

MINUTES OF THE WEETING WITH BROOMHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7.00pm in Weeting Village Hall

Present: - Cllrs- M. Nairn Chairman, M. Lister Vice Chair, T. Childerhouse, C. Drewry, S. Nairn, P. Nordan, T. Murfet, District Cllr R. Kybird and Mrs P. Angus Clerk to the Council

There was 17 members of the public at the meeting including representatives from the Bowls Club, Village Hall, School, Football Club, Police and Church

Before the meeting started, the Chair asked that all person's present stand and observe a minute's silence in respect of Norman Coleen who had recently passed away, Norman had in the past served as a Councillor on the Parish Council and had been Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

1. Apologies for absence

District Cllr S. Chapman-Allen and County Cllr Fabian Eagle

2. To accept and sign the minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 19th May 2022

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 19th May 2022 were accepted by all who were in attendance as a true record of that meeting, a copy of minutes will be posted on the notice board and the Parish Council website.

3. Annual Report from The Chairman

The Chair gave the following report

Councillors

Sadly, we lost Cllr Margaret Burlingham who passed away in February 2023.

Cllr O'Donnell resigned early 2022 – we thank her for her service.

Cllr Nordan joined us in October 2022 and has taken on (amongst other things) the Sam 2 duties.

During the year

The Sam 2 installed and working well.

The new Trod installed to extend the footpath on Lynn Road and opposite Saxon Place.

The safety mirror has been put in opposite Peppers Close coming out onto the Weeting Straight.

An additional new teen shelter was purchased and installed.

Three old wooden benches in Hockwold Road and on the Junction of Brandon Road and Peppers Close were replaced with new recycled plastic low maintenance benches.

A new security door purchased and installed on the Parish Storage building.

The Platinum Jubilee orchard was planted.

A flag pole was purchased and installed on Parrotts Piece.

Souvenir Coronation book marks were purchased and presented to the children of Weeting.

An Emergency Response plan for Weeting is now in place.

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4. Annual Report from Weeting CE School

The following report was read out at the meeting by the head teacher Jacqui Hardie

Staffing and Classes

We have 5 classes open – reception, Y1/2, Y3/4, Y5/6 and a SEND provision class for children with the most complex needs from across the Trinity Partnership. Numbers remain constant and the 3 year forecast for the school shows that these are likely to remain stable, with a slight increase by 2025. We are currently completing a business plan to set up and run wraparound care in school.

The previous headteacher left school in February 2023. I have been Interim Academy Leader since October 2022. There have been no teaching staff changes this year. We are currently recruiting for a new reception teacher for September 2023 following my appointment to headteacher in May 2023.

Church and Community Involvement

Mother Joan and Rev Juanita work closely with the school, providing us with spiritual and moral guidance in line with the Christian values of the school. They regularly lead and support collective worship and RE lessons. Mother Joan has provided theological guidance to staff to support them in the planning and delivery of Christianity modules in our RE teaching. We have been able to reintroduce our Year 6 pilgrimage journey to Walsingham, along with our year group colleagues and children from The Norman and Duchy of Lancaster Primary School.

Our School Council, made up from 2 representatives from each class, have nominated EACH as the school's charity of the year. They have worked incredibly hard on creating a yearlong fundraising campaign which has included bucket collections, sponsored run and walk and family rounders match. To date they have raised over £1200 for EACH.

Family involvement in the school is a huge part of our work and this year has taken many different forms from cross making to mark Easter, Coronation celebrations – a dance workshop and Garden party – a huge thank you to the Parish Council for our bookmarks, Christmas production, Christingle and Remembrance Day. After the years of lockdown, it has been wonderful to have a full year of events again.

Our Friends of Weeting work tremendously hard to provide our children with additional resources. This year they are fundraising towards a collection of musical instruments to develop our music curriculum.

Inspections

We have had our SIAMS inspection yesterday. The outcome of this remains confidential until the report is published. However, I am able to share with you that the report will make positive references to our teaching, engagement and involvement of families and promoting our Christian

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ethos to our children. I am immensely proud of my staff, children, our families and our Church in supporting us with this.

Our last Ofsted inspection was in May 2019. We have been informed that we are likely to be inspected by the end of this academic year.

Curriculum

The curriculum at school is an innovative, challenging and knowledge based one that starts in reception and continues until the end of year 6.

