



MINUTES OF ASHMANHAUGH **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Held in the Preston Room on Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 7.00pm

Chair: Cllr H Buxton

Clerk: Sarah Martin

Eight members of the public were present, plus one representative from Norfolk Police and District Councillor Nigel Dixon.

The Chair welcomed all attending and stated that this was not a Parish Council meeting but the Annual Parish Meeting. After the usual reports, parishioners could raise any matters of concern to them or the village.

- **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Confirmed the accuracy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th March 2019.

- **NORFOLK POLICE BEAT MANAGER REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE - Tom Gibbs**

Police report read:

Hello ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to provide a report for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 10th March 2020. I am now in my third year as Beat Manager for the area with responsibility for 21 parishes including the town of Stalham. My beat is geographically large stretching from Hoveton to Potter Heigham and encompassing the coast from Horsey to Cart Gap, Happisburgh as well as the Broads waterway and associated villages along the main A1062. I am supported in my role by special constable James Hollingshead who works with me regularly as a volunteer officer, as well as by my uniform response colleagues and detectives from the various departments in the investigations command. I have two high schools on my beat in Hoveton and Stalham, as well as a large number of village schools. I do regular work with two children's homes and I am a reserve crew member on the Broadsbeat boat which is also situated at Hoveton. My role requires me to participate in numerous community events and I assist in the running of the police cadets in North Norfolk.

Whilst it is not possible for me to make a regular commitment to attend parish meetings, I strongly believe that the people in the community I serve are able to contact me and discuss issues or concerns when they arise. I hope that most people know by now how to contact either myself or the police via the control room should they need to. It is really important to me and the organisation that the public communicate with us about incidents or concerns so that our resources can be properly deployed. Operation Litchurch for instance was a police response plan following a spate of house burglaries in our area late in 2019. This tasked patrol officers to conduct both overt and covert patrols in and around this area particularly late evening and overnight to target and deter offenders who we believe were travelling to the area to commit crime from urban centres. I know from tasking returns that a significant number of patrols were conducted in your area during this time with the operation running up until February 2020.

You will be acutely aware of the funding crisis and adverse effect on our resources in recent years and it is at last good to be able to report that circumstances are improving with I hope further good news to come over the next few years when policing numbers are concerned. I think I can say with confidence that our staff numbers have improved significantly in the last few years. The organisation recognises the importance of community policing and we as Beat Managers are here to stay. The Government has committed to further increase police numbers nationally in the coming years and whilst it will take time for this investment to take effect, I am pleased that things are looking good going forward. At a recent rural crime seminar in Hickling the Chief Constable talked about the

importance of continuing to tackle rural crime with planned investment in further technology like ANPR cameras and the purchase of further drones for deployment to target rural crime in progress, like hare coursing, illegal shooting and farm theft.

So, to Ashmanhaugh and what have we dealt with in your Community over the last 12 months. It is always reassuring for me when I look at the incidents recorded in this Community, not least because I reside just down the road myself in a neighbouring village. Police deployments in this community are minimal with a total of 18 calls for service since March last year these can be broken down as follows:

- 1 - violence against the person, argument and threats over a recent purchase - no actual violence
- 3 - suspicious circumstances - no offences recorded
- 3 - road related offences - no registrations available
- 1 - blackmail online incident - online scam committed from abroad
- 1 - police generated activity
- 2 - highway obstruction
- 1 - admin
- 1 - concerns for safety
- 1 - burglary business - crime recorded
- 1 - missing person
- 1 - animals / wildlife - dog incident recorded
- 1 - abandoned call
- 1 - wide load

I am please to hear about the investment purchase into a SAM2 device and am happy to receive the data collected.

Norfolk Constabulary can be contacted either via the 101 non-emergency number, or via the force website and the 'contact us' link which sends an email direct to the control room. Always ring 999 in an emergency.

Your beat manager PC1298 Tom Gibbs can be contacted at Hoveton police station on 01692 401153, with voicemail facility when not in the office, or by email thomas.gibbs@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

- **ANNUAL CHAIR'S REPORT – Harry Buxton**

The Parish Council has met six times, public attendance continued to be sparse, I would like to express the Parish Council's thanks to Cllr Dixon who has attended the majority of meetings to advise us of the bigger picture at both District and County level.

Thanks, should go Clare Male who resigned in August to concentrate on home life and Wroxham Parish Council. She will be missed but has been replaced by Sarah Martin who has proven a very worthy replacement.

