

FILBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 16 May, 2023 at 7.00 pm. in the New hall

Present: Mr. A. Thompson, Mr. D. Nicker, Mrs. L. Elms, Mr. I. Richardson, Mr. D. Shaw, Mr. D. Balls (Clerk), and 18 Members of the Public.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr. J. Baldry, Mrs. N. Hutchinson

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

3. MATTERS ARISING - There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Mr. A. Thompson

Despite being delayed by COVID I am very pleased the Neighbourhood plan has been adopted by the Borough Council, and has proved invaluable in dealing with planning applications. 225 for 19 against 33% turnout 92% in favour I don't think there are many Parish councils who have faced three ministerial planning appeals by developers and won all three.

At last the Parish is in control of its own destiny.

In addition to this using the plan as a guide David and Ian have mapped all the trees in the village and TPOs have been placed on the majority.

The Filby Lands Trust has been set up, gateway signs for traffic control back on the agenda and a Bus service a step closer.

Thank Parish councillor for their input and attendance and our Clerk who kept us informed and running during the lockdowns.

Thanks also to David Bishop and the Speedwatch Team together with the Filby in Bloom crew who keep the village looking well and maintenance costs down.

Special mention goes to Ian Richardson for his work in the Churchyard and Nick and Susan Dawes for the repainting of the Village sign.

Although our precept has gone up I think and would defend £28.22 on a band C property is good value for money.

Looking ahead we must budget for the potential loss of the Concurrent function grant from the Borough, and I will be looking for the Parish council to work with other organisations in the village to improve things, i.e. insurance on playground/zip wires and take on areas which might need help in the Churchyard and Unitarian maintenance.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT by Mr. D. Balls

I am grateful to Mr. John Baldry and Adrian for scrutinizing the financial records after the end of each quarter, and to Mr. Jimmy Miller, the independent auditor, who examines the annual accounts and records in advance of the formal audit. The last audit produced no matters requiring attention. The accounts for the year just ended will be sent for Audit in mid July this year

As usual, an un-audited Receipts and Payments statement has been prepared, and circulated to all members prior to the APM .

Final accounts for the year ended 31 March, 2023 will be available from the Clerk once they are signed and approved by the Audit Commission.

Our expenditure was down this year by £968.89, and receipts this year were higher by only £135.85. The Claypits car park rent of £820 by the school is unchanged

The precept remains the same at £16,000 allowing again for the surfacing of the Claypits car park

All in all I am satisfied that the Council has conducted its' financial affairs carefully and thoughtfully throughout the last financial year. I must take this opportunity of thanking our Chairman and Vice-chairman and other councillors for their efforts in carrying out many small jobs around the village which in many ways has helped to keep Parish Council expenses down again this year.

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6. POOR TRUSTEES REPORT by Mr. A. Thompson

Poor Trustees 2022

Trustees met on 12 November 2021 confirmed £250 had been paid to the school for a mobile charging station to help with computers for home learning during lockdown.

Income for the Year was Filby Heath rent £500, shooting rights on the common £1550 and rent for the common from

Northumbria water £1257.

Total income £3307.

Trustees agreed 18 Applicants would receive £120 totalling £2160. in addition £500 to school for school trips and £500 used for educational Christmas presents giving total expenditure of £3160.

Charity commission return was completed on 1 November 2021 and bank balance as of today 19/5/22 £14 442.66.

7. PLAYING FIELD REPORT by Mr. A. Thompson

Summary of the Year

After a further forced closure early in the year due to Covid-19, things gradually improved, and we are now seeing usage of our facilities at a level similar to that before the pandemic. Whilst we were unable to have the annual fete, we did hold the Fireworks Event which raised £7,078, and we also put on the Children's Christmas Party.

Financial Position

We are very grateful for a legacy of £17,531 from the late Dorothy Hunt and we also received various Covid-19 related grants amounting to £16,289. Total income amounted to £63,353 and expenditure was £41,351. This gave us a surplus for the year of £24,002, compared to a deficit of £10,014 last year.

