

## MINUTES OF FILBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024 AT 7PM AT FILBY CLUB ROOM

The Parish Council Chairman, Adrian Thompson, presided and the following Councillors were present:-

John Baldry, Ian Richardson, Derek Nicker, David Shaw. The Parish Clerk and 13 members of the public were also present.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Lynette Hutchinson, Louise Elms and PC Gary May.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

The minutes were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman, proposed by Ian Richardson, seconded by David Shaw, all in favour.

### 3. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

#### a. Chairman's Report

Adrian Thompson gave his report, noting that it had been a busy year for the Parish Council, and he thanked councillors for their support and the new clerk for settling in, setting up the website and setting up the necessary policies. He noted that the precept did go up 75% because there were a lot of projects to be delivered including gateways at Ormesby Lane; repairs to the Boardwalk; the resurfacing of the car park; and the pedestrian crossing survey. Some of these did attract grant funding to pay for part of it. Band D for the Parish was only £50.

The bus shelter had been installed at the King's Head, the asset register had been reviewed, the allotments had been renamed and renumbered, and the drainage was being looked at. The Neighbourhood Plan had been effective, with four appeals being won. This needed to be reviewed alongside the Local Plan. The Parish Council would be working with local organisations to achieve their objectives; would like to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme; and review the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### b. Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented by the Clerk (Appendix A). The draft accounts were noted.

### 4. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

#### a. Borough Council – Adrian Thompson

Adrian Thompson reported that the Number 7 bus had been achieved in the year, and it was well used. Additional buses on Saturday and an evening bus would be starting later in May. The Number 7 was bucking the trend on local bus use, and this was achieved alongside East Norfolk Transport Users Association.

The Borough Council was reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, and the first draft consultation was out. £7,500 houses were expected to be built during the Plan period to 2041. A number of sites had been identified and there was no allocation in Filby. It was important to review Neighbourhood Plans at the same time. 25% of houses had to be affordable houses, and Section 106 agreements would be replaced by Community Infrastructure Levy.

New nameplates would be coming for some of the roads in Filby. Adrian had donated some of his salary towards local projects.

The bus timetables were available on the Filby and Fleggburgh websites, and at the Post Office.

- b. County Councillor Andy Grant  
Not present, no report.
- c. Police – PC Gary May  
Not present. He had noted that local crime information was available on the Norfolk Constabulary website. It was noted that no information had been received about any of the candidates.

## **5. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER REPORTS**

- i. Poors Trustees  
Adrian Thompson gave a report noting that income money was distributed in December. £3,357 income had been received, with £4,320 distributed within the charitable objectives.
- ii. Playing Field Committee  
Adrian Thompson gave a report noting that new activities had been starting up and there was a good selection for the local community. The fete had been well attended, as well as record numbers for the fireworks. Steps were being taken to reduce energy usage, and a wild flower area had been planted on the field. Income had totalled £60,726 with expenditure £75,113. This included repairs to the Clubroom, and paving slabs. Both Halls had needed electrical work. The end of year bank balance was £129,153. It was noted that the grant from the Parish Council for grass cutting was no longer happening as the Playing Field was in a good financial position.
- iii. Filby Primary School  
Jo Snelling gave a report (Appendix B).
- iv. Norfolk Wildlife Trust  
Eilish Rothney gave a report noting that she had a team of volunteers that she worked with, managing reed beds and wetlands. A breeding bird survey had been carried out, noting that some bird populations had declined due to how land was managed, meaning that changes were being made to encourage them back. A lot of work had been done with non-native invasive species which were causing problems such as blocking waterways and drains. Killer shrimp were present in Rollesby and Ormesby Broads, and habitats were being managed to discourage them. Crassula was also a problem and only needed one leaf to introduce a new population. Kayaks and canoes were a particular problem for introducing this. Drinking water came from the Broads and there had been a problem with the taste due to algae, which meant it cost more to process. Reed bed cutting had been taking place, as well as hedge laying. Rollesby Bridge had had an accessible platform and viewing area added, and works were being introduced to Filby. 3,500 volunteer hours had been completed in the year, and consultation groups welcomed local residents. Four events had taken place in Filby including coppicing, guided walks etc. Interpretation panels would be replaced. Work was still underway around the repairs to the wooden bridge at the road bridge, and it was hoped that this

would be an Essex and Suffolk Water asset, with a grant given to the Parish Council to manage it locally. Eilish would pursue this.

