

FILBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 30 May, 2019 7.00 pm. at the Clubroom

Present: Mr. A. Thompson, Mr. D. Shaw, Mr. D. Nicker, Mrs. L. Elms, Mr. J. Baldry, Mr. I. Richardson, Mr. H. Thirtle (NCC/BA), Mr. D. Balls (Clerk), and 16 Members of the Public.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr. P. Chapman

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 23 MAY, 2018 - These were agreed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING - There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Mr. A. Thompson

The Council met 10 times last year, 4 full meetings and 6 planning meetings. Planning applications slowed down from 21 in 2017 to 16 last year, but we still need maintain a firm but fair planning policy, to prevent over development. To help this the Borough Plan should be adopted in 2020, and we are playing our part by having a neighbourhood plan to be adopted at the same time, one advantage of which reduced the Boroughs land supply from 5years to 3 years ,which the Borough nearly has, giving strength to the plan. Must thank Louise Connel and Mark Thompson for the work so far as our appointed consultants. Also to Shaun Day and Claudia Dickenson from Rollesby Parish Council for help with applying for the £9000 grant. Louise will give an update later in this meeting. In terms of speed of traffic in the village, I would like to thank our speedwatch team, and I will be asking the councillors to release £1250 for the purchase of a SAM2 mobile sign, that flashes the speed you are travelling and says SLOW DOWN. Fleggburgh Parish Council have agreed to £1250, with £500 form Borough Council Allowance. Meeting Highways on 7June to discuss siting and other highway issues. Last Year we lost a long serving member of the Parish Council , my father and vice chairman Mr David Thompson 1963- 2018. In addition to this Percy Hudson retired at the election on 02 05 2019 after 50 + years of service. During this time Percy worked with Filby in Bloom from the start in 1990, designing displays on Thrigby Road Corner. As a mark of appreciation the Bloom team are naming the bed the Percy Hudson Bed , complete with Brass plaque, and I will be asking the Councillors later in the meeting for an appropriate retirement gift from the Parish Council. My thanks go to the Councillors for theirs contribution to the Parish in all sorts of ways and we had a 78% attendance. Also a special thanks to our Clerk David Balls, who does a lot of work behind the scenes, and is a great help to me as Chairman. From a Bloom point of view we are back in Britain in Bloom judging on 1 August. And Open Gardens this year on 20/21 July we have Radio Norfolk broadcasting live from Filby Playing Field from 12-2 on the Saturday. Thank you all for making Filby what it is today.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT by Mr. D. Balls

I am grateful to Mr. John Baldry for scrutinising the financial records after the end of each quarter, and to Mrs. Glenda Tooke, the independent auditor, who examines the annual accounts and records in advance of the formal audit. The last audit produced no matters requiring attention. The accounts for the year just ended will be sent for Audit in mid June this year. As usual, an un-audited Receipts and Payments statement has been prepared, and is summarised as an attachment with tonight's agenda. Final accounts for the year ended 31 March, 2019 will be available from the Clerk once they are signed and approved by the Audit Commission. The precept was left unchanged this year which shows due consideration and prudence by all members of the council. Our expenditure was up this year by £934 due to the following - £323 was spent on the Claypits car park resurfacing compared to £72 last year, £148 increase in clerk's salary due to work involved in new Data Protection Regulation work, donations were also up due to contribution to new signs for Croft Riding School. There was also an increase in playing field grass-cutting costs due to annual increase and extra cuts, and the Church grass cutting contractor increased his charges, on top of this we paid out £400 to have the war memorial at the Church re-lettered. All in all this resulted in decrease in receipts this year mainly due to large VAT claim last year due to Claypits asphalt surfacing and repairs to Millenium Shelter. Overall the council's prudence over the year has resulted in a larger turnover than that of last year which meant a small increase of £200 in the precept for next year.

All in all I am satisfied that the Council has conducted its' financial affairs carefully and thoughtfully throughout the last financial year. I must take this opportunity of thanking our Chairman and Vice-chairman and other councilors for their efforts in carrying out many small jobs around the village which in many ways has helped to keep Parish Council expenses down again this year.

6. POOR TRUSTEES REPORT by Mr. A. Thompson

The Poor Trustees met on 27 11 2018 and confirmed the income as follows

£1550 Shooting rights on common

£500 Filby Heath Rent

£759 Nortumbria Water for common

£2809

18 applicants each received £95 and £250 allocated to the school for educational trips, also £500 for educational gifts at the Christmas party. Total of £2460

After a meeting with Savills, it can be confirmed the rent for Filby Common is increasing to £1257 as of 10. 10. 2019.

Balance at Lloyds bank 29. 05. 2019 £12 552.16

7. PLAYING FIELD REPORT by Mr. A. Thompson

The year to 31 December 2018 saw an operating surplus of £2,194, down from a surplus the previous year of £10,837.

We were again very fortunate with the weather for the fete and made just under £4,000 which was only slightly down on the exceptional result last year. It was the bonfire night that was our greatest success again though. After the overwhelming numbers of attendees in 2017 which caused traffic tailbacks, we changed the layout of the entrance and arranged more car parking. It was a lot better but there were still a few problems which we will try and address next year. We made just over £7,000 which was about £1,000 more than we made in 2017.

Income from recycling has dropped a little again this year as we struggle to persuade people to support the village rather than take the easy option of putting glass and paper in the fortnightly collection bins.

We still have a wide diversity of activities provided by the regular hirers of the hall. We have various keep-fit activities taking place on a weekly basis and several special interest groups hold meetings monthly. Unfortunately, the adult dance classes and "Music bugs" for pre-school children which started last year didn't continue but we now have "Urban Specs" every Monday which provides various adventure activities for school age children. The hall has continued to be a popular party venue for both families and children.

We continue to raise money by organising regular coffee mornings, bingo sessions, film shows, jumble sales and other functions open to the public which have helped to improve the social life of the inhabitants of Filby and the surrounding villages.

After the success of the 2017 Christmas party for the children of the village and surrounding area we had another one last year which again went down very well. It looks like this will become an annual event.

At the end of 2018 we had £83,096 in the bank including £40,806 on term deposits so are in a healthy position to continue to provide facilities for the village and surrounding area.

8. YOUTH FOOTBALL COMMITTEE REPORT

The season is now finished and it saw an U15 and U11 side team playing at Filby. U15 played in the top division in the Norwich league after gaining promotion last year, this was always going to be tough and unfortunately ended with them being relegated but it was probably a little too high a standard for us but an experience. However there has been a lack of commitment and I'm not sure this team will continue for this coming season.

The U11 had a good season only losing one league match but unfortunately didn't get further than the QF in both cups, all in all a good season, this team has advertised for new players, maybe it could go on the Filby Facebook page? Team is Caister U11 Gladiators, U12 for this coming season, you can put my mobile on there 07920 268731 if you wish.

Adults, no team this year however I am in the process of potentially sorting one out for this season, watch this space, a combination of young local lads and a few old timers!!! Pitches, I think you will all agree they are looking good and we always get comments from away teams of what great facilities.

The new boot scraper needs to be put in place, no rush on this we can liaise nearer the time. Grass cuttings, could the tractor go up to the compost heap and move the grass into the area we built please this would help me for future cuts. Container, as discussed we need to look at putting the ride on in here, would maybe need a ramp, well done Percy for volunteering! Can always meet with the ride on and discuss.

I think this is it, any questions just ask, I will keep you informed of the teams playing this season

9. POLICE REPORT – No report received

10. FILBY PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Filby Primary School is continuing to grow with pupil numbers currently at 89, up from 70 at this stage two years ago. We continue to have a strong working relationship with Little Blossoms Nursery who had also been working tirelessly to

increase their numbers – with great success. This strong link is important because we can offer an Ofsted rated ‘Good’ provision for children coming to Filby from the age of 2 to 11. We have 13 children currently ready to start in Reception in September 2019 with 13 pupils also leaving us for High School.