The charity has total funds of £716,843 (2020 £692,841) of which £473,600 (2019 £473,600) is restricted. At the year-end we had a total of £126,262 in the bank, including £73,255 on term deposits. Since the year-end, we have commenced work on the memorial garden and are considering other projects to add to the facilities we provide. The Trustees are satisfied that there are adequate funds available for this work.

Question asked "what is the £126,262 in the bank" going to be used for. The Chairman explained that running costs are always rising and a surplus in the bank has to be put in place for future use.

8. YOUTH FOOTBALL COMMITTEE REPORT – No report received

9. POLICE REPORT – No report received

10. FILBY PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

It has been another action-packed year here at Filby Primary! Up to December 2021 we had largely avoided COVID, fortunately having very few cases. From January through to March 2022 we were hit quite badly though with outbreaks in two classes and a steady stream of cases impacting our children, families and staff.

Despite the disruption in education for many of our children, we have continued to further develop our curriculum, ensuring progression and a mix of both deep knowledge, understanding and applying skills. We have been able to access school trips to the Time and Tide Museum and Ranworth Broad and look to further add to this towards the end of this year. It has also been great to be able to safely welcome parents and visitors back into the school building and we look forward to events such as our sponsored walk and Sports Day!

Little Blossoms Nursery joined the school in September and is thriving in terms of numbers. The school is oversubscribed for places entering Reception for the second consecutive year and we are full or oversubscribed in most year groups.

We have boosted our Sport provision and over 90% of children have either represented the school or attended an enrichment club in sport. We have also run an after-school drama club and have extended our performing arts offer as we apply for the National Artsmark award. Inspired by our local Mayor, we have also developed our democratic voice amongst the school community, forming an Eco Council, Arts Committee and Sports Committee composed of child representatives to complement our existing School Council.

We continue to strive to the 'Filby Way' values as being **Aspirational, Caring, Respectful, Responsible and Inclusive**. Thank you as ever for the support from our local community, both school families and parishioners of Filby

11. NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST/BROADS – no report received

12. FILBY ALL SAINTS CHURCH report by Mrs. V. Moore

Church Wardens Report

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

All Saints Filby with St Mary's Thrigby

CHURCH WARDEN

Mrs Vivien Janet Moore

6 Church View

Ormesby St. Margaret

Gt Yarmouth

NR29 3PZ

L.C.C Officers

Mr John Hart (Fabric Advisor)

Mrs Mary Hart

Mrs Elaine Ellis (Electoral Roll Officer)

Mr Martin Moore

Mrs Vivien Moore (Chair)

Mr Bernard Chase (Treasurer)

Mrs Patricia Durden

Mrs Barbara Gillham

Electoral Roll :As at 31st December there were 15 members

Church Wardens Report

Filby Local Church Council met six times during 2022, working to an agenda, with minutes produced and circulated to L.C.C. members. Matters requiring the attention of STBB P.C.C were referred as required. Minutes from the S.T.B.B P.C.C. meetings were disseminated down to L.C.C. members to keep everyone fully informed. I am pleased to report that Mrs Barbara Gillham has joined our L.C.C. but Filby Church is currently without a secretary despite advertising this position and we pray someone will come forward in the future.

The Rev'd Jo Wood who has pastoral Responsibility for both Mautby and Filby Churches has been like a breath of fresh air .We thank her for her Ministry, Care and Devotion, as she works tirelessly with enthusiasm shown to us all extending to the wider community

As S.T.B. Benefice has been disbanded, Filby L.C.C has been represented at several meetings/discussions held with Rev'd Stephen and Rev'd Jo working towards the new Flegg Parishes Team Ministry, with all Churches having a voice although not always agreeing on outcomes.

