

WHISSONSETT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2023 AT 7.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chairman)
Cllr Sian Griffiths
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
15 members of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Sue Rutter, Richard Andrews, Charles Holloway, Mark Gibson, Duncan McArthur and Andrew & Sue Garrod.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2022.

The minutes of the 2022 meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Chairman said that they were pleased, and fortunate, to have a full Council once again, with the recent co-option of Sian Griffiths.

The year had been relatively quiet with works ongoing such as commenting on planning applications, maintaining the play area and other grassed areas and reporting and chasing up highway matters.

4. Open Forum – an opportunity for residents to express their views on matters of interest or concern relating to the village and to suggest ideas for the future.

The Chairman said that there was to be a change of format this year to encourage residents to tell Council what they want in the village, or indeed, do not want, rather than the annual reports from local organisation being read out. The organisations had been offered the opportunity to provide an annual report and these are attached. The Chairman said that Cllr Griffiths will lead with some questions and then opened the floor for discussion.

The first query was 'how much influence did the parish council have?'. The Chairman responded to and said if this related to planning then the parish council was a statutory consultee and any comments must be relevant to planning policy, both the Breckland Local

Plan and National Planning Policy Framework; a response of 'we don't want it' will not carry any weight with the decision makers.

The Chairman went on to say that the village precept is also set by the Parish Council, after taking into account the budget requirements.

Cllr Griffiths said that the parish council can influence planning decisions but do not have the power to make them.

Concerns regarding the New Town at Bintree were raised and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris, with his knowledge as a District Cllr, said there was no formal application in respect of the New Town and set out the following process:

- The Local Plan was approved in 2019 but must be reviewed within five years.
- A full review is currently ongoing and commenced with a call for sites, which was then published, including the proposed site of the New Town.
- An Issues and Options consultation is now ongoing.
- The sites will then be assessed to decide if they are deliverable, sustainable etc.
- A 'preferred options' document will then be published which will set out the sites considered suitable.
- The revised Local Plan will go out for consultation and examination before being approved by Breckland District Council in 2026.

Members of the public raised concerns regarding the lack of infrastructure, schools, dentists, doctors etc and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris said they were not part of the planning process, however, sites will be put aside for infrastructure as part of any large development.

Cllr Griffiths said the current Local Plan was led by need with principles of sustainability, employment, access to transport system etc and the New Town would need to meet these. The current policies would make it difficult for the New Town to meet the criteria needed.

An informal show of hands indicated the vast majority of those in attendance were against the New Town.

The Chairman referred to the previous call for sites when up to five were submitted in Whissonsett with none being approved for development. Whissonsett is not a service centre, it has no shop, school, public transport etc and as such is considered an unsustainable village. The recent uncontrolled development had resulted from a lack of a five-year land supply in Breckland when many unsuitable developments were approved.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris stated that this policy was changing and such a situation will not arise again. However, he said that Breckland must currently build 612 houses a year, 642 a year in the new plan. Currently, 25% of any development of ten or more must be affordable housing. A service centre can expect an increase of up to 7% per annum and other villages should expect much less, with development being limited to infill or rounding off by small developments.

Cllr Griffiths said we needed some proportionate growth but the Local Plan should limit significant development.

Concerns were also raised regarding the sewage being regularly pumped into the River Wensum and climate change but the Chairman advised that these were issues the Parish Council could not deal with.

A member of the public asked why are no houses being built for young people and the Chairman responded that there was less profit for developers. She went on to say that almost every response by the Parish Council to planning applications for larger dwellings included questioning the need for so many large houses.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris said there was a policy, known as 'rural exception sites', for affordable housing and the Chairman said this scheme had been investigated but not proved suitable for Whissonsett. She reminded everyone that there was some social housing in the village and this should be allocated initially to anyone on the waiting list who has a connection to Whissonsett.

Cllr Griffiths said that the parish council's general position would be to see smaller developments, including bungalows, to allow younger people to live in the village and older residents to downsize but stay in the village. This was supported by those present.

A member of the public requested that Church Lanes be tidied up as there was a lot of debris lying around; the Chairman will investigate.

A request to have the full minutes published in the Upper Wensum Diary was made but there simply wasn't room in the publication to do so. However, a summary of all six meetings each year is published.

The state of the roads was a concern for many, particularly the High Street where there is surface deterioration and large potholes. C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will request a highways survey for the High Street and the road leading out towards Horningtoft.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris was asked why the roads were so bad in recent years and he said that there was more money in the budget and more repairs were being made. The temporary fills of potholes are not designed to last and long-lasting repairs are made once the weather improves. The priority of repairs does depend on the size of the potholes in question. He also assured residents that all roads are resurfaced and will be on a forward plan.

