. Matters Arising

Pig Farms – Springfield and Green Farm

The Clerk had contacted the Council with the meeting's concerns, as had other residents regarding the planning application for the new waste-water storage facility, however permission has been granted for this work.

7. Review of the Constitution

The Clerk handed round copies of the proposed amended Constitution and explained that the meeting had wanted to update the document to reflect current practices. The Clerk ran through the proposed changes, and these were approved unanimously.

8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts

Hard copies of the audited statement of accounts were passed to everyone and the Clerk identified and explained each item of income and expenditure. Valerie Carroll had undertaken the internal audit again this year and was thanked.

The Clerk reported the balance at the bank on the 31st of March 2022 had amounted to £2,307.71 and this has been brought forward to the new financial year, 2022/23.

The Clerk mentioned that the paperwork on which the annual statement of accounts is based, could be perused after the meeting. On asking for proposal acceptance of the figures, these were proposed by Ann McVicar and seconded by Juliet Haley.

The Clerk ran through the Accounting Statements as included in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and acceptance was unanimous by those present. These accounts will now be held as a public record and a certificate of exemption will be sent to the Government auditors.

A commencement date for the exercise of public rights for inspecting the records was agreed as 30th June and a notice will be displayed by the Clerk accordingly.

9. Current Financial Position

The Clerk updated the meeting that after several months the bank account had been successfully moved to Natwest. The signatories are Alastair Tomkin, Ann McVicar and Jane Waring, Parish Clerk, as responsible finance officer. The Clerk also has online access. The move from HSBC had been due to charges of £5/month and Natwest are only charging 35p per transaction, which should amount to less than £5 per year.

Having paid the SALC subscription, Clerks expenses and bank charges for May, and having received this year's precept of £750, the current balance is £2,976.61. The attendees approved the transactions since the previous Meeting in accordance with the Constitution.

10. Planning Matters

The meeting had been consulted regarding an application to demolish a rear single storey extension and replace with a part single storey and part two-storey extension at Tithe Farm, High Street. No objections had been raised by the Meeting but this was still awaiting a decision.

The Clerk mentioned that although the meeting was not a consultee there is a current application for change of use at the Forge, Low Street. This includes changing a utility room into a kitchen to allow up to 4 people at any time as a holiday let for 12 months per year. The application is ref: DC/22/1689/FUL and expires 8th June. No objections were raised.

11. Highways

No current issues. There is new surfacing in High Street and St Margaret's Road and the potholes have been repaired. It was commented that the Council are now very responsive to any issues raised.

12. Correspondence

East Suffolk Council have updated the Meeting on progress to transfer the services provide by Norse to a new trading company owned by East Suffolk. These services include waste and recycling, grounds maintenance and street cleansing. A Managing Director has been appointed and exit negotiations are underway with Norse.

Suffolk County Council have forwarded the speech by the leader, Cllr Hicks, detailing the 4 ambitions for the Council: promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of Suffolk people, strengthening the economy, protecting and enhancing the environment and providing value for money.

Suffolk police have provided a reminder to wear bright clothing if we're out on the roads to be seen and safe. They have also advised that they are dealing with ASB in Beccles and Bungay and we are to call 101 or report online if we experience an incidence.

13. Appointment of Auditors

Mrs. Valerie Carroll and Mrs. Cathryn Tucker were proposed as internal auditors for the year by Karen O'Brien and seconded by Brenda Mace.

14. Village Newsletter and Website

A special edition flyer funded by the Village Hall had recently been received and included information on the Jubilee celebrations at the Village Hall, advertisement for this year's Village Show and forthcoming church service information.

The website has been created by Frances Hitchcock from All Saints and the Parish Meeting will be posting information as and when appropriate.

15. Reports from village committees – Village Hall and Flower Show, PCC, Charities, Footpaths

Village Hall - Rob Hardman (Village Hall meeting to follow) – A new kitchen work surface has been ordered and is due soon, but most works are now complete, thanks to the village charity and fundraising activities.

These alterations have increased the size of the kitchen using unused space and have not compromised the disabled toilet facilities. The ceiling and roof still need attention, but the funds are not yet available for this work. The intention is to “bodge” the roof for now before a complete re-roofing. Functions have been profitable, although prices need to increase with inflation. There is not a sufficient number of trustees at the moment, leaving an increased burden on those remaining. A need to appeal to the different members of the community and demographic has been recognised and there is a call for people to run a variety of events to address this.

Flower Show - Roger Webb – programmes have gone out and the Show this year should be exciting with a brass band for 2 x 45min sessions. Volunteers are required for a tug-o-war, hopefully 8 – 10 people from High Street and Low Street. This among other activities will better utilise the meadow. There is also a scarecrow competition as a run up to the Show.

PCC - Eva Collyer – The finances are Ok and on the jubilee weekend 5th June at 2:30pm there will be a blessing for the Queen followed by tea in the Village Hall. The PCC are removing 2 pews from the back of the church as these are in a bad state of repair. To raise funds there will be a PCC stall on the Jubilee Friday and at the Village Show.

Charities - Eva Collyer - £50 winter fuel money has been given to all the pensioners that have requested support and £1000 is being donated to the Village Hall to finish the kitchen.

Footpaths - Brenda Mace – The sign has been re-erected in Brook Lane and there have been no hoof prints since. This will continue to be monitored. Many footpaths are overgrown at the moment, but hopefully they will be cut when the birds have finished nesting.

16. Updates from Local Councillors

David Ritchie – David is working for Bungay and Waniford. He is Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management and Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the County. He is also on the Board of the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Scheme and informed the meeting of the great work going on in Lowestoft. The town had previously gone downhill, but things are turning around. There had been up to 3 generations of unemployed, which costs tax payers millions of pounds. Things are now improving with the 3rd crossing and the £130m flood relief scheme that helps give Lowestoft self-belief. There will be a repeat of the First Light festival again this year over the weekend of 18th/19th June to celebrate the shortest night in the most easterly town.

17. Any Other Business

Street lighting – Maggie Oldham had contacted the Council 2/3 months ago to report several Low Street lights not working but no action has been taken yet. Some of those present would like to consider being a “Dark Village” without lights and the Clerk was asked to investigate if this was possible or if the lights could be turned off at 11pm.

Early Purple Orchids - Rob Hardman mentioned that there are some of these orchids at the end of Shoo Devil Lane that have been mown again. These are on the footpath between the wooden bridge and the footpath sign. The Clerk was asked to investigate if designated posts could be obtained or if the Council could avoid mowing until end of June/July when they will have set seed.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:32.