

Minutes of Hillington Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting held on the 24th of May 2022

From 7.00 pm start at the Ffolkes Arms.

Parish Clerk: Caroline Boyden

Tel: 07368 861696 / e-mail: hillingtonpc@hotmail.com

Present: Cllrs Graham Rogerson (GR) Chair, Jane Hill (JH), Terry Kivlin (TK), Ben Wallace (BW) and Michael Battersby (MB). 9 members of the public Caroline Boyden (CB) Clerk,) and County Councillor Stuart Dark (SD)

1. Welcome to all attendees from GR

2. Apologies – Cllr Jonathan Worsley and Borough Councillor Jim Moriarty

3. **To confirm the minutes** from the Annual Parish Meeting on the 19th of May 2021 – proposed TK, seconded GR and all in favour who attended that meeting.

4. Chairman's Annual Report:

The last year had been difficult with Covid and returning to face-to-face meetings was an important step forward. The Parish Councillors and Clerk were thanked for their support and hard work and our new councillor, Mick Battersby was welcomed.

The formation of the Hillington Ladies has been welcomed and the Parish Council will support them on future events and fund raising.

The Speedwatch had to be suspended due to the loss of 2 members, but Cllr Battersby and a neighbour are joining which will bring the total volunteers to 6 and sessions can commence soon.

The WhatsApp and Parish Council website are working well to give information to the parishioners.

The Jubilee Celebrations commence on Thursday the 2nd of June at the Stables, Ffolkes Arms with free food and music. Approximately 100 parishioners are expected.

5. Borough Councillor's Report:

New Bin Rounds

The new bin rounds have started. The idea is to make them more even and save fuel. It was not ideal that I, as your Borough Councillor, was given incorrect information on the whether the days of collection would change. It would appear the Borough only found out itself by looking on Serco's website. Hardly an auspicious start and speaks volumes for any contract we might have signed.

Jubilee Coins

The Borough has funded the issuing of 'Jubilee Coins' to be distributed to all primary school children. The Mayor will be visiting schools to hand out the coins and I have been asked to visit schools in Flitcham and West Acre. The coins will also be available for sale.

New Mayor

The new Mayor was elected earlier this week - Cllr Lesley Bambridge.

£150 energy rebate payments are now being made to council tax payers who pay by direct debit. People should start to see the money arriving in their bank account from Monday 16 May onwards. Payments are being made in batches and it will take a few weeks to process all the payments. Residents should note that it may take a couple of days from the payment being made to the funds clearing in their accounts.

We, like many other district and borough councils, have needed to introduce and test new software. We have created additional support to assist with administering this scheme to ensure that people get the payment as soon as possible. The final testing has been completed and payments are now being made. Next week, a form for those who do not pay by direct debit, will be available to complete online.

CIL

New arrangements are being agreed for future CIL funding applications as the last round was very oversubscribed. More details will follow once agreed by Council.

Planning

Continued staffing issues means the department is not working to the satisfaction of the council but I am pushing for greater communication with those who report breaches of planning conditions as the current policy is not to keep such residents informed of progress of investigations. We are a 'computer says NO' council.

Local Plan

The Local Plan is with examiners, and they will initially write with questions before a formal hearing. I question as to why we bother as the planning committee takes no notice of whether something is against the Local Plan, particularly if it involves an application from a current or previous conservative councillor. Corrupt, I couldn't possibly comment.

Kind regards

Jim

Jim Moriarty

Massingham with Castle Acre Ward

6. County Councillor's Report:

It has been a very tough year with Covid and the omicron variation hitting staff hard but we are resuming all activities and are now working on helping the Ukrainian refugees and funding has been made available to assist families relocating to the Borough.

Highlights include my contribution of £2,000 towards the SAM2 unit for Hillington and working with the Highways team to improve the A148 by the Garage following the issues caused by Anglian Water to the road. This was a significant investment of £86k.

The issues with speeding were discussed regarding both sides of the village on the A148 where residential homes are located. Cllr Dark advised he would be setting up an on site visit after the Jubilee Celebrations with Kevin Allen, the Highways Safety Officer. No replacement for Sally Bettinson had been appointed yet.

The member fund of £10k is now available to cover any highways and environmental projects.

A member of the public raised the issues with the footpath on the road to Flitcham as it was now impassable by wheelchairs and pushchairs due to being overgrown. Cllr Dark will add this to the site visit and also contact Jason Moore to arrange the overgrown areas to be cut back.

