

# **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**April 26<sup>th</sup> 2022**

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Ashill was held on Tuesday 26th APRIL 2022 at 7.00pm in the Chancel Room at St Nicholas Church due to there being no access to Community Centre.

Mr R Leighton was in the Chair with 6 members of the Council, the Clerk Jean Sangster and 9 members of the public in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Leggett, Mr L Ready, Mr F Eagle, Mr M Fletcher, Mr T Collins, Mr T Hinds, Mrs J Long & PC Justin Johnson.

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were taken as read, passed and signed as a correct record.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

**HIGHWAYS** – Repairs to potholes in the Hale Road to the bridge have now been completed and agreed to send thanks to Highways for a good job. However there is still one marked to do. Also reported that '0' on VAS in Hale Road is still not working although Clerk had reported this to Westcotec.

**PLAY EQUIPMENT** – Inspections carried out each month but annual inspection by ROSPA had thrown up some discrepancies so the Council had employed an independent Inspector and a working party has been formed to oversee the necessary repairs to roundabout, old swings and moving of new swings. Funds have not been available for a 'Zipwire' but if grants become available this will be investigated.

**SPEEDWATCH SCHEME** – Mr Street has continued as co-ordinator and reported that he now had 9 members in the team and intends to hold 3/4 sessions a week. Last year because of restrictions 74 sessions were held at 6 locations and 503 vehicles were recorded. The Police attend once or twice a month. The SAM2 is now back in operation following the repairs after it was removed from its post and Mr Street is now able to collect data. Thanks expressed to Mr Street. Noted that some residents have queried why there are no speed reduction measures in place and Mr Leighton advised that anyone should contact Norfolk County Council as Parish Council has tried for years to get some in place but had been refused.

**CAR SCHEME** – The Administrator has attempted to get this running again but has come up against many problems with arranging Medicals for the drivers and this is still being investigated.

**COMMUNITY CENTRE** – Mr Collins the Chairman reported that the Centre is now reopened with most of the usual bookings. The Coffee Mornings will resume 13<sup>th</sup> May and the annual Fete will be held in September. Also once access can be gained over new driveway, the roof will be repaired.

**RECYCLING BANKS AT COMMUNITY CENTRE** – Income obtained from these for the year 2021-2022 was £962.83.

**ALLOTMENTS** – The attempts by Council to find an alternative site are on-going. The Working Party has appointed a land agent to help and Mr Leighton assured the public that as soon as any definite news is available they will be kept informed.

**ASHILL ESTATE** – The purchase of this area is still being pursued.

**FOOTPATH MAP** – This has now been completed and is displayed in the new notice board on The Green. A small map will be placed in the board at Comm.Centre. Clerk to see if posts can be obtained to show where footpaths are and to enquire about the replacement sign for Uphall Lane

**BOWLS GREEN** – Mr Leighton advised that this unfortunately did not get under way due to lack of support.

**STREET LIGHTING** – The suggestion to turn off at night had been investigated and is very expensive due to changing the time switches. However it was agreed to investigate further.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – Mr Leighton reported that last year had been a struggle with the Council continuing to function via Zoom and was now pleased that we are back to face to face meetings.

Several outstanding matters had been achieved over the last 12 months which include a footpath map being procured, new notice boards, the state of Hale Road at last being repaired and a new driveway to Community Centre in progress. The SAM2 had been repaired following the removal from the post and damage caused by water. Thanks expressed to all involved.

There remain several matters that are on-going in particular a replacement site for allotments which includes a large amount of work being carried on behind the scenes but the Council is striving to bring this work to a successful and cost effective conclusion.

Mr Leighton expressed thanks to the Clerk for her tireless work in keeping the Council in order. Also, to Mrs Pickard for her hard work keeping the playing field clean and tidy. Thanks also to Mr Fletcher and Mr T Collins for keeping an eye on the trees, Mr Hinds for his Neighbourhood Watch work, Mr Thomas for his footpath work, Mr & Mrs Long for the work they put in to keeping the village magazine issued and to all the volunteer people who carry out the litter picking to keep our village so clean and tidy. Thanks to Mr Eagle, District and County Councillor who is always willing to fight our corner.

He thanked his fellow Councillors and all those that attend the monthly meetings and said he feels that it is a credit to all involved that the meetings are held in a polite and respectful manner.

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR** – As Mr Eagle was not in attendance he had sent a report of NCC activities for the year which is held on file.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME**

Mr Hinds reported that crime had been mainly scams and fraud again and he had posted notices warning people of these. There had been a big increase in Police emails notifying of these. Also tool thefts and farm thefts of sat navs. Next SNAP meeting is to be held in Ashill Comm. Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> July and all welcome.

### **REPORT FROM TREE WARDEN**

Mr Fletcher had been unable to attend but reported that Mr T Collins was now helping him and that the Diamond Jubilee copse at Comm. Centre was growing well.

### **ASHILL WELFARE CHARITY TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

Mr Ketteringham as Chairman of Trustees presented his report which is attached. The make-up of Trustees has changed as Rev Jane Atkins has now retired as Rector so can no longer be a Trustee and they wished her a long and happy retirement. As we have no Rector at the moment Rev. S Thorpe of Necton as Rural Dean will represent the Church. Dr R Norton has also joined to replace Mrs Pickering who stood down last year.

Other matters are recorded in report which include the proposal to plant new trees on Green, the new Beacon for The Green which will be lit to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Jubilee mugs are to be given to all Primary School children.

He apologised for the lack of cutting of the Green but explained that the contractor had been unable to drive but hopefully he will be back in next couple of weeks.

Mr Ketteringham expressed his thanks to his fellow Trustees, the Clerk Mrs Seager and the many volunteers who have helped with work around the Green.

**THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE ASHILL WELFARE CHARITY TRUSTEES** for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 were then presented by Mrs Seager showing a balance of £35,306.28. These were adopted proposed by Mrs Bolton seconded by Mrs P Mears.

**THE ACCOUNTS FOR ASHILL PARISH COUNCIL** for year ending 31st March 2022 were presented by the Clerk/Financial Officer Jean Sangster showing a balance of £325,273.48 noting that these accounts had not yet been audited. These Accounts were then adopted proposed by Mrs D Bolton seconded by Mrs A Binns.

**ASHLINK REPORT AND ACCOUNTS** – Mr G Long presented the audited accounts for last two years as requested following the funding agreed by Trustees and Parish Council for support. Thanks were expressed to Julie and Grant for their continued hard work.

**PROPOSED EVENTS FOR JUBILEE** – Lighting of Beacon on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Fireworks at Old Hall on Fri. 3<sup>rd</sup> June, AVA/Archives Memorabilia Exhibition Call-In Sat & Sun.4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June, Sun Service at Church 6.30pm. Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May for final arrangements.

**DUNNETTS CLOSE NEW DEVELOPMENT** – the Parish Council and residents had had a very successful meeting with Mr Eagle, Mr S Wood, Head of Planning and site managers and are assured that the problems with ditch will be resolved.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated** \_\_\_\_\_