- v. Filby All Saints Church  
Vivien Moore gave a report (Appendix C).
- vi. Filby In Bloom  
Adrian Thompson gave a report noting that the team had been hard at work keeping the village tidy, cultivating and maintaining the numerous baskets and beds. The Open Gardens event would be held in July. It was noted that the Charity Shed Shop had taken £54,638.74 since May 2022, which had been donated to local good causes. The Parish Council wished to place on record their thanks to Jenny Thompson for this achievement.
- vii. Speedwatch  
Mr Bishop gave a report noting that he had a small team of volunteers who carried out Speedwatch activities. Generally a volunteer did one Speedwatch session per month, and the minimum requirement was to operate once a month. In 2023 there were 20 sessions, with 176 vehicles recorded. The average speed was 38.6mph, with 168 first letters sent out and 5 second letters sent. The highest speed recorded through the village was 46mph. 7 sessions had been carried out so far in 2024, with 63 vehicles recorded. The average speed was the same, with 26 first letters sent out to the end of March. The highest speed was 58mph.  
The team was also responsible for the SAM2 device. If the device was showing no speed and the 'please slow down' they were exceeding 45mph. There were around a million vehicle movements in the year, and on average 18-20% were speeding. The highest speed on the device was 70mph.
- viii. Filby Bells Restoration Project  
A report was given noting that the application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund had been submitted in July 2024 for £240,000, however this was unsuccessful due to lack of evidence of engagement, and confidence in delivering the project. A second application had been made and would take several months to go through the various stages.
- ix. Filby Lands Conservation Trust  
Ken Saul gave a report (Appendix D).

## 6. GENERAL PARISH ISSUES

A member of the public noted the Borough Plan consultation. Filby would be affected by the traffic coming through from a number of developments in the northern area. 3,720 additional homes were planned, with a significant development at Nova Scotia Farm. Concern was expressed that there would be significant rat running and increases in traffic through the village. In response, the Chairman stated that if there was no five year plan, the Borough would be open to speculative development. The Local Plan would deliver this, and there was a need for growth. It was noted that brownfield sites only required 10% affordable housing. In relation to traffic movement, there were three routes into Great Yarmouth, via the A149, A47 and A1064. Vehicle movement projections were outlined, and it was expected that the A1064 would continue to carry the

lesser amount of traffic. There were peak times for traffic flow, and the Parish Council was investing in improvements to traffic and speed monitoring, such as village gateways, Speedwatch and pedestrian crossings. There were modifications that could be made to deter people from seeing the A1064 as an attractive route.

The Chairman encouraged people to give their comments into the consultation process.

A member of the public noted that biodiversity needed to be carefully considered, and that there were concerns regarding freshwater supply for drinking water. The Chairman confirmed that both of these points were being considered.

Eilish Rothney suggested that a talk could be given on hedgehog friendly schemes, and was happy to get this set up. It was suggested that these could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan review.

A member of the public asked about tying the Biodiversity Action Plan into the Neighbourhood Plan review, it was agreed that this was an important part of it.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Signed:

Dated:

**Filby Parish Council**  
**Accounts for year ending 31st March 2024**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<i>Budget 2023/24</i>	<b>2022/23</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Precept	£ 10,000.00	£10,000.00	£ 10,857.00
Concurrent Functions	£ 4,850.00	£4,850.00	£ 5,000.00
Shortfall Grant	£ -	£0.00	£ 143.00
Grants and Donations	£ 6,270.00	£0.00	£ 3,000.00
Allotments	£ 1,339.29	£0.00	£ 1,277.42
Misc	£ 1,137.47	£113.00	£ 1,627.97
Interest	£ -	£0.00	£ -
VAT Reclaimed	£ 481.00	£0.00	£ 1,108.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 24,077.76</b>	<b>£ 14,963.00</b>	<b>£ 23,013.79</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Clerk Salary	£ 2,022.76	£2,217.00	£ 1,829.14
HMRC	£ 472.30	£0.00	£ 457.20
Mileage	£ -	£0.00	£ -
Working from Home	£ 223.00	£0.00	£ 312.00
Administration	£ 35.14	£300.00	£ 39.04
Training	£ -	£0.00	£ -
Subscriptions	£ 577.27	£117.00	£ 150.00
Audit	£ -	£0.00	£ -
Meeting Costs	£ -	£68.00	£ 90.00
Insurance	£ 998.63	£814.00	£ 799.19
SAM2	£ -	£0.00	£ -
S137	£ 4,100.00	£635.00	£ 3,600.00
Burial Ground	£ 2,320.00	£2,000.00	£ 1,700.00
Playing Field	£ 2,315.00	£3,900.00	£ 4,105.00
Allotments	£ 823.51	£23.00	£ 2,423.58
Projects	£ 6,910.00	£2,950.00	£ -
Miscellaneous	£ 622.58	£0.00	£ 568.61
VAT	£ 988.13	£0.00	£ 481.00
Contingency			
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 22,408.32</b>	<b>£13,024.00</b>	<b>£ 16,554.76</b>
Balance B/f	£ 13,220.49		£ 6,761.46
Income	£ 24,077.76		£ 23,013.79
Expenditure	£ 22,408.32		£ 16,554.76
Balance c/f	<b>£ 14,889.93</b>		<b>£ 13,220.49</b>
Represented by			
Barclays Current Account	£ 15,150.82		£ 14,393.09
Cash	£ 1.96		
Unpresented Cheques	£ 262.85		£ 1,172.60
	<b>£ 14,889.93</b>		<b>£ 13,220.49</b>
Difference	£ -		

