

Tuddenham St Martin's Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2021 commencing at 7pm on the Zoom platform. Everyone present was reminded that the meeting was being recorded for Minute taking purposes only and that the recording would be deleted immediately after the Minutes were approved at the next meeting.

Present: Mr W Pipe, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr J Bird, Mr H Brightwell, Mrs H Hollier, Mr C Hedgley (District Councillor), Reverend Charlotte Cook and Mrs C Frost (Clerk).

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies.** Apologies were received from Mr Hicks (County Councillor), Mr Fryatt (District Councillor), Mr Lugo and Mrs Weller (Parish Councillors) and Mr Frost (Chair of Village Hall Committee). The Chairman welcomed every one present to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 8th May 2019.** These were approved and signed.
- 3. Matters arising.** There were none.
- 4. Chairman's Report.** The report from the Chairman had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. It was as follows:

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the last year has proved challenging for the Parish Council, and in particular for our parish clerk. However, with the introduction of the Zoom remote meeting facility we have continued to carry out the usual functions. As usual, over the year our activities tend to revolve around highway and traffic issues, planning, and the ongoing upkeep of the playground, together with support for the village hall, church and community at large.

This past two years have been quite busy planning wise, with not only planning applications to consider, but also the contentious issues of the new East Suffolk Local Plan, which has now been adopted. We have had to deal with more planning applications than usual, necessitating several extra meetings.

Highways matters as always, take up a considerable amount of time at our meetings. Parking issues remain an ongoing problem, however I can report that the white line outside Brickfield House has been re-painted again! SAVID and Speedwatch are ongoing thanks to Pauline Procter. More volunteers are still needed to man the speed monitoring device. A new County Council initiative to promote 'Quiet lanes' is currently under consideration for Fynn Lane and Westerfield Lane. Closure of the road out of the village towards Grundisburgh due to a landslip was handled very badly by Highways and drivers very soon found they could still drive through, which they did in ever increasing numbers. A burst water main in the street this last week has also created much aggravation.

We are very grateful for the continuing supervision and maintenance of the playing field and playground undertaken by David Lugo and Jim Bird with some help from others. The new grass cutting contractors have performed very satisfactorily and will be continuing this year. The matting under the swings has been replaced, and the swings cleaned down and re-painted.

We continue to support the village hall committee, however due to the covid-19 situation, the village hall has had to remain closed for much of the year. Since my last report, a defibrillator has been installed, located in the covered area by the main entrance.

We continue to provide funding to the church as a contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard. We also make small donations to, the air ambulance and Suffolk Accident Rescue Service however Grundisburgh News, who we have supported for many years, no longer requires support.

Our contact with the local police through the Safer Neighbourhood Team has improved thanks to the involvement of Holly Hollier, one of our recently co-opted councillors. Her involvement is very welcome, as sadly we have experienced some anti-social behaviour recently. It is important that any incidents occurring locally should be reported, even if any follow up may be minimal, as this does help to show the overall picture.

After careful consideration, we have agreed to keep the precept at £6,200 for the 2021/22 year. This has remained unaltered for several years.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our District and County Councillors Colin Hedgley, and Matthew Hicks who has been covering for Robin Vickery following his resignation. Without volunteers we would not have a Parish Council and having managed to co-opt two new councillors namely Holly Hollier and Tracey Weller, we are sadly losing Tracey as she is moving out of the village. The administration involved in running the Parish Council has been even heavier this year exacerbated by the constraints of Covid-19, involving a lot of extra work for Carol Frost our clerk. We are very fortunate in having the services of a very efficient and long suffering person who just gets on with it in her quiet way. I very much doubt that any of us fully appreciate just how much time she devotes to the task. A very big thank you to you Carol from us all. And finally, to my fellow Councillors, thank you for your continuing support and contribution to the village community.

5. Report of County Council and District Council Representatives

The County Council and District Council reports had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Copies of both are available to view on the Parish Council website www.tuddenhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net Mr Hedgley presented his report, invited questions and welcomed contact if he could be of assistance to the Parish Council. Mr Hedgley also reminded the Parish Council to make use of the Community Enabling Budget for village projects.

6. Presentation of Accounts to 31st March 2021. The Clerk presented the Accounts for the year ending March 2021. These would go forward to the meeting of the Parish Council.