Reading – children’s reading and writing is based around a challenging, but age appropriate, text (e.g. Shakespeare, Greek myths, Animal Farm). We aim that by the end of a child’s time with us they will have read and used in depth at least 50 high quality texts.

Phonics – our systematic and structured Sounds-Write programme runs across all classes. Children have daily sessions where they learn and apply their phonic knowledge in both reading and writing. I am currently training a group of parent volunteers in how to use this approach to support reading in school.

Maths – we have recently introduced Complete Maths into KS1 and KS2. This approach provides children with quizzes which are then used to inform and plan carefully sequenced lessons based on individual needs.

PKC – Primary Knowledge Curriculum. Based on teaching knowledge in different subjects such as art, history, science and knowledge. Children learn about key vocabulary and definitions linked to subjects.

Latin – currently trialling in Y3/4. Decision to introduce this based on support this gives to children in understanding word roots and meanings and provides an approach to learning a language that can be used as they move into learning any modern foreign language at high school.

Children’s wider curriculum is developed through participation in local sporting events, where groups from different year groups have experienced golf, football or netball.

2022-23 School Priorities

This year the school has 4 key educational priorities:

- 1 – Improve outcomes for Maths across the school.
- 2 – Improve outcomes for Reading across the school and develop a positive reading culture.
- 3 – Improve outcomes of children with SEND.
- 4 – Embed our Christian vision and values to enable all pupils to flourish.

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5. Annual Report from St Mary's Church

The following report was read out at the meeting by the Reverend Joan Horan –

First of all, a huge thank you to the wider Weeting community for your support for St Mary's during the past year. The 'Belles of St Mary's' spearheaded by Lisa Jackson and friends organised two amazing fundraisers last year – the Elvis Tribute night in April and the Tea Dance in October which together raised around £1400 towards the repair of the porch roof/ceiling. I am very pleased to report that the roof is now repaired and the ceiling will be done as soon as its possible to affect the interior repair once temporary repairs are done to the nave ceiling, which will mean that the church will be able to reopen.

In February Historic England gave St Mary's the first tranche of a grant which will total just over £7500 to conduct a series of structural surveys on the nave ceiling and south aisle roof, south aisle floor and north aisle drainage. Our architect Ruth Blackman has put together a detailed specification of works which she has put out to tender to several specialist contractors and quotes for this work were due back from the contractors on 5th May. The purpose of these surveys is to determine the underlying causes of the various major structural faults in the building, especially the problem of the plaster falls in the nave that has necessitated the closure of the building since August. Once these surveys are complete, the PCC will have a clear picture of exactly what needs doing and estimates for the cost of repairs which will enable us to apply for some major grant funding to undertake the necessary work and preserve the fabric of the building for the future. The contractors who will undertake the ceiling survey will, at the same time remove any dangerous plaster. This will enable the church to reopen once their work is complete. We are hopeful that the survey of the south aisle floor will not reveal any real structural problems in relation to the Angerstein crypt thus enabling the floor to be repaired/replaced and the south aisle to reopen in due course. It will be fantastic to be finally able to use the whole church again until, that is we secure further grant funding to have the ceiling repaired and the plaster replaced with lime plaster. This of course will be a huge job that will necessitate extensive scaffolding and closure of the building for a few weeks whilst the work is completed. This work however won't be likely to happen this year as it will take time to secure the necessary diocesan permissions and significant grant funding in order to proceed. St Mary's PCC will of course be required to contribute funds towards the restoration projects, just as we are required to contribute over £2000 to this current survey work, so we will be hoping for continued support from the village for current and future fundraising efforts to be able to meet our repair and restoration targets.

Once these repairs are eventually undertaken, the building should be in much better condition and should remain in good repair for many years to come.

Elly Griffith visit

It is not often that Weeting has a visit from a famous author but we were incredibly fortunate to welcome well known crime author Elly Griffiths to St Mary's on the 1st February. Thanks to eagle eyed Sue Nairn who spotted a post on Facebook, we learned last August that our church was featuring on the front cover of Elly's latest Ruth Galloway novel The Last Remains. At first,

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I did not seriously imagine that such a popular author would have the time to visit St Mary's but after discussions with Jane James, owner of Not Just Books at Thetford who was liaising with Thetford Library to organise a book signing, it seemed that it might just be possible for Elly to visit St Mary's on the same day. After contacting Elly's publishers, especially the lovely helpful Joe Christie at Quercus Books, Elly agreed to visit St Mary's first before moving on to Thetford. As well as inviting local people to come along to St Mary's to meet Elly and to bring their brand new copies of the book for signing, we also invited a group of Year 5-6 children from Weeting Primary school, accompanied by interim Head Jacqui Hardie to meet Elly and be presented with signed copies of her children's series, A Girl Called Justice. It was such a great feeling – the children really relished the opportunity to meet Elly, to talk about their love of reading and receive her books for the school library. The rather long queue of adult Ruth Galloway fans were delighted to meet Elly and have their books autographed. Even the dogs, especially Archie my cocker spaniel were 'star struck'. Elly explained that the publishers actually sourced and chose the photo for the front cover but she said it is her favourite cover of the whole series and was therefore very happy to see the church and its setting for real and to meet everyone who attended. Elly loved the church and has offered her support in helping us promote the repair and restoration projects. Photographers and journalists from the EDP and Bury Free Press were in attendance and there were some fantastic photos on the EDP website. The school ordered some of these photos from the paper and have set up a display in the school library and there was quite a lot of competition between the children of Oak class to borrow the Justice books.

Weeting Steam Rally

Members of St Mary's PCC plus myself and Rev'd Juanita enjoyed helping out in the Hub tent during the Steam Rally. It was lovely to meet and chat to lots of people and also to enjoy a ringside seat. A huge thank you to Richard Parrott and the organisers for their very generous £900 donation towards the repairs at St Mary's.

Conclusion

I am waiting to hear back from Ruth Blackman about the timetable for the structural surveys in the church to commence. The lady from the Bat protection society will visit to complete her survey of the church's bat population this Saturday. All the work must be completed by December but I am hoping that the nave surveys will be finished by the end of the summer so that we can get the building back to full use. At present we can use the chancel – the part near the altar – for Sunday services as the plaster there was replaced in the last 15 years and is in good order but I would like to have the nave reopened as soon as possible so that funerals, baptisms and weddings can recommence. I am very sad that our former churchwarden Roger Woods' funeral service next Thursday has to be held at St Peter's Brandon because we cannot use St Mary's though Roger will be buried in St Mary's churchyard.

There will be a party in the nave when the church reopens with lots of bubbly – the village will be invited.

The PCC have a number of ideas for fundraisers in the pipeline for this year. We will be helping out again at the Steam Rally and are hoping to run another bumper Quiz night in the village hall

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Held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7.00pm in Weeting Village Hall with great food and a raffle and are also discussing coordinating with the school to run a Harvest Barn Dance and supper in October in the school hall. Hopefully children and adults will enjoy a great evening of dancing with plenty of refreshments to fuel the activity. We will also have a Christmas festival in the reopened church in December. We hope that the people of this village will continue to support St Mary's as we bounce back from all the problems we have had with the building.

6. Annual Report from the Village Hall Committee – Carol Wilkins

The following report was read out at the meeting by the club secretary Carol Wilkins

Good evening ladies and gentlemen here is the report from the Weeting village hall, starting with our annual meeting last April.

As usual only half the members turned up. But as that is usual we carried on with all officers returned unopposed

The cost of gas ,electric and the treasurer reported she has fixed the electric price for the next 24 months, the hall now looks much brighter having the painter has repainted the whole hall in lighter colours.

Members asked if anything was being done for the jubilee but at this moment in time only the bowls club is arranging a four day event but still in the planning stage. Also mentioned the lack of help from other club members who use this hall ,when we are doing something in the hall IE the craft fayre.

It was also reported how sad it was that we have lost some clubs because of the pandemic The Judo club such a shame as it was so good for the young people of the village, also the Knit and Natter , and Over 60s and also the Rainbows a brownie pack has gone, so if there is anyone who would like to start another club ,then see me and we will fix a date.

May report.

All hall curtains taken down and washed and repaired also some new rails have been put up so now the curtains can be opened and shut with a pull cord.

We have heard that the bowls club are having a quiz night and Karaoke night and a fancy-dress party to celebrate the Jubilee

Unfortunately, nothing from anywhere else.

The ramp problem came up again and we are now urgently trying to get a quote to have it replaced. The ceiling which was replaced last year has now had the insulation put in place this should make the hall warmer during the winter.

Ladies toilets have been playing up and we were lucky Nathen our letting officer's son in law came and cleaned it out .

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August.