Services

Our regular pattern of Holy Communion continued, as well as Mothering Sunday, with posies distributed, Rogation Sunday, Pentecost, Harvest, Christingle, and Christmas Eve Mass being observed. The World Day of Prayer was held at Filby in March with 65 people attending from several local villages. A Civic Service was held at Filby Church by the Borough of Great Yarmouth, for the retiring Mayor and Mayoress Adrian and Jenny Thompson to thank them for all their hard work during their year of office. Over 160 people attended and enjoyed refreshments down at the village hall afterwards. A special Jubilee Benefice service of Thanks Giving was held for Her Majesty, paying tribute to the Queen for her 70 years as Monarch and Head of the Church of England. Filby and Mautby Churches put on " A Big Lunch " in the Church afterwards when 55 people sat down to enjoy an excellent meal. Our thanks go to Mrs Margaret Parish, Lay Reader from Ormesby, for taking the Remembrance service with several people from the community joining us for the Act of Remembrance around the War Memorial when wreaths were laid. During a Sunday service the new Altar Carpet was dedicated to the memory of the Late Dorothy Hunt. Our thanks go to Percy Hudson who carved a wooden plaque .

There was 1 Wedding, 2 Wedding Blessings, 1 Baptism, 5 Funerals, and 4 Internment of Ashes during 2022.

Thrigby Church There were no services held in Thrigby Church during 2022 as it remains locked and unsafe, however there was 1 burial of ashes in the Church Yard.

Fundraising

The congregation support The Flegg Parish Food Bank bringing items to services, that are then distributed via the Food Bank scheme throughout the Flegg community to those in need.

During 2022, 6 Coffee Mornings were held throughout the year with attendance and takings rising steadily. Not only did the local community attend but we were really pleased to welcome new friends from the recently formed Flegg Parish Churches group, it was a delight to see and hear the Church buzzing with people. Our annual Plant Sale was a joint venture this year with Filby Gardening Club and was a great success, bringing the wider community into the building, and sharing our resources. Our thanks go to Sue Smith who organised the sale of plants to a Local Farm Shop, and we were happy to give excess plants to Ormesby gardening Club.

Mautby and Filby Churches along with Filby Community Projects organised a Jubilee Dance which was held in Filby Village Hall.

Over 120 people enjoyed the evening dancing to the music of Beat Deluxe, along with a Bar, Food venues and a Raffle with all profits split 3 ways. A concert by Norfolk Broads Concert Band including a harvest supper, and a Christmas Concert with St Mary's Singers, Hemsby, with a festive buffet were well attended. Filby Church was opened to visitors Saturday and Sunday during Filby Open Gardens Weekend. There was an Art Exhibition run by Fleggburgh Art Group, Refreshments, Light Lunches and a Tombola run by the Church throughout the weekend.

Members also took part in the Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored Bike Ride, raising funds for the S.T.B. Benefice account, Filby Church and Filby Bells project. Thanks also go to Filby Bridge Restaurant hosting their Quiz Nights.

We are pleased to welcome the wider community into the Church with Broadland Theatre Group and a Local Folk Group using Filby Church for rehearsals and productions. Next year the local WI are planning to hold their committee meetings there during the summer months.

Fabric Report Filby Church.

A replacement Altar carpet was laid in memory of the Late Dorothy Hunt , who was a faithful and long serving member of Filby Church. The 5 yearly Electrical Certificate test required was undertaken and remedial work carried out as required. Meetings have taken place with Ruth Blackman Architect to progress some of the priority work from the Quinquennial Report.

Church Yard

We have replaced the notice board just inside the Church Yard and the Church Yard Regulation notices remain in the Church Yard advising people with the upkeep of graves. A grave that was damaged has been successfully repaired. We wish to send our sincere thanks to the Filby In Bloom Team for all the time, effort and hard work that they have devoted to the upkeep of the Church Yard. A lot of work has already taken place to bring the trees under control letting more light in and opening the Church Yard up. Tree planting under the care of the Filby Lands and Conservation Trust together with Norfolk Wild Life Trust has been extended to the perimeter of the Car Park and is near completion and we extend grateful thanks to all involved in this project. Our thanks to Filby WI for the Gift of 2 Crab Apple Trees called Wedding Blessing (Queen's Green Canopy) which they planted in the Trinity Church Meadow. Thanks also to the Filby Parish Council for the Cherry Tree planted as part of the (Queen's Green Canopy) and the grass cutting contract and to Steve Hewitt who undertakes this task.