The Chairman advised residents to report all highway issues on the Norfolk County Council site or to the Clerk, with a photo and full details.

A resident also said that the village needs more people to get involved with local organisations and the village hall etc, otherwise they will not be able to continue. The Chairman informed the meeting that all parish councillors are volunteers and do not get paid for the role.

There were no further matters raised and the Chairman said the minutes of the meeting will be published on the parish council website, together with a summary in the Upper Wensum Diary.

5. To confirm the date of the next annual parish meeting – Monday 13th May 2024.

The Chairman confirmed the date of the next meeting and then closed the meeting at 8.08pm.

Signed:

Date:

ANNUAL REPORT TO WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL - 2023

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WHISSONSETT

Work of the church during 2022

Incumbent: The Revd Robin Stapleford

Committee Members:

Vice Chairman/	
Fabric Officer/H & S	Mr George Rutter
Treasurer/Secretary	Mrs Susanne Rutter
H & S	Mrs Caroline Wilson
	Mrs Jean Hart
	Mrs Ann Seaman
	Mr Mike Travis
	Mrs Hilary Weston

Electoral Roll 2022: 32

The electoral roll is reduced by two – sadly due to the deaths of David Stangroom and Ann Plowden.

During the past year there were seven weddings, three christenings and sadly eight funerals/internments/ memorial services.

There was an average attendance at Sunday services of 20.

Whissonsett Parochial Church Council complied with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding according to the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016.

Income & Expenditure Account

The Income and Expenditure Account showed a deficit of £578.68 @ 31 December 2022, against a surplus of £1,042.03 in 2021.

Fund raising in 2022 amounted to £1,014. Thanks must go to Jean Hart for all her hard work crafting and selling cards, bookmarks etc. raising £280 and to Jane Weston and Margaret Mitchell and all those who attended the twice monthly coffee mornings. These raised £376 throughout the year. A similar amount was donated to the Village Hall.

A very successful Afternoon Tea was held to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. Tickets were sold for £5 each subsidised by a grant from Breckland Council which was shared between the Village Hall and the Church. With raffle and sales of surplus cakes a surplus of £243 was made. This was split equally between the Parkinson's Society and Alzheimer's Research charities.

Fabric Fund

Many hours of work were spent on funding applications for the toilet/kitchen project. The result at the end of December 2022 was £87,500 in grants (some pledged), donations, fund raising, legacy, invoices already paid and pledges. This includes £1,325 transferred from the Current Account in February 2022 being monies raised during 2021 and fund raising during 2022 of £1,342. The initial amount required was £88,500. This was expected to rise as the cost of building materials had increased. It was hoped to start the project after Easter 2023.

The restricted amount of £34,382 in the Fabric Fund contains £938 restricted to the Bell Fund.

General

The PCC would like to thank the dedicated band of helpers who work so hard throughout the year keeping the church looking so clean and beautifully decorated with flowers. With seven weddings and eight funerals during the year the additional work to make the church look inviting was very much appreciated.

During the year Rev Robin Stapleford was seconded to the Hindringham group of parishes in addition to his continued work in the Upper Wensum Benefice. This meant that he was available for only one Sunday service each month. The PCC is very grateful to Revd Nicholas Varnon and Rev Roger Massingberd-Mundy for their dedication in taking services throughout the year. Without their help it would not be possible to hold the three services each month which is the aim of the PCC.

Various maintenance work was carried out – cutting back undergrowth where necessary and general clearance of leaves keeping downpipes and drains clear. A memorial seat has been installed by the family on the Campingland in memory of Ann English.

The Churchyard and Camping Land have been kept tidy by Chris and Peter of FT Grounds Maintenance for which we are very grateful and many thanks to Whissonsett Parish Council for their continued support towards this very important maintenance.

Sue Rutter
Secretary/Treasurer
10.04.23.

George Rutter
Fabric Officer

The Whissonsett Hundred Club 2023

The Hundred Club year is November 1st to October 31st so we are now in our 6th month. The club used to run from July 1st to the end of June, but because of lockdown, we were unable to draw the numbers and deliver the prizes each month.

The funds were kept safely in the Village Hall account and so nobody lost out!

I had collected 112 members on November 1st 2021 and I am pleased to say I now have 114 members. We pay out four prizes for eleven months of the year, £20, £15, £10 and £5, and each December there is a bonus draw and this year it was £150 divided between five members. Obviously the bonus varies depending on the number of members. The club is registered with the Small Society Lottery at Breckland and is run to support the village hall. The 2022 year raised £626 for the hall.

