



MINUTES OF ASHMANHAUGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held in the Preston Rooms, Ashmanhaugh on

Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 8.00pm

Chair: Cllr H Buxton

Clerk: Sarah Martin

Present: Chris Phillipo, Chris Ramsbottom, Noel Coleman, Hannah Casey

5 members of the public: District/County Cllr. Nigel Dixon, Hazel Flavell, Neal Sharpe, Helen Coleman and Steve Newstead.

Apologies received from Annie Naylor-Clements, Doug Bradley, PC Matt Pritty and Anne Mulhall.

The Chair welcomed all attending and stated that this was not a Parish Council meeting but the Annual Parish Meeting. After the usual reports, parishioners could raise any matters of concern to them or the village.

1. **Agree minutes of the previous meeting – 17th May 2023**

It was confirmed/agreed the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2022.

2. **Norfolk Police Beat Manager Report for the Village**

Apologies were received from PC Matt Pretty. A report was read out :

In the past 12 months we have received 23 calls from the parish, I have broken them down to show that:

- 4x were emergency calls which consisted of the property fire , a vehicle fire in Oct 23 , a mental health incident in Sept 23 and a road traffic collision in May 23 .
- 3x priority calls which consisted of a deer being hit, the concern for a dog and a welfare visit of an elderly resident who had not been seen for a while
- 6x scheduled calls which were all abnormal loads
- 10 x non-attendance calls mainly consisting again of abnormal loads, highway disruptions and matters resolved during the initial call

3. **Annual Chair's report – Harry Buxton**

The Parish council has met six times in the last year.

Within this year the parish council has monitored speeding throughout the village using the sam2 camera and has bid and installed new village gateways to help with this. In addition, we have continued to help with issues such as highways drainage and water culverts.

We are always thankful to Nigel Diken for giving up his time to keep Ashmanhaugh informed of the wider picture as well as others who have come to meetings. We are also thankful to our Parishioners not only to those who come to the meetings but also those who support and suggest from further afield.

Financially the parish council ended the year with £4,618.24 We continue to have a reserve for projects that may arise, and we are committed to making Ashmanhaugh a place to be proud of.

Finally, I would like to thank all our parish councillors for their hard work and diligence throughout this year, and in particular our clerk who works tirelessly for the village.

4. District and County Councillor's report

Cllr. Dixon gave a verbal report covering: he has attended most PC meeting and given updates on a variety of topics arising in and around the Parish; the increasing challenges of Government meeting public expectations; funding from central governments to districts decreasing leading to increased Council Tax, managing expectations for services provided; County Council greatest demand for Adult Social Services for an aging population in Norfolk and the way care is given; Hoveton planned facility for 75 places for independent living with additional care; review of downsizing those in larger houses to release housing for others in need; County Council demand for children's services and number of children needing support is increasing; home to school transport costs increasing. District Council faces similar challenges- pressures on housing including temporary; DC investing in more temporary housing as more people come into the Country. All of these are illustrations of challenges and frustrations when accessing services.

5. Church Warden's report – Anne Mulhall (Church Warden) apologies received; report read:

With the departure of David and Angel Smith in January 2023 we entered a period of inter-regnum. During this time our retired priests and the curate Taylor Wilton Morgan ensured that we had continuity of services and pastoral care. Sadly, we said goodbye to Taylor in May, but we wish him well in his new position at Great St Bartholomew's in London.

However, we have been very fortunate to appoint the Rev. Ben Bradshaw who was instituted as the rector in November 2023. Ben joins us with his partner and young family. He is already having an impact within the benefice instituting new Morning Prayers on one weekday in each parish and reorganizing prayer requests. Most significantly he is working tirelessly to attract more young people and children into church life through a programme of special children's events and a Sunday club twice a month at St Peter's Neatishead. Both these initiatives have got off to a promising start.

As a congregation we have dwindled over the last few years due to the death of several long term members of the church. However, special festivals such as Easter and Christmas still attract a good congregation indicating the support that we have within the village. Since we have such a small PCC, we are unable to organize many fund raising events, but we did have a very successful Christmas Draw that again was generously sponsored by several parishioners.

Indeed, thanks are due to several parishioners who help to maintain the church and churchyard. Simon Hannant, continues to cut the grass and has kept the churchyard neat and tidy. Pam Culley has continued to tend the plants outside and also the displays of flowers inside the church. Several members of the village also continue to help on the flower rota. Helen Coleman continues to clean the church for us. And Richard Culley has kindly repaired and refurbished all the brassware. Following the severe pruning and cutting back of the yew trees the brambles and scrub in the graveyard have been removed and the grass reseeded, and the shed has been camouflaged with a trellis that Pam has planted with climbers. I would like to record my thanks to everyone who gives of their time and skills to St Swithin's.

