

## **ILKETSHALL ST MARGARET PARISH MEETING**

These are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Alastair Tomkin, Chairman, Juliet Haley, Andrew Slate, Roger Webb, Brenda Mace, Ed O'Brien, Ann McVicar, Jane Waring, Clerk and 9 village residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Karen O'Brien, Julie & Chris Aldridge

2. Current Chairman's Report

The Chairman talked about the beauty of the area and our small community mentioning those who do so much to bring life to the community. The Clerk was given a token of appreciation. 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, Mr Slate, Mrs. McVicar, Miss Haley, Chris McCrave, Mr. O'Brien. This being the maximum number of members allowed, these members were thanked for their offer and elected 'en bloc' by a unanimous show of hands.

4. Election of Chairman

The current Chairman stood down having completed his initial 2-year term and one further year and the Clerk took the Chair for the election of the new Chairman. Alastair Tomkin being the only applicant for Chairman was elected unanimously for his 4<sup>th</sup> and final year. Proposed by Ann Mc Vicar seconded by Ed O'Brien.

5. Minutes of the Previous Half-Yearly Meeting – November 2022

The minutes of last year's Half-Yearly Meeting number 161 were read by the Chair, proposed as correct by Rob Hardman and seconded by Brenda Mace.

6. Matters Arising

Street Lights – the lamps in Low Street are owned by ESC, who have no funding for upgrades. When lamps need to be replaced however they are replaced with new style LEDs. Cllr. Judy Cloke has been pursuing this for us and we are still trying to get a quote for upgrading our old style posts with modern controllable lamps.

Purple Orchids – the "Rights of Way" team at SCC responded quickly and were given Rob's contact details this issue has now been resolved and the orchids will no longer be mown.

7. 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 2023 had amounted to £2,580.75 and this has been brought forward to the new financial year, 2023/24.

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 accepted unanimously.

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 29th June and a notice will be displayed by the Clerk accordingly.

#### 8. Current Financial Position

Having paid the Clerks expenses and bank charges for April, and having received this year's precept of £750, the current balance is £3,290.39. The attendees approved the transactions since the previous Meeting in accordance with the Constitution.

Due to the levels of reserves the Chair led a conversation regarding potentially supporting the Village Hall in the planned works to the car park area or the roof. The Village Hall Chair had reported that sufficient funding was now available for the car park. The roof being a different issue and requiring upwards of £20,000. A "Raise the Roof" campaign would be needed to generate sufficient funds for this and all avenues would be explored. A quote for replacing and repairing tiles will be sought and it is thought that the work might be done in 2 halves. It is believed that this is the last big expenditure for the Hall for several years to come. Those present agreed by a unanimous show of hands that £1,600 be committed from the Parish Meeting to support this work.

The Meeting members had also considered finally organising some emergency response awareness including the use of the defibrillator. Following some investigation there are a couple of options for delivering this free of charge and the Clerk will liaise with Karen O'Brien to explore this. Those present were asked for a show of hands as to who would be interested in a non-practical session and all expressed an interest. Rob Hardman stated that there would be no charge for the use of Village Hall.

#### 9. Planning Matters

The meeting had been consulted regarding an application to build an anaerobic digestion plant at Springfield Farm. The Meeting had raised objections due to increased traffic, noise and smell. At the time of the meeting this application was still awaiting a decision.

#### 10. Highways

Two blocked drains have been reported, one in Brook Lane the other outside Charity Farm. The Brook Lane issue has been resolved and work had started to address the issues at the Charity Farm junction. Many potholes have been repaired, but residents need to keep reporting any problems as nobody checks anymore.

#### 11. Correspondence

East Suffolk Council have a bulb planting initiative and the Meeting have applied for 500 bulbs, which will be available in November, hopefully in time for the Half-Yearly Meeting.

#### 12. Appointment of Auditors

Mrs. Valerie Carroll and Mrs. Cathryn Tucker were proposed as internal auditors for the year by Ann McVicar and seconded by Juliet Haley.

#### 13. Village Newsletter and Website

Jon Lewis explained that he is already working on the next issue, which will be published after the Show with the results the deadline for articles is 20<sup>th</sup> July and contributions are always welcome.

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

Village Hall - Rob Hardman – The Village Hall AGM had been sparsely attended and the Committee are not at maximum constitution strength and so are cutting down on formal dinners and may stage events that are cheaper and simpler like the Coronation Picnic. Funding of £1,000 for the car-park had been provided from the council by Judy Cloke £1000. it will be an aggregate car-park, not tarmac and most of the funding will go on materials. The Committee were likely to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the roof and agree strategy.

Flower Show - Roger Webb – Roger hoped that everyone was growing and practising baking in preparation for the Show. A Working party will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> July from 10am, volunteers welcome. Stalls are available at £5 each, to raise money for the Village Hall and the deadline for entries is now the Thursday before the show, 13<sup>th</sup> July 9pm. Entry forms are in the publishes schedule and an animal scarecrow competition would be judged the week previous. Roger asked that rosettes and cleaned trophies be returned.

PCC - Eva Collyer – Nothing much to report and the church is financially sound thanks to a legacy earlier in the year. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June there will be a strawberry tea. There was no news as yet on the meadow which may have been left to the community under trust with the church.

Charities - Eva Collyer – giving the village hall £1000 for the roof.

Footpaths - Brenda Mace – Grass really lush and just beginning to be cut – new footpath signs are up with QR codes that link you a map and information. Dog owners please beware of pheasants ground-nesting.

#### 15. Updates from Local Councillor

Judy Cloke – was not able to attend and the newly elected Green District Councillors had only been in touch that day and so would be invited to the Half-Yearly Meeting..

#### 16. Any Other Business

None raised

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:33