

# Minutes of the ROLLESBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, Rollesby.

Present: 16 members of the Parish, Parish Council Chair Haydn Thirtle (Chair), Parish Council Clerk Mrs Sarah Hunt.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from P.C. Gary May.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting which took place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were AGREED as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Parish Council Chairman's report. Mr Haydn Thirtle

Mr Thirtle reported that notable changes have taken place over the last 12 months in the village. The Veterinary Practice opened on the day of the meeting, employing 32 people. Kilometres of additional hedging has been planted changing the appearance of the landscape, more changes are to come and the Parish Council agenda for this evening's meeting hints at a few.

There is an extension of speed limits entering and exiting the village, a second new bus shelter to be installed on the main road and the embryonic shoots of a community woodland project. Volunteers have set up a Community Speedwatch to monitor our village roads, and the Council is about to discuss the possibility of the installation of electric charging points by Norfolk County Council on the pavilion car park.

It's never all smooth going for a Parish Council, the Council has had a change of Parish Clerk and it is good to have our Clerk return. We had a problem with the car park at the pavilion and some issues created with car boots held within the village. The school has 173 pupils on role and a 'Good' inspection rating with a large catchment area, bringing children in from the surrounding villages. This year we celebrate a 100 year anniversary at the school and this has been celebrated with a photographic exhibition which I'm sure many residents have visited.

The local public house has re-opened.

I was saddened in January to hear of the passing of Richard Tacon, who was a pillar of our local Church, a leader of the community, and a previous chairman of our parish council.

The current Parish Council has been active, we are an ambitious council working hard for our community.

4. To receive reports from Village Organisations.

4.1 Sheila Ridout – Vice Chairman of the Village Hall.

Since I had the privilege of managing and securing funding for the extensive upgrade, refurbishment and re-roofing of Rollesby Village Hall from late 2019 to mid-2021, each year has seen a significant rise in lettings income, with parties, fayres, musical events and wedding receptions in addition to the regular groups' activities of Line Dancing, Dog training, Art Group, WI, Happy Rollers, Spiritualists and Stretch exercising. This, and careful management of costs, such as re-negotiation of the electricity contract by our Chairman, Haydn, has resulted in a marked increase of £2,000 in the year end surplus at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, including a generous reserve.

Last Autumn I was able to secure a £2,000 grant from the Norfolk Community Foundation to open the village hall as a warm hub from December 2022 to March 2023 inclusive, from 10.20am to 2pm every Wednesday, providing hot drinks, snacks and lunches in a warm and welcoming environment. This was very well attended and enjoyed both by those regular patrons of the previously twice a month Coffee & Chat mornings, and a fair number of newcomers. Local Authority Community Champions also paid visits to assess needs and offer advice to participants who were facing difficulties of any kind. I have now just submitted the final report to NCF and detailed the decision we Trustees have made following feedback from attendees, to continue to open every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm, still serving drinks, snacks and hot soup lunches and cakes. Our now well-established Book Swap Library and Jigsaw Swap Store have also proved very popular.

An extremely kind legacy from a Rollesby resident enabled us to purchase a new shed, official now named Syd's Shed, for additional storage, particularly of furniture not needed inside the village hall during certain lets.

In January we welcomed a new Trustee, Sandra Hartstone, bringing our total to 7. Our thanks go to each and every one of them, without whom the village hall would not be the successful and welcoming hub that it is. Our ambitions are to further expand our activities to benefit the community, so if anyone would like to suggest anything they would wish to be considered, please let me or any one of our Trustees know.

And finally, if anyone is, or knows someone, aged 75 or over and therefore due a Spring Covid Booster Injection our Coffee & Chat morning on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May will also serve as a Walk-in Centre for the vaccination.

4.2 Sheila Ridout, Secretary - King George V Playing Field.

The Charity has had a troubled year in some ways. The increased number of Car Boot sales led to teething problems on compliance and mixed feelings on the part of some residents, although the Sales themselves were very well attended. Timely planning applications were made for Car Boot Sales to be held in 2023, and for a Certificate of Lawfulness guaranteeing at least 14 sales

per year, but, due to failings by GYBC decisions have not yet been forthcoming, resulting in a potential loss of income to the Charity of £2.5k - £3.4k for 2023. If this is not resolved soon that would be likely to have a marked effect on the community, since it is by far the main source of income for the Charity and crucial to the upkeep and repair of the pavilion/playingfield.

An accident causing substantial damage to the vehicle entrance gate by a parent led to the closure of the carpark until the matter had been resolved in terms of insurance and repair, and a safety strategy formulated as a result of a public meeting. I was able to arrange for the installation of CCTV cameras to monitor the car park and surrounding area and secure funding through contributions from parent James Bensly, and Borough Councillors Leslie Mogford and Andy Grant to cover the full cost of this. I also managed to get BT Broadband free of charge through the Better Broadband for Norfolk Initiative.

