

MINUTES OF THE WEETING WITH BROOMHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Thursday 16th May 2024 at 7.00pm in Weeting Village Hall

Present: - Cllrs- M. Nairn Chairman, M. Lister Vice Chair, T. Childerhouse, I. Childerhouse, S. Nairn, P. Nordan, B. Smith, C. Wilkins, and Mrs P. Angus Clerk to the Council

There was 7 members of the public at the meeting including representatives from the Bowls Club, Village Hall, School, and Church

1. Apologies for absence

District Cllrs S. Chapman-Allen, R. Kybird and County Cllr Fabian Eagle

2. To accept and sign the minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 18th May 2023

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 18th May 2023 were accepted by all who were in attendance as a true record of that meeting, a copy of the minutes will be posted on the notice board and the Parish Council website.

3. Annual Report from The Chairman

The Chair gave the following report

- We have had the Village Hall Drive repaired
- The Commercial litter bin is proving very popular and cost a lot less than the previous bins that were in use.
- We are in the process of replacing some of the play equipment
- Recycling payments that we get for our clothing and glass banks are down again this year
- A Swift tower has been installed
- A Flag Pole has been installed –and we have recently purchased the Norfolk flag, Union flag and St Georges flag.
- The door on the electric cabinet on Parrotts Piece has been replaced.
- The Precept has gone up in line with inflation
- Clodagh Drewry resigned from the Parish Council after many years of service and we thank her for her time spent on the PC.

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16th May 2024**

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4. Annual Report from Weeting CE School

The following report was read out at the meeting by the head teacher Jacqui Hardie

Staffing and Classes

We have 5 classes open – reception, Y1/2, Y3/4, Y5/6, and a SEND provision class for children with the most complex needs from across the Trinity Partnership. 2 new teachers have joined – Miss Back in Reception and Miss Woodison in Year 5/6. Numbers remain constant and the 3-year forecast for the school shows that these are likely to remain stable, with a slight increase showing during this time. Following a staff restructure last summer, the school is in a good place financially for now and in the future. We opened a Breakfast Club and After School Club in September 2023 and this has been well supported by families.

Church and Community Involvement

Mother Joan continues to work closely with the school, leading Christingle, Ash Wednesday and Pentecost services. For the first time in 6 years, we held our Easter Service at St Mary's, providing us with spiritual and moral guidance in line with the Christian values of the school.

We have participated in the Tesco Stronger Together blue token scheme, receiving £1000 which will be used to purchase a new canopy for our outside space. Currently we are collecting to fundraise for gardening club equipment. Please help us by dropping tokens into the box at Brandon Tesco.

Family involvement in the school is a huge part of our work and this year has taken many different forms from Christmas productions, Christingle and Remembrance Day. We had an amazing fundraising event with a Paralympian athlete, raising over £3000 for PE and outdoor play equipment. We have participated in DEMAT Together projects, joining with Year 6 classes from all 40 schools in the DEMAT Carol Service at Ely Cathedral and have had pieces of Art work selected into a DEMAT art exhibition to be held in Cambridge.

Our Friends of Weeting work tremendously hard to provide our children with additional resources. This year they are fundraising towards a collection of everyday games that families can borrow to support maths understanding.

Inspections

We had our Ofsted inspection in July 2024 and were judged good in all areas and outstanding in Early Years. This has had a huge impact on removing the negativity that had been held by some in the community and surrounding areas about the quality of the school and we now have children and families choosing to come to Weeting because of our good reputation.

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2023-24 School Priorities

This year the school has 4 key educational priorities:

- 1 – Improve consistency of teaching across all year groups.
- 2 – Improve outcomes for Maths across the school.
- 3 – Improve staff confidence and quality of teaching in Art, Design Technology and ICT.