Fabric Report Thribgy

We are waiting for any news re Thribgy Church from our Diocese. The damage to the 2 windows has kindly been repaired with a grant from Norfolk Churches Trust. Our thanks go particularly to Scott Bird and Staff at Thribgy Wild Life Park for cutting the grass and helping to keep the Church Yard neat and tidy.

Filby Bells Project.

The project was successfully launched in April and fundraising events held in the Village Hall and the Church. Meanwhile work goes on behind the scenes to progress the project working with the Primary school and other organisations.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to the Rev'd Jo and all the L.C.C. members for their commitment and continued support to me and Filby Church making it a real team effort. We are lucky to have several other people who are always willing to help in any way they can and they know who they are, thank you. My thanks go also to Elaine as Sacristan and for all her hard work in keeping our Church so beautifully clean, to Barbara for joining the L.C.C bringing her experience to Bernard and Sue for their work with the accounts and offering help to the other Churches if required, to Clive for playing the organ and making sure it's in good running order and to Malcolm for the Church Yard notices. Last but not least, our thanks go to those who unlock and lock our Church, to those who deliver the Parish news sheets and our flower arrangers. Any parishioner willing to volunteer to help in any of these support roles, whether a church member or not, would indeed be most welcome.

Vivien Moore
All Saints Filby with St Mary's Thribgy

Church Warden January 2023

Treasurers Report Year Ending 31st December 2022

It is with a joyous heart that I may report a year of manic activity within our church community due in no small part to the extreme dedication and hard work of all at team All Saints. In stark contrast to the preceding two years, the fearfulness generated by the government's pandemic response has been cast aside and with energy and gusto we have set about welcoming our village community back into church with a wide offering of activities and events both regular and new.

Our bi-monthly coffee mornings have grown in popularity and numbers and along with choir concerts and drama events we have seen the church filled to capacity on several occasions. The introduction of partnership working with other clubs and community organisations saw Filby Gardening Club join with us in organising and running the annual plant sale and, over Open Gardens weekend, All Saints hosted an exhibition of local art organised by Fleggborough Art Club. All told, income from fund raising events in general returned to its pre-pandemic levels, amounting to just over £7000 in total.

Total giving amounted to £12,040, a rise of £1,300 from the previous year (discounting legacies and grants). A good result for sure but with an increased level of footfall through the church maybe we might have hoped for more given that the equivalent figure for 2019 was £12,250. What is clear, however, is that although both giving and fundraising income have held up well, at least in Sterling terms, the actual number of regular givers has regrettably declined.

I now address the burning issue that faces us all at this time - costs. These returned to their pre-pandemic level and some, amounting to just over £26,000 against income of little over £23,000, a deficit of approx.

£3,000. Whilst costs did include some repairs to fabric, for which funds were transferred from elsewhere, the fact remains that our ability to match routine running costs plus our Parish Share commitment with our regular income streams looks likely to be tested severely now that inflation of 10% or more has begun to bite. The return of fund raising activity has enabled restoration of our Parish Share commitment to its pre-pandemic level plus a little more, meeting our budget of £11,000. Your treasurer proposes we maintain this level of commitment at least for 2023 whatever the cost pressures.

The outlook is clearly challenging but by no means perilous as we have healthy reserves and an active year ahead planned. As we travel through 2023, however, it may be appropriate to remember the philosophical outlook of Wilkins Micawber, Dickens fictional character who, though permanently facing financial disaster, was steadfast in his belief that “something was bound to turn up”. In our case we must travel hopefully in the belief that our ‘something’ will ‘turn up’ in the form of new members of our church community, increasing financial support from amongst our wider local community and a growing confidence and robust belief that through our own endeavours God’s purpose for the parish of All Saints, Filby remains in safe and prudent hands.

Bernard Chase
Treasurer, All Saints Church, Filby
23rd January 2023