## **FILBY PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT**

Filby Primary continues to be a happy, thriving primary school, with 121 children currently attending. We said goodbye to Mr Wigg, our headteacher of four years in December and welcomed our new headteacher Mrs Snelling. The school is oversubscribed for places entering Reception in September again and we only have a small number of spaces remaining across the school. 'The Filby Way' remains at the heart of everything we do, with our learning focused on our school values – being aspirational, caring, respectful, responsible and inclusive.

Our children love participating in sports and arts and we arrange a variety of clubs and activities to encourage this. We also celebrate out-of-school achievements – our children have been successful in a range of sports including swimming, horse riding, dance and taekwondo. We are lucky to have use of a field and all-weather pitch at playtimes and we have Premier Education in school three times a week leading team games.

During the spring term, the whole school visited the Cathedral and Synagogue in Norwich as part of their RE curriculum. We also have a variety of visits planned over the summer term. A large group of children will be visiting The Royal Norfolk Show and some children will be going to The Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth. Children also visit other schools within our Academy Trust to participate in events such as choirs, times table competitions, debates and sports events.

Please follow us on Facebook and 'X' (Twitter), where we regularly share our latest news.

We are currently awaiting the outcome of our planning permission application to have a new mobile building comprising of two classrooms. We hope that this will enable us to create a new library space, which would benefit so many children and help to promote reading and books at the school.

We would like to thank the local community for all their support over the last year. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in the future.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

### All Saints Filby with St. Mary's Thrigby

#### Church Wardens

Mrs Vivien Janet Moore  
6 Church View  
Ormesby St. Margaret  
Gt. Yarmouth  
NR29 3HJ

Mrs Barbara Gillham  
Jalna  
Thrigby Road  
Filby  
NR29 3HJ

#### LCC Officers

Mr John Hart (Fabric Advisor)  
Mrs Mary Hart (1/01/23 – 20/06/23)  
Mrs Elaine Ellis (Electoral Roll Officer)  
Mr Martin Moore  
Mrs Vivien Moore (Chair)  
Mr Bernard Chase (Treasurer)  
Mrs Patricia Durden  
Mrs Barbara Gillham  
Mr Ian Richardson (co-opted 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023)

#### Electoral Roll

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December there were 15 members

#### Church Wardens Report

Filby Local Church Council met six times during 2023, working to an agenda, with minutes produced and circulated to LCC members. Matters requiring the attention of STBB PCC were referred as required. Minutes from the STBB PCC meetings were disseminated down to LCC members to keep everyone fully informed. I am pleased to report that Mrs Barbara Gillham was elected Church Warden at the APCM ,but sad to report the passing of Mary Hart ,a devoted Christian and dearly loved member of Filby L.C.C .Martin Moore was nominated by +Bishop Graham of Norwich to receive the Maundy Money from King Charles 111 at York Minister, in recognition of his 48 years as Treasurer and Church Warden at Filby . Filby Church is still without a secretary despite advertising the position, and we pray someone will come forward in the future. We are really pleased that Rev'd Jo Wood was appointed Team Rector following the departure of Rev'd Steve Sivyver to pastures new. We are thankful for her continued ministry, care and devotion, as she works tirelessly with enthusiasm shown to all and extending to the wider community. During the year we were pleased to welcome Rev'd Phil Rodd to the Team Ministry, serving Flegg South Churches. We are hopeful that the vacancy in the Flegg North Churches will be filled in the New Year.