I would like to thank Dawn Rangeley for checking the account so accurately and for the late Ann Blake for keeping all the numbers and for making sure the draw is witnessed each month and takes place on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Sadly Anne passed away in February and I included a note in the Upper Wensum Diary recognising some the work Anne and Bill Blake contributed to the village as well as the 100 club; the fund raising, the village hall, the bowls clubs, and the hospital cars.

They were both very genuine and kind people.

I will continue to keep the records for the 100 Club and continue to draw the numbers each month correctly witnessed.

CDW April 4th 2023

WHISSONSETT VILLAGE HALL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

19TH APRIL 2023

At the last AGM it was announced that the Chair- Catherine McGee; Treasurer- Dawn Rangeley; & Secretary -Sara Gore Clough were to step down from the committee. As a result, Mark Nolan had taken on the role of Chair, Sally Codling as Treasurer and Sue Burns as Secretary.

Maintenance is always an ongoing issue. The Hall is in a reasonable state of repair. There are, however, some issues still requiring attention, such as the boiler replacement which we still have to acquire donations for. Some painting to the outside and redecoration to the entrance hall and toilet. Some work has been carried out to the Carpark Wall, and a few Curtain Rails have been replaced. The disabled toilet alarm had a small issue and was resolved quickly. More recently the gutters are leaking so if anybody can help with that.

Disappointingly, the village has experienced some vandalism, although no damage to the hall. The Committee are looking into how they could help.

There have been several events over the year; Yards Sales, Quiz Night, Coffee Mornings, Bingo, 100 Club, Queens Jubilee, to name but a few. These generate a much needed income enabling the hall to be kept open. There is also the

Bowls Club

Yoga

Gardening Club

We hope to have A box fit Club, and the Farmers Market starts on 8 April, and of course the King's Coronation.

Things are looking up and we are still here.

A brainstorming session was held to help the Committee better understand the needs of the village, although volunteers are needed to take this forward.

The food vans are going well and we have started to open the hall to coincide with the vans and allow people to socialise. We hope to continue and expand on this. It's early days.

I would like to thank Sue & Sally for all they have done this year and for putting up with me. Thank you to Ellen for all her hard work and thank you to all the volunteers who help set up, clean up, put up and take down, as and when required. Thank you to all those people who gave up their time to pick up the litter, the week before last.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The current Committee were happy to be voted back onto the Committee for another year (2023)

		Nominations	Seconded	
Chairperson	-	Mark Nolan	Dawn Rangeley	Caroline Wilson
Treasurer	-	Sally Codling	Sarah Gore-Clough	Ellen Moore
Secretary	-	Suzanne Burns	Margaret Mitchell	Sue Burton

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

WHISSONSETT BOWLS CLUB

WHISSONSETT BOWLS CLUB

PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO PRESENT THIS REPORT DUE TO A PRIOR COMMITMENT.

THE CLUB'S COUNTY LEAGUE TEAM FINISHED MIDWAY, THE CLUB FINISHED FIFTH IN THE WHISSONSETT LEAGUE AND SECOND IN THE MID-NORFOLK LEAGUE.

AS MENTIONED LAST YEAR ONLY TWO OF OUR PLAYERS LIVE IN WHISSONSETT.

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE PLAYERS, EVEN IF THEY HAVE NEVER PLAYED BEFORE. WE CAN SUPPLY EQUIPMENT IF NECESSARY AND ALSO TUITION.

RICHARD ANDREWS
HON. SECRETARY.

**Whissonsett & District Horticultural Society and Gardening Club:
Annual Report to Parish Council
May 2023**

During the last year the society has settled back into its regular routine of meetings and events. It has been really positive that we have continued to have a strong membership and good attendance at our regular talks and garden visits.

The two shows, Summer and Autumn, have continued to be organised to allow anyone to enter, not just our members, with no cost for entry. This has for the second year proved to be a very successful approach, and we have been really pleased at the wider range of people who have entered produce and exhibits. We see this as now being our regular approach to the shows. One of the changes this has inevitably led to is that we have stopped giving cups and shields to winners of the key categories. We realised this would be too difficult to organise and to keep a track of the cups from one year to the next. The plan is for the cups and trophies to be kept on permanent display in the village hall.

A particular highlight this year of which we feel justly proud was our entry into the Sandringham Flower Show, small garden category. The theme was an Elizabethan Garden and not only did our brilliant team win the category, they got Best in Show.

Financially the Society remains stable, we have good reserves and again are keeping our membership fees at the same price and subsidising members on trips.

Finally, my thanks to our Treasurer, Jenny Jones, who has done an amazing job, both as treasurer and as a very active member of the committee. Jenny stood down at our AGM after several years in post, but remains a member. We are hoping that we will be in a position to elect a new treasurer at our meeting in May.

Sian Griffiths

Chair

May 2023