Church Report:

After a difficult time for everyone, things seem to be getting back to a new 'normal'! St Mary the Virgin Church is back to its regular church services of 9:30 for the 1st and 11:15 for the 3rd of each month. (Services are always listed on the Sandringham website.)

During the past year, our Church became the focal point and venue for several village events, the Summer Yard and Cake Sale in July and the Christmas Fayre in December 2021 organised by the Hillington Ladies group. This energetic group very kindly gifted some of the fundraising proceeds to the Church to help towards its care and maintenance.

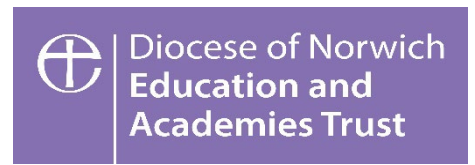
The Church grounds continue to receive very positive praise for its maintenance and pretty presentation. We continue to be hugely grateful to the Parish Council for their very kind support for the Church maintenance and services of our gardeners, Ozzie and his wife, Sarah. This continues to make the village look appealing to both locals and visitors alike.

Sadly, the Christmas Carol Service with the King's Lynn Town Band, one of the great highlights of the Church's calendar, was forced to postpone again due to a rise in Omicron infections at the end of 2021. Luckily, however, during the Easter period, many of the villages were able to join in a pilgrim's walk from Sandringham St Mary's to Hillington St Mary's Church in lovely Spring sunshine. It was a wonderful walk with villagers from 6 other parishes in the Sandringham group and many children and dogs! Following the walk, hot cross buns and refreshments were on hand for those hardy folk before the Good Friday service.

Like last year, our acclaimed Snetzler organ continued to draw interest from organists around the county and the Church was able to play host to a Study Day for Organists and an evening Organ Recital given by Julian Haggett, MMus., Norwich in September. Funds were raised for the upkeep and maintenance of the organ and an Organ Appeal has been launched. To this end, St Mary's Church was deeply grateful to receive an unexpected donation towards this appeal, from Her Majesty, the Queen.

Weddings, funerals and christenings are now occurring more regularly in the Church following the pandemic. Please do consider this venue – we have a light and airy Church that holds over 120 people! New ideas and plans for the upcoming year include the potential organisation of a choral group of village singers. This may be a project undertaken by the Sandringham choir mistress later in the Autumn depending on interested singers! Watch this space! There might also be a change in services to incorporate an Evensong, an early evening rather than a morning service on the 3rd Sundays of each month and this could include the choral singers and provide a venue for their singing. Hopefully, we will also play host to more village events such as a plant, yard or craft sale in the Summer and the Christmas Fayre in the Winter months.

Our last note to report is that on June 5th, the Hillington Church will sadly see the last service taken by the Rector of Sandringham Group of Parishes, the Reverend Canon, Jonathan Riviere who will be retiring at the end of June, 2022. We send Father Jonathan our very best wishes and thanks. The newly appointed Rector, for Hillington and the Group has been appointed (May, 2022) by the Patrons, HM the Queen, Lord Howard of Rising and Mr Edward Dawnay, parish representatives and the Bishop of Norwich. The Revd Canon Dr Paul Williams, currently Vicar of Tewkesbury Abbey in the Diocese of Gloucester will be joining us and getting to know our villagers from September onwards. We welcome Father Paul and his family and look forward to many happy years ahead.



Flitcham Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Jane Gardener

Church Road, Flitcham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6BU

Tel: 01485 600383 Email: office@flitcham.norfolk.sch.uk Web: www.flitcham.norfolk.sch.uk

School life is finally returning to some sense of normality after the Covid pandemic. We are now thankfully able to be more open to parents and families with our celebration assemblies attracting a good regular attendance of parents. Parents were also able to enjoy a real parents evening consultation for the first time in over a year, as opposed to virtual or telephone conversations. The school role is rising, from 52 when I first became the Executive Headteacher in 2016 to 72 currently. This is in part due to our creation of a nursery class which attracts families to the school. This September we will welcome 12 new reception pupils which is close to our admissions number of 15, this compares favourably with a few years ago when we were down to 4 pupils in Reception.

Staffing was challenging during the Pandemic with many staff off with covid. Thankfully all staff and pupils recovered, and attendance is now much improved. Our Federation work with Sandringham and West Newton continues well and all teachers work together on a weekly basis. My Deputy and I, work across both sites in an alternating way and this has been working well, creating further financial sustainability for the schools.

