



MINUTES OF THE ASHMANHAUGH **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

A balance of £ 5054.12 was brought forward at April 2015, this was higher than last year as the aim has been to build reserves. This may be lower next year as we decided **not** to increase the precept and to start a reserve fund for special projects. Mr

Sharpe remain our internal auditor, both checking the finances and the internal controls of the Council for which we are all very grateful. They have found that the Council continues to meet its obligations.

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday in May, July, September, November, January and March at 7.00pm in the Preston Rooms. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

5 Church Warden report - Anne Mulhall

In the last year 28 services have been held at St Swithins including the usual special celebrations at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. Congregations at the major festivals were between 22 and 46, but at our regular services we have only 6 or 7 attending. This must raise questions as to the pattern of services that can be realistically maintained over the current inter-regnum and indeed when a new incumbent is appointed. It is important that we should remain flexible and open to any changes that we may need to make and the capacity of the clergy to fulfill these.

Two new ideas proved very successful this year, both put forward by Sarah Hewitt. A harvest lunch following our service was attended by 46 people. A craft session run by our local Mums for the children to decorate the Christmas tree and church was also tremendously popular and great fun.

Sandra Ellison retired at the end of September, so the church is in a period of interregnum. The benefice profile, which forms the basis of the profile for the advert has now gone out after much hard work led by David Murrels from Irstead. The profile was formally agreed at a meeting of all PCC's. Interviews will take place on 15th March 2016.

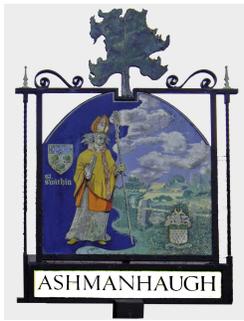
The parish share has increased to £5,900 for this coming year and so fund raising will be more important than ever. With only 4-5 attendees per congregation the amount given is low. The Church depends on the village to keep the Church open and viable, and thanks are given to those who don't attend church regularly but help out with church events.

Sadly Jill Sharpe died last year after a long period of illness. Her wonderful and joyful playing is missed by us all. Many thanks go to Hazel Flavell and Richard Greenslade who have stepped in for key events. Thanks are due to our team of flower arrangers, church cleaners, and graveyard maintainers.

Ashmanhaugh has a reputation for being a friendly and vibrant village with loads of events and lots of money raised. However in the last year Ashmanhaugh seems to be loosing some of its community spirit with low attendees at some events. A call for neighbours, friends and particularly new people in the village to attend events.

Questions from the public: Is anything being done about the plaster falling from the ceiling? At the last quinquennial report the architect reported that it will settle down over time.

As the number of services has dropped in Ashmanhaugh and considering the low attendance why has the Parish share increased? A big review is required. Church wardens have been recently been meeting regularly and relationships have improved, but yes, it needs to be addressed.



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6 Preston Rooms report - Steve Newstead.

The usual number of events has been held over the year but attendance has gone down dramatically. Hazel has been working on obtaining grants. This year there is a plan to resurface the car park, and one of the drains has already been repaired in preparation.

Garden club - up to 18 members meet regularly to share gardening problems and tips. Every year there is a shared growing experience. Last years garden trip was to the Exotic Garden in Norwich. Also raise funds by selling plants and seeds amongst the group. They have a stall at the village fete and also contribute to the Village Show. Flower arranging demonstrations have also been popular.

Close Knitting Group - meet every Friday 1-3pm. A small but diverse group, beginners learn from the more experienced. Each session begins with the more experienced showing what they have produced that week. The first meeting of the month is a workshop and subjects have included knitting with four needles, making gloves etc. There is a yearly project with the wool provided from funds. This years theme is "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." There will be workshops on other crafts including felting and crochet. They have become members of the Scrap box of Reepham which offers materials at low prices. They have also had a stall at the Village Fete.

AGM - Tuesday 15th March 2016.

Poetry evening - 8th April 2016.

7 Cricket Club report.

Mark Pepper, Chair, sent his apologies. Harry Buxton said a few words on their behalf. They have started nets on a Friday evening at Hellesdon High School. The plan remains to make the ground at Ashmanhaugh a center for youth training and there are plans in the pipeline to smarten up the pavilion and the entrance.

8 Light Railway report - John Pond.

Has 22 members, with 2 new locomotives joining the group this year, making 10 in total. There are six open days a year with about 300 rides in a three hour session. Winter time maintenance currently underway which includes a timber replacement programme. Thanks to the organizers of the bookstall in the Preston Rooms and for the pieces in the magazine. Visitors from the Village are sparse. Refreshments are served. Please come along. Lots of information is available on the website. Open days in 2016 are: 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October.

9 Poor's Land report - Neal Sharpe

Until recently the Parish Council was the trustee, but they has relinquished this role and there is now a separate Board of Trustees. There is a vacancy for a fifth member, please contact to Neal for further details (nealmsharpe@gmail.com). the Trust owns 8 acres of land in the village and makes grants from the income from this land. Grants are up to £100 to individuals or more for constituted Groups. The Trust meets 3 times a year, but has been meeting more regularly as they are newly formed. New tenancy agreements have been signed.



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10 Parishioners' Matters.

Question: Any update on Broadband?

Two new cabinets are being installed. First at the crossroads and the second in front of the low Barn outside Park Farm, School Road. Once these are installed Broadband speeds in the village should improve. Once these are up and running Parishioners can use the Norfolk County Council link and check their speeds.

Question: General dissatisfaction with the Norfolk County Council highways repair to the north end of Church Road.

The Parish Council have been working with Highways and have agreed that Highways will take responsibility for a short section beyond the tarmac which includes the area of flooding. This has recently been repaired but has been insufficiently filled and the area remains a problem. There remains a problem with the road beyond the Highways area and the Parish Council working party on the Common will look at this issue over the next year. Problem with a larger dustbin lorry being used and the delay in NCC repairs having a knock on effect on the private road area.

Question: The red phone box is in poor condition - who owns it and can it be repainted?

The box is still operational and is owned by BT.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Clare Male
Clerk and RFO to the Parish Council
15th March 2016