Evolution Academy Trust is continuing to grow also – 13 schools on board. They recently appointed a new CEO who has visited the school on many occasions already and has been impressed with the support that we receive from the Filby community. I would like to second that, and as always I am extremely grateful for the support we receive. This is something that nobody here takes for granted. The schools grounds have improved greatly thanks to the Filby in Bloom team, children enjoy their weekly gardening sessions and are looking forward to Filby’s Got Talent taking place again this year. The Defibrillator is also a welcome addition to the school and local area, thanks to Heart 2 Heart and the David Thompson Foundation.

The school are in the process of appointing a new Headteacher to start on 1st September 2019. The result of this will be announced after the half term holidays. Feedback from people the community is that they would like a Headteacher that is based in school all of the time, this is something that I would also promote and be mindful of when aiding in the new appointment.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the last 3 years and wish you all the best for the future.

11. NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST/BROADS by Eilish Rothney

General involvement:

- Input into planning issues/concerns
- Support/facilitation Parish access at NSSA: liaised with partners to ensure process runs smoothly
- Support for Filby in Bloom: Volunteers produced a report and represented the TB project to the Judges (Congratulations to all who were involved).
- Control of Non Native Invasive Species – There is an ongoing issue with Himalayan balsam in woodland on edge of Ormesby Little Broad inc land owned by others. Hand pulling was carried out on part of the area last summer and will continue this year. Please could all parishioners be vigilant for invasive spp.

Himalayan Balsam

Work at Filby community orchard and wildlife Garden: This has included grass-cutting, burning weeding, maintenance of compost area, burning of dumped rubbish, planting wildflowers, establishing a living willow fence and an osier bed, pruning all the fruit trees and applying potash (by-product of other conservation work in the area). There were four volunteer sessions totaling 82 person/hours. In addition we held a training day in December attended by 18 people contributing 114 hours of work. The training session included 3 skills:

- establishing living willow structures,
- use of an Austrian scythe,
- pruning orchard fruit trees.

One trainer provided course free, another was paid by the TB project the 3rd run by myself with volunteers rotating between the different sessions.

General conservation work in the Filby area: Filby common – bramble and scrub control 52.5 person/hrs mainly by new “Trinians” monthly group. Filby reed margins – Three areas were “conservation” cut (reedbed adjacent to Filby common, Area in front of Filby Bridge restaurant and west reedbed (Fleggburgh). Reed beds were mown, scrub and bramble was controlled and all arisings stacked or burnt (and ash collected and removed from site). Total person hours = 462.

12. FILBY ALL SAINTS CHURCH report by Rev. Sue Hemsley Hall

During the year the Local Church Council and Parochial Church Council have met on a regular basis. It has been a busy year for church members in particular for Church Wardens, due to the fact that the Benefice was without a priest for most of the year. However we were able to maintain regular services due to the help of retired clergy and clergy within the Deanery, and when not possible joined with other churches in the Benefice. During this period there were 6 Weddings in the church, 4 Baptisms and 4 Funerals.

In June, our church celebrated the Queens Sapphire Anniversary on the throne with a thanksgiving service followed by lunch in the church for approx. 40 people.

In August the church was filled to capacity with members of the Filby Association from across the world as they celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Through the Associations generosity we were able to purchase the heaters for the north and south aisles and these were dedicated at that service. A couple from Australia whose name is Filby also renewed their wedding vows at that service. This was thought to be the last celebration of the Association due to their aging membership.

October saw the formation of the ‘Bells Project’ with a view to restoring the Bells to full working condition which will include installing a ringing gallery at the base of the west window. We are grateful to Philip Scott who is managing the project and indeed all members of the steering group.

In November the Induction of our Priest-in-Charge, The Revd Sue Hemsley Halls took place in Filby Church and the Benefice welcomed both Sue and her husband Glyn to this Parish.

The church has arranged a number of fund raising events to enable us to pay our parish share to the Diocese and to be able to maintain our beautiful church for the use of the community. Our thanks go to all who support these events and especially to Filby Bridge Restaurant for the Quiz nights which, over the year raised over £1000.

Thrigby Church -Two evening services were held during the summer. Areas of the church are currently cordoned off due to falling mullions and masonry. We are awaiting a report from the Diocese and our Insurers re the future of Thrigby Church.

We look forward to working with Sue in furthering the mission of the church

Meeting ended at 7.29.pm.