5. Annual Report from St Mary's Church

Associate Priest Revered Juanita Horan gave the following report

St. Mary's, Weeting is one of 4 Parishes in the Grimshoe Benefice, along with St. Mary's Feltwell, St. Andrew's Northwold, and St. James' Hockwold

Here at St. Mary's, we celebrate Holy Communion fortnightly on Sundays at 11.00am. That said, the next service here is this Sunday at 10.00am, a special service to celebrate the feast of Pentecost (also known as Whitsun). It will be a joint service, with people from all 4 churches coming and, of course, anyone in the village is warmly welcome too! It will be a less formal Holy Communion, with refreshments afterwards. We would particularly like families to take part - I hear there might be a special Pass the Parcel game involved!

The building works have, of course, had a massive impact on the services we have been able to offer, but we are very pleased to say that St. Mary's is now OPEN FOR BUSINESS again! What a relief! What a joy! Of course, there is lots more still to be done, but the main space of the church, the Nave, is now usable again, meaning we can have Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals here again. More on that in a minute.

The children from the village school were able to come to church to celebrate Easter, bringing with them their decorated Palm Crosses, and a big banner saying 'Jesus has Risen.' All the families were able to be there too, seated on chairs in the Nave. It was a wonderful occasion, and we thank Dr. Hardie and the whole school for this joyous occasion, and look forward to many more. [remind Pentecost]

Mother Joan has been keeping you all up to date with progress in building matters, via the 'Weeting Life,' and Tommy Saward and Peter Nordan here know the details more than I do. To summarise, however:

The nave floor on the South side was removed to repair rotten joists and stabilise it where it had sunk. A temporary floor has been laid to create a new multi-function space.

The removal of the Victorian pews was a massive undertaking in preparation for the roof netting. Many parishioners helped to carry them out of the church and they are currently being stored, with our great gratitude, by Tom and David Childerhouse. The PCC is keen to keep this

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16th May 2024

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space more flexible in the future and has voted to petition the Diocesan Advisory Committee to allow us to keep the space open and flexible, rather than returning the pews. This will require plans for a permanent floor, flush with the stone floor, to be laid and of course will require further fund raising and grant money to bring this to fruition. A decision regarding the pews will need to be made very soon by the DAC so that Tom and David are not inconvenienced by storing pews for a lengthy period.

As mentioned earlier, the nave ceiling has been netted to prevent injuries due to falling plaster. Repairs to the interior ceiling of the porch will take place as soon as the contractor becomes available.

I would like to conclude by expressing our gratitude to all in the village for your generous support, who have helped us get this far with the repairs to church, especially:

to Lisa, Max and others who organised the wonderful Elvis Night and Tea Dance in 2022, to Richard Parrott, Kate Plant, Helen Childerhouse and the Steam Rally Committee – it's great fun to be part of the Hub at the Steam Rally and we're looking forward to being involved again this year, to Tom and David Childerhouse for storing our pews, and to our PCC who have spent many tiring hours in cleaning, polishing and bringing our church back to fruition, saving it from dereliction; and continue to come up with creative fund-raising ideas, and for all who generously support them.

We will be having an 'Open afternoon/evening,' on a date to be advised, with plentiful refreshments – bubbly, tea, coffee, soft drinks, nibbles and of course cake to celebrate the reopening of St Mary's. This will provide an opportunity for all in the village to come and have a look at the work that has been done, as well as seeing the work that will still need to be done to undertake all the repairs recommended by the Historic England survey. The local press, and others from Historic England and the various Grant bodies, will also be invited, and especially our local supporters and fundraisers who have been part of the process of enabling the church to reopen.

6. Annual Report from the Village Hall Committee

The following report was given by Carole Wilkins

Well, it has been a busy year and a rather expensive one.

Our treasurer has done her best to keep a tight hold on the purse strings, but some things we had no choice.

Most of our problem came from our insurance company, I think they have had a shake up in the main office and decided that all the little halls etc, needed upgrading, so the first thing was some of our electric wiring needed to be looked at and there were some sockets that had to be changed together with the two electric fires on the kitchen wall.

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That done, the outside lighting needed to be looked at and at the end of that we have had fitted new lights all round the outside of the hall, and much needed lights on the field side which will help the Fit Camp during the winter months.

The insurance company then said we will have to put ramps outside the French windows as people in wheel chairs would find it difficult to exit the hall and in an emergency that is not good, so as we had already had Tim Murfet in to replace the front ramp he came back and fitted three ramps to the field side.