6. Preston Rooms report – verbal report by Steven Newstead

The Preston Rooms is still running well and sees many people attend the various events held. The committee work tirelessly to keep the hall open as a useful asset for the village. Thanks to all the committee members and everyone who support the hall.

7. Cricket Club report – Harry Buxton

It has been an amazing year at ABWCC. This you may say is old news as news does travel fast and I hope that you like me have enjoyed watching any or all the cricket. Outside of that we were chosen by the Cricketer magazine as the best village club in England for 2023. This should not come as a surprise to us what we do is one of the best kept secrets in Norfolk considering the topography that we cover. Back to that Cricket!!

Our first team were in the premiership having won Division One of the Norfolk Alliance last year. We managed to keep most of our team together adding a couple of players to bolster our resources as well as improving the ones that we had. I assumed when talking to Jordan Everett (captain) at the

beginning of the season that top three would be a great achievement to push on next year, of course they only went and won it with a game to spare!! In the middle of all this they managed to get to the quarter finals of the village cup, the lords final was tantalisingly close but alas not to be. Then the play offs again let's see we won't really win but we will try our best. Well, our best is brilliant we won both games huge crowds amazing support from our volunteers and welcome to the East Anglian Premier League. What a season my thanks and congratulations to all involved!

Second Team: Notably led my Theo Burne with some new players again joining the club, the team looked to not only push forward in division 4 of the Alliance but challenge for the title. This was no mean achievement considering we were nearly demoted last year and a lot of good teams in this league. They did extraordinary well coming third in the league and if a point or two went the right way they would have been promoted. My thanks again to all those involved with this team and their efforts this year.

Third team: Division 4 North East is a hard league to get out on and from the beginning we realised we needed to up our game losing to Somerlayton in the first game. This we did and won nearly all the other games except for Aldborough who have several very skilful players. In the end we came second in the league narrowly missing out on automatic promotion, but thanks mainly to other efforts notably the first tea winning the top league we have now been promoted as the best runner up to division 3 which is no more than the players deserve. Again, thank you all of our players and helpers.

JUNIORS:

A massive thank you to all the managers and coaches of the junior teams I know how much hard work they put in. The u9 u11 had a great year competing very well and winning many notable games. The u13 were more than brilliant getting to the final of tier one and winning tier 2 this is a very talented group of players who look out for one another, and I know they are pushing for adult cricket. With these players and the ones above, I know the future of our club is in great hands. U15 U17 had a hard time being restricted as to the age group and the players available but they did win some games and competed to a very high standard.

Harry Boxton has now stepped down as Chair of the cricket club.
All are welcome to come and watch the matches.

8. **Poor's Land report – read by Neal Sharpe.**

We now have a full complement of Trustees. They are Mrs Rachel Buxton (Chair), Mr Terry Childerhouse, Mr Chris Phillipo, Mr John Pond and Mr Neal Sharpe.

The Board has three regular meetings a year but will call extraordinary meetings if necessary.
The objective of the Trust is

- The relief of poverty
- To improve the quality of life for those residents who have need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantages.
- The advancement of education.
- The advancement of community development.
- Greater use of community buildings.

The annual return to the Charity Commission has been completed and is available to view, on the Charity Commission website.

Currently, the Trust has some £600 of uncommitted funds available for grants.

The Trust made carried out tree maintenance to the Rectory Road boundary, during 2023/24.

If there is any person or group, who is in need of a grant and meets the objective, please contact one of the Trustees.

9. **Any further reports**

None

10. Open forum

It was raised the greater expectation of Parish Councillors/Councils, District/County Councillors and Councils, and emergency services etc. for the services they provide and can see changes in the future to a lot of these positions who for many are voluntary.

Cllr. Dixon mention Sloley PC whose Councillors and clerk all stood down in May 2023 and therefore the District Council had to step in and Cllr. Dixon is currently chairing, although hoping a new Parish Council will soon be in place. The DC should not run PC's which adds extra work.

Anyone who is interested in their Parish should stand as a Parish Councillor and have their say.

Thanks were given to all those who attended and to Helen Coleman for serving the refreshments.

Meeting closed: 20:30

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