Minutes of all meetings are published on noticeboards and on the website. If you require any further information, please contact our Secretary Sarah Martin.

A balance of £7,539.77p was brought forward at April 2019. This amount will be reduced by the purchase of the SAM2 device and further common works but at the same time maintaining working reserves.

The Parish Council are looking into and applied for a grant for a SAM2 speed awareness scheme and This has now been fitted and we are in the process of digesting the information.

Parish council meetings are held on the first Tuesday in May, July, September, November, January and March at 7pm in the Preston Rooms. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

- **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Nigel Dixon.**

Summary of Parish over the last year:

I have been able to attend the majority of the Parish Council meetings over the last year.

In general, the main issues which have been discussed have been planning, traffic and flooding.

In Ashmanhaugh itself planning issues are relatively small, however there are larger planning concerns in neighbouring Parishes such as Hoveton with the Persimmon Brook Park, phase 2 being submitted in September 2019. There is a public meeting arranged by Hoveton PC to discuss it and for parishioner to raise issues/concerns.

The District Council is producing a new Local Plan and is hoped to be finalised in 2021.

The largest traffic issue in the area is the B1151 (Hoveton/Wroxham), which is mainly seasonally effected. There is a study underway by Norfolk County Council Highways department looking at eh flow of traffic and what can be done along with other issues such as air pollution. There was a

meeting in September 2018 (attended by Councillor John Pond), however a draft proposal has taken a year to produce. The initial response from Hoveton and Wroxham Parish Councils is however that this far from satisfactory, however it is still work in progress.

In October 2019 the Stalham Road was closed off due to flooding which is currently under investigation (surface water and foul water flooding). In Ashmanhaugh itself there are minor flooding issues.

Nigel Dixon asked if there were any questions? None

Chairman Harry Buxton thanked Nigel for the information, support and advice he has provided Ashmanhaugh Parish Council over the last year.

PC Tom Gibbs left the meeting at 7.32pm

- **CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT – Anne Mulhall** sent apologies but sent a report.

In this last year 26 services have been held at St. Swithin's including special celebrations at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday.

We will again be running at a deficit. In line with Diocesan policy the benefice is moving towards attempting to meet the realistic costs of having an incumbent, thus the costs of running St Swithin's and maintaining our services are increasing on an annual basis.

We are trying to promote the idea of giving through the leaving of legacies and there are pamphlets in the church outlining how this can be done. Across the benefice we are also actively encouraging people to give on a regular basis by direct debit. A small amount given every month is a more efficient and easier way to give to the church. We have however, been extremely fortunate this year with generous donations from parishioners and also a legacy from a former resident of the village. Due to circumstances we had to cancel one or two of our Autumn functions, but the main fund raisers – a joint Flower Festival with the Preston Rooms in July and the Christmas Draw were a fantastic success.

Our PCC is now perilously small, and members are having to shoulder more than one office. Any help that we can receive from lay members even if they are not regular church goers is very much appreciated. There is a small band of dedicated helpers without whom we would be very stretched. Our team of flower arrangers, church cleaners, grass cutters and graveyard maintainers ensure St Swithin's is a lovely church to visit and worship in. We also have a thriving Norfolk Churchyard preservation team who have documented the numerous flora and fauna on our 'patch'. Richard Greenslade from Horning has also played the organ for us on countless occasions.

Finally, I wish to note here a vote of thanks to Annabel Buchan who has been our secretary for several years and who is now standing down due to ill health. Also, to record the sustained and unstinting sheer hard work and dedication that Tom Hannant gave throughout his life to our PCC and to the community of St Swithin's.

- **PRESTON ROOMS REPORT – Steve Newstead**

We now have 7 members on our committee all of which have agreed to continue for the year 2020/2021.

2019 was a good year for the Preston Rooms finances. We have not felt obliged to raise funds this year, but there have been a number of fundraising events which have added considerably to our basic income from lettings. In April we change the rent to a flat rate of £8.00 per hour for all lettings. This makes our letting's rate easier to calculate and has ensured that we are much closer to covering our basic costs from our regular income. There have also been a number of donations. With one donation, we are updating the kitchen – insulated, new units, flooring and re-decorated. We were successful in applying for a grant from the Big Society, and the kitchen fire door will be replaced with the funding. This means that all windows and the back door have now been replaced with UPVC windows.