7. Report from the Village Hall Committee. The report had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting and was as follows:

As reported in December, the Covid-19 pandemic has seen a significant impact on the operation of the hall. We were obliged to close the hall at the end of March 2020, as the country went into lockdown, and then slowly start to re-open again in August, after we had installed hand sanitiser dispensers, paper towel dispensers, posted signage reinforcing the social distancing and hygiene rules, supplied of face masks and other personal protective equipment for a Covid Emergency Room (the small store room). The Conditions of Hire were changed to make hirers complete and comply with their own risk management plans. The hall was closed again in January, as we went into the latest lockdown, and has only recently started to be used again for permitted activities such as training, and (on May 6) voting. We expect that other activities can start to resume after May 17, according to Government guidelines but we know that some activities, such as the Art Class, will never return. We have decided to offer a temporary 33% discount on regular bookings to encourage societies to start again, especially when these societies might be working with reduced attendance themselves. It is likely to be some time before we are getting the bookings and income stream that we were used to.

Despite this, our finances are in a good state, thanks to an additional grant from East Suffolk Council. We do face some further outgoings. The hall floor which has long needed attention will be sanded and resealed in August 2021 at a cost of £1,836. We have had the roof surveyed, as it is now past its guarantee. It appears that all is well for the moment, but we could face substantial repair costs in the future. We are upgrading the security on the kitchen door.

We continue to experience antisocial behaviour in the hall car park. In particular someone seems to be using the car park as a place for consuming takeaway meals and leaving all their rubbish behind. There is also evidence of drug use. Our grey-lidded bin was vandalised and has been replaced. The antisocial behaviour has been reported to the police and committee members are visiting the hall as often as they can to spot and deter culprits. We have allowed villagers to use the car park for their cars while the hall is not heavily used, so that there is more regular presence to deter the vandals. We will need to revert to previous parking restrictions when we eventually start hosting larger events. The frequency of antisocial behaviour has abated recently, but if it picks up again in the summer, we will consider installing cameras.

I'm very grateful for the committee's support throughout the year and particularly Ian Watson, Colin Williamson, David Lugo and Joan Bloomfield who have helped ensure that the hall continues to be ready for use. Even though the hall is largely unused there seems to be a lot going on!

8. Report from Parochial Church Council.

The report had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to

the meeting and was as follows:

Despite the restrictions placed upon all Church activities during the past year, we have tried extremely hard to maintain a weekly service, as well as to show our support for the village during these unprecedented times.

Residents will have noticed that the church has been floodlit each night instead of 3 nights per week, instigated during the first lockdown in support of the NHS. We then continued with this as residents told us how much they appreciated it. As we were unable to have any significant numbers in the church due to the restrictions, we held outdoor services for Remembrance Sunday and on Christmas Eve on Church Hill, which were very well received, Additionally, a Drive-in Carol Service was held in The Fountain car park, which may have to be repeated owing to its popularity! We also adorned Church Hill with a lit Christmas Tree, illuminated crib and 'Merry Christmas' banner, all purchased and erected through the generosity of villagers.

We welcomed the Licensing and Installation of The Reverend Charlotte Cook as Priest-in-Charge of our Benefice on September 1st 2020.

Our Electoral Roll currently stands at 32 members.

The fabric and churchyard are in generally good order. Andrew Offord continues to cut the grass and hedges in the Churchyard, and several volunteers have undertaken various additional tasks which have much improved the appearance of the churchyard. Our Churchyard is very much alive, especially at festival times, where it is a joy to see it so appreciated by relatives, as well as by the many walkers who pass through. The financial support given by the Parish Council for the maintenance work is much appreciated.

Fundraising has been extremely restricted throughout the year, with no reduction in Church outgoings. The income derived from the Annual Fete, Harvest Lunch and the Gift Days (with the ever popular Bring 'n Buy stalls), are badly missed. Nor was it just the financial loss which was felt with their cancellations. All these events provide a wealth of village community-spirit and togetherness, which, are a key part to life here in Tuddenham- St-Martin. We are really looking forward to once again being able to hold the Fete, which this year will be slightly later than usual, on Saturday 3rd July.

Mr Bird added that there had been a lot of visitors to the village to visit the church in particular, and that many of these visitors went on to enjoy the Fynn Valley walks to visit neighbouring churches too.

It was commented that the church floodlighting was appreciated, along with the associated notices about the related sponsorship.

Reverend Cook introduced herself to everyone present and wanted to continue with the assurance that the church wished to work with everyone in the village. Reverend Cook was delighted to be here and looked forward to meeting more villagers. Reverend Cook was thanked for coming to the meeting.

9. Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting. 3rd May 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.18pm.

Mrs C Frost
Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin