



Parish Council

July 10th Meeting Minutes, 2024

Scheduled Parish Meeting and AGM	Action
<p>Attendance:</p> <p>Parish Councillors: Malcolm Flounders (chair) (MF); Gloria Elsden; (GE); Steven Scott (SS); David Goodwin (DG); Layla Pettit (LP)</p> <p>Parish Clerk: Lesley Hastie (LeH)</p> <p>Absent: Steve Phillips (SP) & Robert Pilch (RP) sent their apologies</p> <p>County & District Councillors: Lavinia Haddingham (LH) (MSDC).</p> <p>Residents: 2</p>	
<p>Proceedings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chairman welcomed attendees and informed the meeting of the sad death of David Young, Syleham's Parish Clerk. Councillors paid their respects and held a one-minute silence in memory of David. Councillors also sent their condolences to David's wife and family and a remembrance notice has been sent to the Village Voice.Councillors signed the 8th May 2024 meeting minutes as a true record of proceedings.Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda: None.	
<p>Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">LH explained that there was very little council business to report due to the period of sensitivity prior to the election which prohibited local council announcements. It was noted that Stowmarket had received funding of £1.5 million.Julie Thompson gave the annual report on behalf of Syleham and Wingfield Sports and Social Club (SWSSC). The report can be found below in Annex A.Mary Lewis, Church Warden, gave the annual report for St Margaret's Church. This can be found in Annex B.	
<p>Discussion Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Parish Clerk LeH was co-opted onto the Parish Council as Parish Clerk. MF confirmed that he had taken advice from officials at Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) and they had advised that the council did not need to advertise the post.	

- **Syleham Heritage Walk**

LeH updated the council on the plans for the sign for the heritage walk which included:

- Committee members had met to discuss the proposed content and artwork and had agreed a draft
- That they had contacted Dissigns to arrange a time to visit to go through the design in order to obtain a quote for the work. Once they had this quote they would then complete the funding applications.
- That they intended to share the draft design of the sign with local residents at a coffee morning so that residents, in particular those whose properties were on the proposed walk, could give their views.
- That the committee would need formal approval from the Sports and Social Club for the sign to be placed at the Village Hall.

Julie Thompson said that she would speak to the SWSSC committee and that she would send LeH dates for a suitable coffee morning.

- **Village Sign**

MF said that he would bring more details to the next meeting.

- **Speed sign**

MF confirmed that the extension to the metal pole for the sign had been completed.

- **Website**

MF confirmed that the Parish Clerk would update the website as residents had noted that this was out of date. LeH to send LH updated email addresses for the Parish Clerk.

MF to contact
Matthew Hicks

- **Potholes**

MF said that he had emailed Matthew Hicks regarding the potholes that needed repairing in the village but had had no response. LH suggested emailing him again with the dates of when the potholes had been reported. Mary Lewis asked LH who was responsible for cutting the grass verges as the height of the grass made some of the corners very dangerous when driving. LH confirmed that it was Suffolk County Council's responsibility however they were cutting back on this as part of their green initiative. LH added that it was possible to ask a local farmer to cut the verges.

- **Planning**

None.

- **Finance**

MF confirmed that he was carrying out a financial audit following the sad death of David Young and would come to the next PC meeting with the updated accounts.

Other Matters

- **Play equipment on J's Meadow**

Julie Thompson confirmed that the SWSSC had made an amendment to the planning for the additional play equipment for J's Meadow. Councillors confirmed that they were happy to pay for the equipment and would reclaim the VAT.

Meeting closed at 7.31 pm.

Next meeting takes place at 7.00 pm, Wednesday November 6th at the Village Hall.

Signed



Date

6/11/24

Annex A

To Syleham Parish Council

July 2024

Our shared village hall has again hosted many family celebrations and community events throughout the year, and the number of bookings for the village hall remains good.

We were proud to provide the venue for the event commemorating the crew of Lancaster LM 464E which crashed behind Fir Tree Farm 80 years ago.

You will know that the repair and renewal works were completed on the front part of the main roof of the village hall, with the financial assistance of Mid Suffolk District Council. With new breathable felt, batons, slates where necessary, and the lead flashings renewed, the roof will remain watertight for years to come. Re-pointing, and replacing where necessary, the soft red bricks which make

up the structure of the Victorian school chimney mean this too will remain a distinctive feature.

Further maintenance, in the form of redecoration of the foyer, toilets and bar area has been carried out to give a fresh welcome to visitors.

Our five year electrical condition check has recently been carried out plus remedial electrical works, annual checks on the gas appliance, fire extinguishers, fire and general alarms are up to date, as are first aid kits and defibrillator accessories.

These, as well as the regular bills for utilities, all have to be paid for – and we would like to emphasise the huge amount of time and effort regularly put in by the members of the Sports and Social club. Their work allows the village hall to be available for use by the community. We would encourage you to come along to some of the diverse events which raise funds for the village hall, as well as those which raise funds for locally nominated charities and good causes. Eye Opportunity Group, the Stroke Association, Nelson's Journey are among many that have benefited. Use for meetings and events for both churches and both parish councils remains free.

Warm Welcome initiatives continue and we provide free, regular coffee get together opportunities with the support of specific grant monies from Mid Suffolk District Council. We have been pleased to take up the Parish Council offer to meet on-going RoSPA annual inspections of the play and exercise equipment on J's Meadow, and this was completed in March 2024. We hope to work on expanding provision in the future, as well as improving the path surface.

As a busy organisation, the whole committee has been working on researching, discussing and implementing further appropriate policies.

We are looking forward to continuing our beneficial work for our communities.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support

Best wishes

Julie Thompson

On behalf of Syleham and Wingfield village hall management committee

Annex B

SYLEHAM ST MARGARET ANNUAL REPORT to PARISH COUNCIL 2024

Church and Community

St Margaret's has enjoyed sharing with the community in events such as the Coronation, well attended church services at Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter and are very grateful for support in events such as Call My Bluff and our recent summer fête. The church will be hosting the exhibition for the great Historical Re-enactment on 27th July. More regularly, we offer a monthly Coffee & Cake in the Village Hall and, as a benefice, activities for toddlers through to teenagers. A shrub corner donated to J's Meadow is doing well. St Margaret's is open to all every day for private prayer and visits.

Three new members have been welcomed to the PC: Julian Clifton-Thompson, who is taking on the role of treasurer, Lorraine Doll and now Jackie Campbell so giving the PCC wider representation. A monthly email keeps a wide circle of people, including some past residents, aware of church life.

Church and Churchyard

The new lighting in the church has made a noticeable difference - and the inscription on the stone war memorial can now be read. New curtains behind the altar and in the tower archway add to the brighter look. Having now been able to switch to 100% renewable electricity, we display a Bronze EcoChurch Award and the PCC complies with all safeguarding and safety requirements. It is hoped to carry

out overdue repairs and maintenance later this year, enabled by our fund-raising events and the grants awarded. Jim Woodger maintains the churchyard and has compiled a new plan of graves, which is available to see in the church. Sarah Buckley organises management of the conservation area and the rowan tree planted to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee appears to be doing well.

Looking to the Future

Our general finances are holding up well despite small congregations and we are most grateful for generous giving; our accounts are now being independently examined by Jamie Pretty.

We at St Margaret's give thanks for the leadership and ministry of Revd Eleanor and Revd John and look with some confidence to the future as, with God's help, we continue to use the opportunities we have to share the love of God with those around us.

Mary Lewis
Church Warden

July 2024