Mr Norman Killeen our chairman has been taken seriously ill, so has stood down now, and our vice chairman Mr David Wood has taken over. He has reported that again the toilets are not working and has contacted Anglia Water to check pipe work they came and used a camera and said all outside is ok so trouble is inside.

There is a new cooker in the kitchen, and a new microwave so hopefully the clubs who use them will appreciate and treat them as their own ?

October.

John our local plumber has been out to fix the toilets 4 times in the last few weeks coming at one time while there was a party going on

This is now urgent and so is the ramp

There has been some young people going around and doing damage to places one such is the football club clubhouse their door was smashed and so for the time being they will use the halls toilets fingers crossed the toilets stay useable.

It was also mentioned that the football club would like to put an extension on the end of the hall if they can get a grant and as we could use it too, we will also apply for a grant , but we have to wait until the football club get the plans and quotes .

January 2023.

After a lot of unusable toilets, we have at last got the workmen in and all underground pipework from the ladies toilets have been replaced together with a new manhole outside also Tim has replaced the ramp and everybody has said what a good job done big thank you to Tim and his workmen.

In Nov there was a craft show and was well attended so much so that I have arranged for another in April, all the clubs are using the hall and the drama group put on a Christmas show and this time it was written by one of the young members of the group 16yr old Hannah Sullivan.

The hall has now had new lighting installed outside with sensor lighting to the front of the hall and extra lights fixed on the field side of the hall which will benefit the fit camp . This was done by Brandon Electrics.

A craft show is to be held on the 1st of April and already all tables have been sold. Angie our letting officer has stated all clubs up and running

Mr Killeen is now not at all well and David Wood will take over the Chairmanship officially at our next meeting in April.

April

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Vandals have been at it again and this time has damaged the back door to the hall, this time they were caught and the police have been dealing with it, David has been getting quotes to replace the door, but we have since heard from the police that no further action will be forthcoming, so we will have to pay for the replacement Karen our treasurer will contact our insurance Co.

The king's Coronation is to be held on the 6th of May hopefully there is to be some things going on in and around the village again the Bowls club is going to do their four-day event.

And at our annual meeting for the hall we have got three new members for our committee.

Our next meeting will be 30th June 2023.

7. Annual Report from the Bowls Club Committee - Sue Windget

Sue Windget is the Bowls Club Secretary and has been with the club for 10 years, the Bowls Club is a non-profit making organization so any money that is made goes straight back into the Clubs funds. The Club is an important community hub, there are currently 140 members, which is made up of mixed ages and everyone gets on very well, they have just invested in 2 sets of children's bowls sets. They have managed to get a grant for new toilets. They now have capacity for functions to cater for up to 150 people. They have just managed to secure another grant to refurbish the kitchen area and then they will be able to offer afternoon teas etc. They are also looking to refurbish the bar area. Sue went on to say that if you come into the club you will have a very warm welcome and will find it a nice friendly place to visit.

8. Open Forum – Meeting open to the Public

PC 147 Les Maquire is from Breckland South Local Policing Team – There are 3 PC's and one sergeant based at Thetford who cover 12 parishes including Weeting and they are intending to engage and be seen more often whenever possible with the rural communities. PC Les Maquire is the Rural Beat Manager and he is always on the end of an email to listen and deal with any of our concerns.

Football club manager James Langley – they currently have a men's team and they will be starting 3 new teams which will be under 7's, a mixed team and a girl's team. They would like to be able to offer teas and coffees to the mums and dads and spectators that come to watch the football. They need storage for the club and have had an offer of a 40ft storage container which can be put in to a corner of the playing field and can be sprayed with a colour that merges in with the greenery. They would like to put a fence around the pitch and would maybe be able to help towards the cost of putting a new fence up around the children's play area. James went on to explain their plans for some fund-raising events such as boot fares etc.

2nd resident – some hedges are encroaching on pavements around the village - prams and mobility scooters cannot pass by without going into the road. The Chair told the resident to report these issues on the NCC Highways website. The cut through from Cromwell Road to Hereward Way is in a disgusting and dirty state, Cllr Lister said that this is a job that the Rangers have carried out in the past. She went on to say that the Playing Field equipment is an absolute God send and thanked the Council for maintaining this area, she also congratulated the Council

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Held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7.00pm in Weeting Village Hall on the planting of the orchard. She went on to say that the grass verges look fabulous with the wild flowers that have been allowed to grow this year.

With nothing more to discuss the meeting closed at 20.02

Chairman: _____ Date: _____