Lettings are generally quite thin on the ground, being the Woodturners and Radio Car Club, although Motiv8sports have hired the playing field for the first time in Autumn 2022 and Feb/March 2023 for girls football coaching. The Trustees met in May 2022 to discuss future plans for the pavilion, having visited The Rabbit Hutch at Caister, which had very successfully been remodelled and updated to expand its services and facilities. We did a walk-through at Rollesby Pavilion to determine the most urgent needs. I volunteered to run the project as I had done at Rollesby Village Hall. Quotes were obtained for electrics, heating, plumbing, re-siting the kitchen area and toilet upgrades. UKPN would perform the upgrade from 600Amp to 100Amp free of charge. The whole project would cost over £40,000 and application was made to the Norfolk Social Infrastructure fund for 80%. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful due to the £775,000 grants pot being oversubscribed to the tune of £6.5m by a total of 96 applicants. Progress will therefore be slower, as applications to other funding bodies are dependent on the frequency of their meeting dates, usually only 3 or 4 times per year. However we will get there in the end.

Meetings and correspondence with Rachel Harrison of Great Yarmouth Borough Council have been ongoing re; the Play Area Action Plan, which shows Rollesby earmarked for new play equipment on the playingfield using S106 monies of approximately £14k designated for Rollesby. Some existing items are also due for renewal/repair. The Trustees are in favour of purchasing another goal end for the old tennis court area behind the pavilion, so that a pitch can be set up with the existing goal end for basketball/5-a-side football etc. thus creating a more versatile facility than at present. Our thanks as always much go to our Trustees for their time and continued efforts, carried out in addition to their Council duties.

4.3 Allan Thomson – Speedwatch Co-ordinator.

After a very slow 5 months of trying to establish our Community Speed Watch team and reach our minimum number of 6 volunteer members, we have in the last month taken a huge leap forward.

The CSW Administrator has approved & detailed 5 monitoring locations, 4 being sited at various points along the A149 & the 5th on Back Lane.

Our team of 6 volunteers have been vetted & approved & have completed the Practical Training & are now registered & insured with the Norfolk Police.

We have been supplied with the essential kit needed to undertake monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through our village with the sole endeavour of making drivers aware of the restricted speed limits unfortunately those travelling at excessive speeds will receive an official letter from Norfolk Police.

The first time that a driver is recorded driving above the speed limit they get a letter, this is repeated the second time (if they are recorded anywhere in the County) and the third time they receive a visit from the Police.

We are in need of more volunteers to make it easier to muster the minimum of 3 operatives in each traffic monitoring team.

There are a few loose ends to tie up in the next two couple of weeks alongside grass cutting to make the signs visible as they are ground mounted & then we are ready to monitor vehicles travelling within our village.

4.4 Michael Rivett – Community Woodland Organiser.

The first meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April saw 29 people in attendance with many others sending apologies and indicating their willingness to be involved. The meeting was very positive with one acre of land being offered from Glenda Tooke for the sum of £1.00. There is a good committee to carry this forwards – Jodi Coote will report back to the Parish Council on behalf of the group.

There is a long way to go, fundraising is already taking place and it is recognised that this will not be a cheap operation. Parishioners have offered their expertise with regard to the charity status and bid funding.

4.5 Glenda Tooke on behalf of the Art Club.

Rollsby Art Group continues to meet at Rollsby Village Hall on Thursday afternoons. As with many groups, the Pandemic had its effect on people showing more caution at being in a group, but we have stabilised again.

We are a small group of like minded people who use a variety of creative techniques to create pictures. Some of our artists work on commissions, others for their own pleasure or to sell at tourist outlets.

We have continued to have a visiting Tutor once a month to give advice and suggestions.

As a group we find the Village Hall light and bright, and the new lighting system is excellent for working on darker days, an ideal venue for us.

- 4.6 Glenda Tooke on behalf of Mrs Kristina Seeabert, Secretary Rollesby & District W.I.

Rollesby & District WI have used Rollesby Village Hall for their meetings 11 times in the last year in the evenings on the second Monday of the month, and although their member numbers have reduced since the Pandemic's effect on life, they have been pleased to meet in the facilities that were improved during these times.

As an extra and as part of the WI Federation's aim is to be involved in community activities, it enabled Rollesby & District WI holding an Afternoon Tea at Rollesby Village Hall for local residents that wanted to attend in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. This was well supported, and did not create too big a problem on car parking at this time.

- 4.7 Glenda Tooke on behalf of Happy Rollers.

We started back in March 2022 with almost a full house and have about 45 members on the books. Our meetings have been on average 30 members every month entertained by either a speaker, singer or magician. We enjoyed three lunches at Filby, Fleggburgh and North Walsham with a coach from Jubilee Coaches which was a treat. We had one large fundraiser which was a book raffle, raising £738.00.

In 2023 a similar story, excellent speakers and a lunch at the Boathouse. We have gained new members who seem to enjoy it.

We are very grateful to our committee and helpers without whom we could not continue.

5. To receive any police report.

The meeting was informed the next Safer Neighbourhood Priority Setting meeting will take place at 7pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Scratby Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.53pm.