**HERRINGSWELL**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES**

**HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MAY 2022,**

**in the Village Hall, at 7pm**

Present from Parish Council: Cllr. L. Marchington, Cllr. G. Hicks, Cllr. Gary Brown & Cllr. S. Boyce. Vicky Bright, Clerk.

Also present: Cllr. Dawn Dicker – WSC & Cllr. Andy Drummond – SCC.

1. Cllr. L. Marchington will preside as Chair of the meeting.

***ANNUAL REPORTS***

2. **District Councillor Report (Cllr. Dawn Dicker, West Suffolk Council)**

Clubs are resuming and things are getting back to normal. I have this year given grants to the Rugby Club, Brownies, Over 65’s club and towards the Millennial Centre Christmas lunch. Funding is available for the Jubilee.

The Mildenhall Hub opened on 1st June, this will be a great asset, demolition of the old Council offices and the swimming pool will now go ahead.

The Government has given grants to local businesses post covid. There is also Lightwave to reach those vulnerable and £150 Council Tax Rebate Scheme to assist post covid.

The Local Plan will be going to Full Council soon and will then go out for public consultation. There are 3 sites within Red Lodge which are included in the Local Plan.

3. **County Councillor Report (Cllr. Andy Drummond, Suffolk County Council)**

See Annual 2021/22 report attached – ***Appendix 1***

4. **Parish Council Chairman’s Annual Report (Cllr. Liz Marchington)**

I would like to welcome you all to the Parish Council AGM for 2022.

It has been a pleasure to have been able to return to the more normal running of Parish council meetings. Holding socially distanced meetings has for many been a great improvement over our zoom meeting of the previous year.

We welcomed Vicky to her first Parish Council meeting last year at our AGM and I am delighted that she has stuck with us and is still here 1 year on! I am sure you will all agree, Vicky has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the running of our Parish Council and we would all like to thank her for her commitment and guidance.

For many years my chairman’s statement has always included a report on large scale development within the district which we have considered would have a detrimental impact on our village. The scale of the proposal and the loss of several thousand acres of agricultural land required to support the Sunnica proposal, has caused many councils across the district a huge amount of concern and Herringswell Parish council have joined with others to submit representations to reflect this. The examination of this application is scheduled to be heard soon. We would like to thank those councils and campaign groups who have fought to oppose this application. They have invested a lot of hard work and time into this and we are grateful for their commitment. It remains essential that we continue to participate in the appropriate placement of future housing and employment sites within the district. West Suffolk “local plan preferred options consultation” is scheduled to commence on the 26th May for 2 months. Herringswell Parish Council will continue to oppose inappropriate development which affects Herringswell, doesn’t follow a sequential approach, and is in areas void of the infrastructure to support housing growth.

After many many years of extensive flooding occurring at the entrance to the village, we have finally had the necessary upgrades and improvements to alleviate the flooding. We are grateful to all those involved who have helped move this forward over the years.

We also saw improvements made to the glass recycling centre this year outside the village hall. An excellent job has been done by Shane Hayley to install a soak away which has prevented the build-up of mud outside the bottle bins.

I would like to thank Alan Nunn who has continued to maintain the village verges and rose bushes to an exceptionally high standard and we are all grateful for the work he does to keep the village looking smart and well maintained. In addition to Alans regular village maintenance, he also undertook some additional spring bulb planting around the village this year.

The support and help from residents is always welcome and the Parish Council are grateful to Gary Brown and Dave North who installed the new notice boards in the village which had been generously provided to the Parish Council by our district Councillors; Dawn Dicker and Mick Bradshaw.

Following the funding made by Cllr Drummond for a defibrillator, Vicky has continued to liaise with the provider for a suitable installation outside the village hall. We are grateful to Gemma Brown for volunteering to take over the management of this in the future once installation has been completed.

Small communities like Herringswell often rely on a volunteer base and with two lovely, but very old community buildings within the village (the church and village hall) we are very fortunate that people are prepared to give up their time running both facilities. I would like to thank those individuals who are members of the church committee and the village hall committee who work to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of these facilities. Thank you.

I would like to thank District and County councillors, for their attendance at our meetings and their support of Herringswell. We are grateful to them for ensuring the village is kept informed and up to date even on the occasions when attendance in person isn’t possible. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Herringswell Parish Councillors for their commitment to the Parish and attending our meetings.

5. Village Hall Annual Report (Gloria Hicks)

Thanks to two Covid Relief grants from the Government and support from our District Councillor and the Parish Council, the hall is managing to stay afloat following the pandemic.

We have had Phase 3 Electric installed, thanks to a grant from our County Councillor, and this appears to be working well. The flat roof has been insulated and we have had the WC’s painted ready to use now that the hall can be opened up again.

6. Church – PCC Annual Report

No report submitted, and no representative present.

7. Community Groups/Organisations Reports

None present and no reports submitted.

***PUBLIC FORUM* Members of the public will have an opportunity at the end of the meeting to address the Council on any issues or concerns. The public are welcome to stay and observe the Annual Parish Council meeting but are not permitted to speak once the Chairman has opened the meeting.**

No members of public were in attendance.

Meeting closed at 7:23pm

Signed:

**Cllr. Liz Marchington**

**Chair, Herringswell Parish Council 15th May 2023**