Our links with the local church remain strong, Father Jonathan visits school once a week to take assembly, based on our Christian value of the half term, currently the children are exploring Service. We will be sorry to see Father Jonathan retire but are hopeful that the new vicar will enjoy an equally fruitful relationship with the school. We also visit the Church for all the events in the Christian calendar and for a half termly family communion where parents and younger children can join the school.

The PTA at the school remains vibrant, ably led by Lucy Lockwood, who sadly is leaving us this year after many years, as her youngest daughter moves to high school. She has been an amazing Chair and organise so many wonderful events. The school is very grateful for her wonderful organisational abilities, and we wish her and Phoebe all the best as they move to Springwood. In addition, I am also very grateful to the many local residents who support our schools by being school governors, we are pleased to report we have a complete governing board, including governors with a wide range of talents who can support the school.

The school as ever is open to interaction with parishioners and villagers, who may have talents to share. We are always keen to hear from anyone with a passion to share e.g., gardening, sewing, local history, science, music – please do give me a call if you have an idea.

Kind regards
Jane Gardener
Executive headteacher

Norfolk Constabulary Report:



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Thank you for your invitation for me to join you at the Hillington Annual Parish Meeting. I am unfortunately unable to attend in person due to prior commitments but would like to offer the below annual report from Police.

We have recently had some officer moves, with Inspector Alex Bucher now in post as the Local Policing Command Inspector for the Hunstanton, Dersingham and The Woottons policing area. We also have a new Community Policing Team formed, made up of a Sergeant and 6 PCs. This team are based out of Dereham Police Station but are a County-wide resource whose aim is to support local policing teams with neighbourhood issues and problems that require increased visibility, increased community engagement and increased enforcement by utilising the additional resources and specialist skills that the officers within the team have. This is all part of Chief Constable Paul Sandford's pledge that Norfolk Constabulary will be building on its strong foundations of protecting communities from harm with renewed focus on local Policing with officers becoming more visible in their communities.

Your Local Policing Team have always enjoyed a very close working relationship with the community and while we are still planning our community meetings carefully with emphasis on remaining safe, we are looking forward to more and more in-person meetings and social events. Our Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Priority Setting Meetings have been booked for the remainder of 2022 with meetings scheduled for 13th July and 10th October, all starting at 7pm and being held online. To join us online at these meetings please email me at EOKingsLynn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all Hillington community members to remain vigilant against scams – particularly those where fraudsters pretend to be police officers. I would like to reiterate that Police Officers will NEVER ask you to either transfer money or withdraw cash as part of an investigation and if you are cold called by someone purporting to be a police officer asking you to do so, please hang up and call Norfolk Police on 101 to report this.

I and your Local Policing Team Beat Managers would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Hillington Parish Council, local community and businesses for their understanding and support during what has been undoubtedly a very difficult couple of years for everyone and we look forward to meeting with you in the coming months.

Very kind regards

Paula Gilluley, Kings Lynn & Breckland Community Engagement Officer

Callibut's Trust (1509) Charity Number 243511 Report:

This Charity has been in existence since the 17C and has now been amalgamated. It is shared between two Parishes: East Walton and Hillington parishes.

The funds are distributed the five Trustees all from the village except for Jonathan Riviere our Rector. The Charity traditionally 'provides for the most needy and poor of the village', and especially for widows and to "aged persons" who have lived in the village for at least two full years. In recent years this money has been allocated to widows and to single or married pensioners and also to anyone who

is considered in need of additional help. In 2021, three married couples received a payment of £170, traditionally delivered prior to Christmas 13 single people received a donation of £110. The total amount allocated was £1940. It is increasingly difficult to identify those who might qualify, and I would be grateful if there is anyone who might be in need.

Please contact me with the name of any person and address and I will be happy to tactfully pursue.

Kind regards, Kate Sayer Trustee & Administrator of the Charity.

7. Parishioners Open Forum:

A new bench by the Church was discussed and the costs and maintenance were discussed. Cllr Dark advised that the Borough Council were now using benches from recycled plastic that looked like wood and he will find out the costs. The member fund from Cllr Moriarty could help with the costs.

Leaving Pasture Close was dangerous due to poor visibility and parked vehicles plus a number of pot holes are making the road deteriorate. Photographs of the potholes help when reported to Highways.

Meeting ended at 7.35 pm, and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.