Next, the insurance company said – “where are our fire alarms?” we did not have any only a couple of fire extinguishers so, no insurance if not fitted. Our treasurer did try many different places to try and get funding but as yet, no go, good job she managed to keep some of the monies given to the hall during the pandemic, that paid for the whole fire alarm system.

Apart from all that, over the Easter weekend some very good people came and helped clean 130 chairs which were in a very dirty state and certainly needed cleaning, our thanks go to Angie, Robbie, Eve, Daphne, Margaret, Karen and me.

With that in mind, as regards the way some people treat stuff, we also lost our notice board in the grass car park, it became obvious that somebody had nothing better to do than to kick it down, it was too badly damaged to put it back up, so we are without that one.

For the foreseeable future, the pandemic has caused us to have great thoughts about the hall in regards to keeping the costs down, as our treasurer informed us we are running at a loss for the second year in a row. We lost the Judo Club on Saturday morning, the over 60's once a month on a Tuesday, the Knit and Knatter again once a month on a Monday, also, the Street Dancing has gone down from two to three sessions a month to just one, so I think we may have to look at raising some prices reluctantly.

I have tried to get a few things going, so this year we will have four Craft Fayres instead of two, two quizzes, one in February and the next will be October, and this year I am running an extra show with the WASPs and that is a special for the D Day Landings, the day for that is the 8th June with the doors opening at 2.00pm, show starts at 3.00pm, so if you would like to come, I have tickets with me at £4.00 and we hope to make enough cakes and biscuits from 40's recipes, all profit will go to the British Legion hall in Brandon. Just three weeks later, we will be holding our summer show and again, it is a follow up from last year called “Murder at the Grange,” this is a comedy, you all know what the WASPs are like, it is for fun to make you leave at the end laughing, the date for that is the 5th and 6th July.

7. Annual Report from the Bowls Club Committee –

The following report was read out by Jo Nordan

We are delighted to be celebrating the Bowls Club Golden Jubilee this year

The committee have been working hard to make this a year to remember.

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We were delighted when a grant was awarded towards the installation of a new kitchen, The old kitchen has been stripped out, and new wall has been built to create passageway to smoking shed. The Kitchen is now plastered ready to receive new units.

There was some earlier threat, that grant monies would be withdrawn for failure to complete the works on time; thankfully we have managed to extend the time frame until the end of July.

Work on the bowls green has progressed well after reseeded in the autumn. New green keeper, Jason Myhill has now taken over its' maintenance with additional voluntary help from some of the bowlers.

I can honestly say the green is in great shape and is now open for bowling, - Green fees raised to £2.00 per match to contribute towards ongoing costs of green maintenance, competition fees, trophy engraving, match teas etc

League matches have now begun and we are looking forward to our first home matches next week. "Singles and Pairs Club ," Championships also begin this month.

A fence has been purchased but unfortunately due largely to medical problems of the Club Chairman; it is yet to be erected along the front edge of the green to prevent people stepping down onto the grass.

Lots of work is ongoing in preparation for our upcoming Jubilee Celebrations over the next bank holiday weekend.

Sat 25th May 3.00pm BBQ and evening entertainment with Jerry

Sun 26th May 9.00pm – Live music with Marc Jacobs

Mon 27th May – Open Day with a free to enter bowls competition and £60 prize for 1st prize winners, £15 runners up.

We have Jubilee mugs for sale £5 each.

The following weekend (Sat 1 June) the bowls club will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings with afternoon tea and a good old fashioned sing song. Starting at 2.00pm. Later in the evening there will be a good old knees up with Jerry.

Sun 2 June 8.00pm - Quiz night with warming hearty stews.

Please feel free to come along to any or all our events, all are free of charge and if you become a member, you will enjoy reduced prices at the bar.

8. Annual Report from Breckland South Local Policing Team

Not at meeting

9. Open Forum – meeting open to the public

A member of the public said thank you to the person that has cut the grass in Peppers Close.

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With nothing more to discuss the meeting closed at 19.30

Chairman: _____ Date: _____