

# **MINUTES OF THE HINDERCLAY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Hinderclay Village Hall**

**19:00 – 19:30**

Present – Cllrs David Emerton, Michael Bishop, Paul Rose, Lindsey Aves, Brian Brinkley

## **1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies accepted from John Davie-Thornhill and Karen Calton.

## **2. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (13<sup>th</sup> May 2021)**

The minutes were approved by all in favour.

## **3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - MS J FLEMING**

Councillor Fleming provided a written report on the Council's Violence Against Women Strategy, the surveillance of trading standards, the need for more foster & adoptive parents, the plans for the new overhead power line, support for Ukrainian refugees and school places & transport.

## **4. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - MS J FLEMING**

Councillor Fleming provided a written update on the current Parking Strategy consultations, the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, compost giveaways, waste & recycling and support for Ukrainian refugees.

## **5. ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **a) VILLAGE HALL**

Patrick Aves provided a written copy of the Chairman's report for the Village Hall. The report noted the Hall had been quiet during the pandemic. It reopened in May 2021 with Covid safety measures in place. As a result, Brownies, yoga, Kenninghall morris dancing, Parish Council meetings, coffee mornings, bingo and the Garden Club all returned. The recycling bins and the Little Ernie continue to raise income for the Hall and Tim Gaddis continues to cut the recreation ground and the hedge.

### **b) FENS / CHARITY**

Ellie Beach provided a written report on the Hinderclay Fen noting that the Little Ouse Headwaters Project (LOHP) had been busier than in the previous year with more conservation, monitoring and surveying taking place. The project had an influx of volunteers. Bird ringing, reptile surveys, reedbed management, tree work and scrub work were all completed. The number of fallen trees increased as a result of the stormy weather. Volunteers and contractors made the affected areas safe and re-opened paths. Two new rights of way were opened and alternative footpaths have been created to avoid flooded paths when necessary. QR code and waymarker discs will be installed in the coming year. There is also a 20 year anniversary event planned for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2022 11am to 4pm, opposite Thelnetham Windmill.

### **c) PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Kate Rose provided a written report for St Mary's Church. It noted how church services had returned to their fortnightly pattern with safety measures in place. The Rector's weekly services have also been live streamed. The PCC was able to meet its financial commitments in the year. The work of volunteers and the support of local organisations was praised. A number of changes in the congregation were noted.

### **d) TREE WARDEN**

Karen Calton provided a written report on the new trees and hedging that have been planted in the Parish. This included 60 metres of native hedging planted by Andrew Aves and the native hedge including 5 trees planted along bridleway 4. The efforts of local residents were noted with new trees and hedging planted at several properties in the village. The Parish Council's contribution was reported with a Rowen planted on the Rickinghall Road, a Hornbeam planted on the Wattisfield Road, a Beech on the Redgrave Road, an Oak on the Thelnetham Road and a Field Maple on the road towards Thripskin Farm. There were no reports of diseased or damaged trees in need of attention.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Matthew Larkin presented the 2021-22 financial report for Hinderclay Parish Council. A surplus of £492 was reported primarily due to lower levels of expenditure.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

David Emerton delivered the Chairman's report which noted how meetings in the Village Hall had resumed, the efforts of the Parish Council to comply with statutory responsibilities, the sound financial position of the Parish Council, the planning applications that have been considered in the year, the work to limit damage to the Village Green, the new trees that have been planted by the Parish Council and the donations from the local airfield.

**8. PARISH MATTERS**

The speed of the post installation on the Village Green was queried. RG Pratt Construction is to be contacted to expedite the work.

An issue was raised with the new School Transport Policy to charge residents with children starting at Hartismere School. The policy provides free transport to the nearest school which is Ixworth School. However, the County Council is already paying for the bus service to Hartismere School because there are a number of existing students in the village using it free of charge. The Clerk was tasked with contacting County Councillor Jessica Flemming to explore what could be done about the issue.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

11<sup>th</sup> of May 2023

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