## **Services**

Our regular pattern of Holy Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11 a.m. continued. Many families attended the Easter Trail and Egg Hunt on Good Friday, with Arts and Craft activities related to the Easter Story. This was followed by a Holy Communion Easter Eve Vigil in the evening. A Harvest Festival Service was held at which Mr Hirst Senior gave a very interesting talk about how farming had changed during his lifetime. Donations were given towards the work of the Flegg Food Bank.

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 where wreaths were laid. Filby Church held its first ever Crib Service on Christmas Eve. We were delighted with an attendance of 62 adults and 18 children, who were encouraged to dress up in character, while Rev'd Jo told the Nativity Story with visual aids, inviting all to join in the carols and responses. We were delighted to welcome 6 week old baby Rose, completing our nativity story. Our Holy Communion Christmas Service was held on Christmas Eve and was well attended. Filby School held 2 Services in the Church – a Leavers' Service and a Harvest Festival. There were 2 Weddings, 1 Baptism, 4 Funerals and 7 Interment of Ashes during 2023.

## **Thrigby Church**

There were no services held in Thrigby Church during 2023 as it remains locked and unsafe. However there was 1 burial of ashes in the Church Yard.

## **Fundraising**

The congregation supports the Flegg Parish Food Bank who distribute food parcels to those in need in the Flegg Community. Thanks go to Trish for delivering our contributions to Martham and to Elaine who volunteers at the Centre.

During 2023 six Coffee Mornings were held 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. The annual Plant Sale, a joint venture with Filby Gardening Club was a great success, bringing the wider community into the building and sharing our resources. Our thanks go to Sue Smith who organized the sale of plants to a local Farm Shop, and we were happy to give excess plants to Ormesby Gardening Club.

A Dance was held in Filby Village Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, with music from Beat Deluxe. It was very well attended, with profits being split between Mautby and Filby Churches and Flegg Food Bank.

Filby Church was opened to visitors during Filby Open Gardens weekend. There was an Art Exhibition run by Fleggburgh Art Group, in addition to Tombola, refreshments and light lunches were available throughout the weekend.



Members also took part in the Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored Bike Ride, raising funds for the STB Benefice account, Filby Church and Filby Bells Project. Filby Church received a cheque from NCT for being the most improved fundraiser. Thanks also go to Filby Bridge Restaurant for hosting the Quiz Nights. We were pleased to welcome the wider community into the Church with Broadlands Theatre Group and a local Folk Group using Filby Church for rehearsals and productions. The local WI held some committee meetings in the church during the summer months.

### **Fabric Report Filby Church**

Progress has been achieved with the priority jobs identified in the last Quinquennial Report.

### **Church Yard**

The damaged grave was repaired, and a new bench installed in memory of Kenneth and Edna Davies. Sincere thanks are due to the Filby in Bloom Team, Adrian Thompson and Ian Richardson for all the time, effort and hard work they have devoted to the upkeep of the Church Yard. Ian is now a co-opted member of Filby Church Council, and is working with Bernard Chase to formulate a program of agreed work using "How a Village Church Thrives" as a guide. Tree planting under the care of Filby Lands and Conservation Trust, together with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, is now complete and includes filling in the gaps behind the notice board. Our grateful thanks to all concerned, and also to Filby Parish Council for the grass cutting contract with Steve Hewitt.

### **Fabric Report Thrigby**

We are still waiting for any news regarding Thrigby Church from our Diocese. Our thanks go particularly to Scott Bird and Staff at Thrigby Wild Life Park for cutting the grass and helping to keep the Church Yard neat and tidy.

### **Filby Bells Project**

An application for a National Heritage Lottery Grant was unsuccessful, but we have been advised to submit an application on new paperwork due early in 2024. This is still a work in progress, and work goes on behind the scenes with Filby Primary School and other organisations.

Finally we would like to express our grateful thanks to Rev'd Jo and all LCC members for their commitment and continued support to us 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. Our thanks go also to Elaine as Sacristan, and for her hard work in keeping our Church so beautifully clean, to Bernard and Sue for their work with the accounts, to Clive for playing the organ and making sure it's in good running order. Last but not least, our thanks go to those who lock and unlock our Church, to those who deliver the Parish news sheets, and to our flower arrangers. Any parishioner willing to volunteer to help in any of these supporting roles, whether a church member or not, would be most welcome.

Vivien Moore  
Church Warden

Barbara Gillham  
Church Warden    04 /03 2024

## **Filby Church, Minister's Report Filby AGM**

I am proud of Filby Church in 2023. Everyone has continued to work hard in making every service special and event successful. Sadly, we said goodbye to a faithful servants and supporters of the churches who died in 2023. However, we also welcomed new members into our church families who have made us their home.

