

Earsham Parish Council

Minutes

Of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 25th May 2022

Present: Cllrs. Stephen Wood, Jim Bennett, Keith Reeve, Tony Leech, Nick Meade (arrived during the Chairman's report), Richard Randlesome and Peter Goodfellow

Also present: 20 members of the public and Lynda Ling (Parish Clerk)

1. Welcome by the Chairman - The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. Stephen Wood welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of 2021 - (appendix 1) - The Chairman signed the minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting as a true and correct record. Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Randlesome and seconded by Cllr. Reeve.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council – (appendix 2) – Cllr. Wood read out his report which gave an overview of the Parish Council year. Some of the points covered included:-

2021 –

- Success in getting a grant from NCC Parish Partnerships fund towards a second speed machine which is now in operation around the school and Church Road areas.
- It was agreed to arrange a survey for the village hall to get an indication of any serious defects which may need attention. This was carried out by D A Chapman MRICS in July with a small defect list one of which being the removal of moss from the tiled roof. This was carried out during a clean-up morning in which some parishioners attended and I would like to thank everyone who helped. The path to the hall is still a work in progress. The Issue with the car park flooding has been investigated and a new soak away will probably be required
- June - The June meeting was held on the village green due to ongoing rules. This also saw the unfortunate loss of councillor Gunton and we wished him all the best and thanked him for all of his hard work over the years. Football Club The football club opened the new sprinkler system which has proved to be a great success and also helping the bowls club especially considering the dry start to this year. Cllr Goodfellow has also been successful in obtaining a grant towards some practice goal posts. July The July Meeting was held in the Hall . The Vacancy for a new councillor was advertised and Mr Peter Goodfellow was the successful applicant. Playing field The role of responsible person has been filled by Cllr Goodfellow and following the inspection report we have been advised to treat all of the woodwork. This work is currently in hand
- Cllr Goodfellow has successfully organised a speed watch group with volunteers they will be checking for speeding motorists.
- Grit Bins It was agreed to purchase some new grit bins these will be put in place by this coming winter November
- Cllr Randlesome has put himself forward for the vice chairman position and we all agreed.
- Allotments The allotment rules are under scrutiny and draft ones have been sent to all tenants for a discussion on the

- Training - Councillors Wood, Goodfellow and Randlesome agreed to attend a online training course this was found to be very informative.
- Finally thanks were given to all councillors and Clerk for their input and work over the last 12 months.

4. End of year report by the Clerk/RFO – (appendix 3) - The Clerk submitted a report to councillor's ahead of the meeting, the main points covered included –

- The Parish Council once again agreed to keep the precept the same at £53.20 per annum to the taxpayer for 2020/21, which gives a total precept income to the Parish Council of £15,590.
- Although the accounts have not been finalised yet, it is looking as though the budget has held up very well over the last 12 months despite some unplanned expenditure in the form of a new seating bench, a second SAM2 machine and brackets, a speed reduction machine for School Road (yet to be installed), a new printer, and 3 new grit bins. The costs of these items was offset to some extent as follows:-
 - A) **Bench** – this was purchased to replace the one which was stolen from Pheasants Walk at a cost of £532.55 the cost of which was met from the Community Infrastructure Levy money the Parish Council holds
 - B) **SAM2 and bracket** – These came under the 50/50 Parish Partnership Scheme, and totalled £3380.10 of which the Parish Council was responsible for half the cost (£1690.05). Due to the generosity of County Cllr. Margaret Stone, she paid for the majority of the Parish Council's share from her Members Allowance and the Parish Council ended up paying £375 in total.
 - C) **The speed reduction 20mph sign** is yet to be installed on School Road but has been ordered.
 - D) **A new printer** - The new printer is an Epson Eco Tank and cost £249, however this cost will be recouped over time due to the much cheaper ink costs.
 - E) **Grit Bins** – The Parish Council agreed to install new grit bins in the village and these were duly ordered and totalled £372.44. County Councillor Barry Stone offered to pay for these out of his Members Allowance which meant no cost to the Parish Council.
- Total income for the year was £26,272.49 which includes the precept, utility bills from both the Football and Bowls Clubs, donations towards the anti-vandal goalposts, refund for grit bins and SAM2 machine and reclaimed VAT. There is a total spend of £23,464.37, most of which is explained above which is over and above wages, HMRC, dog bin emptying service, skip hire, brown bin annual cost, water, electricity, insurance, training, subscriptions, village hall works, stationery, printer ink etc.
- CIL Monies currently being held amount to £5,696.76 for the Parish Council with a further amount of £2087.13 being held as ringfenced money for play equipment (not CIL). A new ringfenced pot created this year is the Clerk's Gratuity Pension.

5. Allotment Holders Forum – this was moved to the final item

6. Reports and Parishioners Forum –

Report from County Councillor Barry Stone - (Appendix 4) – Cllr. Stone's annual report had been presented at the last Parish Council meeting

Report from District Councillors – (Appendix 5) - Cllr. Bernard's annual review document had been submitted prior to the meeting.

Peter Goodfellow – Chairman of Earsham Football Club – (Appendix 6) submitted his report prior to the meeting and commented that unlike many football clubs that have either folded or are on the brink of folding, at Earsham FC we are excited for the future of this lovely football club, and we look forward to what next season has in store for us.

Bowls Club report was read out by the Chairman – (Appendix 7)

Village Hall Management report was read out by Cllr. Leech – (Appendix 8)

River Waveney Trust report was read out by the Chairman (Appendix 9)

Allotment Holders Forum – A draft copy of the proposed rules and regulations had been sent to all allotment holders the previous month, along with an invitation to attend this evening's meeting to consult with the Parish Council on the proposed changes. These were being considered to ensure that a better line of communication was in place and to explore the rules and regulations for everyone's benefit in terms of what was permissible, tidiness and sheds or greenhouses. The meeting was well attended by allotment holders and many valid points put forward for the Parish Council members to consider. The Parish Council will look to adjust agreed changes, consider other items put forward, then arrange another consultation with the tenants in the near future to finalise the document.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.15pm

**** All reports are available for viewing by request to the clerk**

Signed

Date