



## MINUTES OF ASHMANHAUGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held in the Preston Rooms, Ashmanhaugh on

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 8.00pm

Chair: Cllr H Buxton

Clerk: Sarah Martin

Present: Chris Phillipo, Chris Ramsbottom, Noel Coleman, Doug Bradley and 5 members of the public. Apologies received from Annie Naylor-Clements, Hannah Casey, Nigel Dixon, PC Matt Pritty and Anne Mulhall.

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.

### 1. **Agree minutes of the previous meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

It was confirmed/agreed the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.

### 2. **Norfolk Police Beat Manager Report for the Village**

Apologies were received from PC Matt Pretty. A report was read out :

Sorry but I cannot make the meeting on the 17th as I will be off , please find an update of crimes /calls for the Parish of Ashmanhaugh for the period of 01st May 2022- 14th May 2023 .

I will endeavour to come along to one of the regular meetings in the future even if it's just to prove I actually exist !

On the whole you have suffered very little crime in the past twelve months, and we have only received 22 calls for the parish in that period , these are broken down as such

9- grade D non-attendance calls – these are calls made to the police which actually are not a police matter or for general advice , not usually crime related , the majority of these have been for abnormal loads going through the village ( usually boats as you are probably aware )

7- Grade C -scheduled deployment -non urgent -all Abnormal loads ( requiring an escort )

3-Grade B – Urgent calls - 2x concerns for welfare of persons raised by family members ,1x broken down vehicle

3- Grade A- emergency blue light calls , 1x house fire in July 2022 , 1x for sheep in the road , 1x for a collision where someone hit a deer

As a bit of a comparison you (as a parish) have contacted police 22 times in twelve months , Great Yarmouth in a 3 week period had 1673 calls and Norwich in the same three week period made 2812 calls

Crime trends recently have been catalytic convertor thefts ( which luckily you have not been the victim of ) , but these have ceased of late as the offenders were caught and were all from out of the county and cooking oil thefts from pubs /restaurants Etc ( again not affecting yourselves ) were a

regular occurrence , again persons (from out of county ) have been caught and we have had no recent issues .

I'm sorry I cannot make it in person on this occasion but will look to attend a monthly meeting soon. If any issues are raised which would require my attention at the meeting, please let me know or feel free to pass my details onto those making the enquiry and I will do my very best to address them ASAP .

### **3. Annual Chair's report – Harry Buxton**

The Parish council has met six times in the last year with one additional extraordinary meeting. Within this year the parish council has monitored speeding throughout the village using the sam2 camera and has bid and installed new village gateways to help with this. In addition, we have continued to help with issues such as highways drainage and water culverts.

We are always thankful to Nigel Dixon for giving up his time to keep Ashmanhaugh informed of the wider picture as well as others who have come to meetings most notably the fire service after the tragic fire in the village during the summer. We are also thankful to our Parishioners not only to those who come to the meetings but also those who support and suggest from further afield.

Financially the parish council ended the year with £4,871.00 in the bank and we continue to help fund projects like the Queen's jubilee the Kings coronation and helping and facilitating the new Defibrillator.

I would like to thank the following Parish councillors who are retiring this year who gave so much time for the village their input will be missed Dr Craig Russell, Steve Bland and John Pond. I would like to welcome to the council Annie Naylor Clements, Doug Bradley and Hannah Casey.

Finally, I would like you to remember Alan Wiseman who did a lot for this village from Bowls club to the parish council he will be missed.

### **4. District and County Councillor's report**

Cllr. Dixon sent apologies to the meeting. There was no report, however Cllr. Dixon can be contacted if there are any issues to raise with him - [Nigel.Dixon@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.Dixon@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

### **5. Church Warden's report – Anne Mulhall (Church Warden) apologies received, report read:**

Following the restrictions of the Covid pandemic services in the church have returned to normal with the receiving of both sacraments. However, for practical purposes our collection is at the end of the service as congregants leave. Sadly, the rector, David Smith retired at the end of 2022 and with his wife Angela has moved to Shropshire. We owe an enormous debt to them for their untiring service to St Swithin's church and David's meticulous administrative skills. We are now in an inter-regnum. The advert for a new incumbent has now been placed by the Diocese. Fortunately, we still have our curate, Taylor Wilton Morgan who has proved to be an inspired preacher and compassionate provider of pastoral care within our benefice. However, Taylor will be leaving the benefice to take up a post at St Bartholomew the Great in London at the end of this month. We are also fortunate to have the assistance of a number of retired priests who are unstinting in their help. Simon Hannant, who took over from Goeff Culley to do our grass cutting has kept the churchyard in fantastic shape. So, a big thank you to him. Pam Culley has continued to tend the plants outside and also the displays of flower inside the church. These displays are time consuming, and I have to say they always attract some very appreciative comments from visitors. Several members of the village also continue to help on the flower rota. Helen Coleman continues to clean the church for us, and we would like to record our thanks to her. Following a devastating fire in the village in August, where two houses were destroyed the owner of Church Farm sought advice from the Norfolk Fire Safety Officer about the large yew hedge between her property and the church yard. The advice given was that the hedge needed to be drastically cut back. This has now been completed at some cost. Also, as a result of fire concerns Stuart and Sarah decided to cut back the areas of wildlife that had been established in the churchyard. But their work with the Norfolk Churches Wildlife Trust continues.

## **6. Preston Rooms report – Steven Newstead**

The Preston Rooms is still running well and solvent. It sees many people attend the various events which are organised at the hall including Thai Chi, discussion groups and knitting. The Jubilee and Coronation events were both successful. A new bench has been placed outside the hall to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. The Cafés are very successful and have brought the community back together. Over £2300 was raised to help those who lost their homes following the devastating fires in July. Thanks are given to all the committee members and to John Wilson for keeping the grounds tidy.

## **7. Cricket Club report – Harry Buxton**

The Cricket Club has never been in such a strong position. There are 3 teams playing on a Saturday and Sunday morning. The 1<sup>st</sup> team has Premiership status. Everyone is welcome to watch the matches which take place in Barton.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> team playing in Ashmanhaugh is doing well, and youth teams going from strength to strength. There are over 70 children training in Barton on a Friday evening from ages u7 to u17's. This is a benefit to the local communities.

Matches will be advertised on the cricket noticeboard and again all are welcome to come along and watch.

Unfortunately, the cricket club will have to revert back to only permitting dogs on leads on the ground during the summer do to increased dog mess which is not being cleared up by owners. This is a serious health and safety risk to all players.

As always if anyone wants to play or have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

The Cricket Club was pleased to be able to financially support the community defibrillator.

## **8. Poor's Land report – read by Neal Sharpe.**

We now have a full complement of Trustees. They are Mrs Rachel Buxton (Chair), Mr Terry Childerhouse, Mr Chris Phillip, Mr John Pond and Mr Neal Sharpe.

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 £2,000 of uncommitted funds available for grants.

The Trust made three Grants during 2022.

The Trust will be carrying out any necessary tree maintenance to the Rectory Road boundary and is investigating improving the hedging.

If there is any person or group, who is in need of a grant and meets the objective, please contact one of the Trustees.

## **9. Parishioners' matters**

There have been a couple of visits to the Preston Rooms from the Community Connectors Team from NNDC. They are using Ashmanhaugh as an example of how a village should be run.

The two cottages destroyed in the fires are awaiting a bat survey to be completed before progressing.

Burnt trees and hedging will be removed but will be replanted.

Works are to be carried out on the oak tree on the permissive path which are essential to make safe.

Thanks were given to all those who attended.