As a background to how ministry in Filby is set up, the area's churches began working informally as a Team Ministry, the Flegg Parish Churches Team Ministry, in January 2023. Following a consultation process the team was split into three areas or 'districts' – Flegg North, Flegg East, and Flegg South. Filby falls in the Flegg East ministry district and is still a part of the South Trinity Broads Parish.

Filby Church's seasonal services and concerts continued to be held through the year i.e. were held for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, and Christmas. Christmas attendances for were in the whole buoyant and well attended and each service was a joy. Filby also welcomed local families on Good Friday for an Easter trail and craft morning and their first ever Crib Service on Christmas Eve morning.

As a church we were delighted to welcome Filby School into church for their Christingle service at Candlemas, a session on baptism, and their Year 6 Leavers service.

Filby Church continues to work well together as a church team and also in partnership with other village organisations. The partnerships with groups such the Filby Bells project group, Filby Gardening Club, Filby in Bloom, the Filby WI, Filby Open Gardens, Filby Primary School, and Filby fete, as well as other local group like Fleggburgh Art Club, is something to be proud off and a great example of village communities working together to allow their villages to thrive and prosper.

Filby Church's fundraising team and supporters are fantastic and through their hard work, and wider parishioners support, enabled us to pay the bills, invest in the church building, plan for the future, and paid 100% of its Parish Share for 2023.

Filby Church wouldn't function without the dedication and faithful service of our churchwardens, Vivien and Barbara, Local Church Council members and officers, and congregation who all play a vital role in maintaining the church building inside out and during worship services.

The ongoing challenges we face as a church continues to be the same as countless rural churches throughout the country – ageing but committed congregations, finances, and maintenance of historic public buildings by the few for the many. Continued village support, as way as imagining new ways for the church to support itself, is vital for the church to be able to minister to the village in future generations.

Jo

**The Revd Jo Wood**

Team Rector (designate) with pastoral responsibility for All Saints Church, Filby.

## **FL&CT Report to Filby Parish Council**

### **1 May 2024**

First of all, I'm pleased to report that all the trees planted in Trinity Wood and the hedges are still doing well. We only lost three plants from the hedge in the church car park, and they have now been replaced. Church Meadow really began to bloom last summer too and was a fantastic sight in early June, especially with all the Ox-eye Daisies and Champions.

As part of the conditions of the grant we received from Essex & Suffolk Water to purchase the site initially (via their Branch Out funding), we are required to continue our biodiversity monitoring. One of the things that has proved really fascinating is the way in which, given the chance, nature responds so quickly, in particular the increase in the insect population. Most impressive is that no fewer than twenty-two species of butterfly have been recorded in just three years, together with sixteen different dragonflies and damselflies, and many other creatures, including, for example, Roesel's Bush-cricket (that's for the Orthopteran specialists among you, of course!). Thanks to Derek, lists of some of these can be found on our website.

As I mentioned last year, we still work alongside Eilish and the Trinity Broads Project, but also have our own regular group of volunteers. We helped this year with the Open Gardens weekend, a hay-making day in August, and the Apple Orchards and Rural Crafts Day in October. Any of you who have seen the photos of our Wassail will understand the rumours about the Wicker Man in Filby! The apples on the orchard didn't produce such a good crop last year, so there was less apple juice this time, but thanks again to Adrian for selling it through the shop.

As many of you will know, in the past, Filby was famous for its raspberries, rather than apples. Based on some of the archive photos, our friend Sue Andrews made a replica gathering basket, and was subsequently invited to write an article about it for the national Basket-makers Association magazine. Percy Hudson recalled that one of the main varieties grown was called "Lloyd George", so six canes from vintage fruit specialist nursery Chris Bower (Downham Market) have been planted on the Wildlife Garden, continuing village heritage links.

Other activities have included erecting new replacement bird nest-boxes, with protective metal plates round the entrance holes, to prevent squirrel and woodpecker damage.

Again, as mentioned last year, we have taken on management of the Unitarian heritage site, with advice from Norfolk Archaeological Trust. Work has included hedge-laying and coppicing, and installing shingle borders for the gravestones.

Finally, a reminder that you are all welcome to attend our AGM, which will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30 pm, at Filby Church. Following the business part of the meeting, Eilish will be giving a talk on Bats, and there will also be a chance to have a stroll round the site afterwards.