We have employed a cleaner this year who keeps both inside the building and outside in good order. We now have a defibrillator situated in the Hall and the committee have received training. We have purchased the village phone box.

Regular groups are still running:

Monday and Friday - Tai Chi

Every Friday - Knitting group

4th Wednesday of the month - Gardening Group

New - Friday afternoon group - Chinese game

We are once again offering an event every month of 2020 to encourage everyone to join in and be part of the village. Details are on the notice board outside the Hall.

- **CRICKET CLUB REPORT – Harry Buxton**

2019 has been a successful year for the club which started with a few changes. These included having Ashan and Nuwan replace Robbie Joseph to play and to push for promotion. Jordan Everett continued his role as the club coach and thanks should go to him and his team for all their hard work. He started a separate night for girls' cricket with mixed success. This is something that we wish to continue potentially looking at ladies as well to increase the offering the club has. Please watch this space.

The first team came third in their league only just missing out on promotion and the second team won their league gaining promotion. The Sunday team ended up in mid table but did get to the final of two cup competitions but just missing out.

The junior teams continue to grow and improve this year we entered the South Norfolk League in two age groups u13 and u15 to give more cricket to all, both teams had some rememberable games not least u13 beating Horsford and the u15 beating Norwich. We also entered the u14 indoor league which is six aside and although this was new to us the team got to the finals ending up 3rd out of 10. Thanks, should go to all the coaches who have helped in particular: Jordan and the managers: Matt, Andy, Paul and myself. The u19 led by Cameron had another good year getting to the finals' day at Acle (after winning their group) for the third year running. Well done to all who played and supported the club through the year.

Due to the success of the junior sections over the past four years and the growth of the club we are now ready to start a new team aimed at development of younger players into senior format. The plan was to create a third team in the Norfolk league but for reasons best known to themselves this proved harder than we thought so when the option of having a second Sunday team came up we accepted. Therefore, there will be a second team on a Sunday playing at Ashmanhaugh anyone adult or child wishing to play should either talk to Jordan or myself. There is a dedicated net at Cromer high school on Sunday 23rd at 6pm.

Away from the cricket we have improved the facilities at Barton and Ashmanhaugh spending some of our reserves on much needed improvements. Some of this was paid for in the way of grants and private donations and our thanks should go to all those involved. Fund raising is key and last year we raised a considerable amount of money for the club which helps us maintain facilities as well as making sure there are opportunities for all. Further monies were raised for a new bowling machine and we hope to have that in-place for the forth coming season.

- **LIGHT RAILWAY REPORT – John Pond sent apologies**

The Light Railway is open the first Sunday of each month (May to October), commencing on Sunday 3rd May 2020.

- **POOR'S LAND REPORT – Rachel Buxton**

The Trustees are Mrs Rachel Buxton (Chair), Mr Neal Sharpe, Mr Terry Childerhouse and Mr Chris Phillipo. Ms Hewitt resigned during the course of the year. There is still a vacancy for the fifth Trustee so, if anyone thinks that they would like to join the Board, please speak to one of the Trustees.

The Board has three regular meetings a year but will call extraordinary meetings if necessary. The objective of the Trust is

- The relief of poverty
- To improve the quality of life for those residents who have need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantages.
- The advancement of education.
- The advancement of community development.
- Greater use of community buildings.

The annual return to the Charity Commission has been completed and is available to view, on the Charity Commission website.

Currently, the Trust has some £3,000 of uncommitted funds available for grants.

In 2019, the Trust has provided £700.00 in grants.

The Trust has carried out the necessary tree maintenance to the Rectory Road boundary and is investigating the replacement of any sections of missing hedging.

The boundaries between Plots 1, 2 and 3 have been defined and agreed with the tenants.
If there is any person or group, who is in need of a grant and meets the objective, please contact one of the Trustees.

- **PARISHIONERS' MATTERS**

A Parishioner state he was pleased that the PC has purchased the SAM2 and is a good scheme to have in the village.

It was suggested contributing to the Horning Reach as a Parish Newsletter as this regularly id delivered to each household in Ashmanhaugh.

It was also discussed continuing with the Tunstead newsletters, and to investigate the possibility of having e-newsletters.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Refreshments were served; however the Community quiz did not go ahead due to lack of numbers.

Sarah Martin
Clerk and RFO to the Parish Council
ashmanhaughparishcouncil@gmail.com

1st April 2020

Signed.....

Dated.....