

**REPPS cum BASTWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR REPPS with BASTWICK**

**held at THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 9th May 2023 AT 7.30pm.**

**In attendance**: Fred Sharman (Chair), Andrew Wright, Hazel Goodrum, Alison McTaggart, John Quickenden, Sam Mitchell and five Members of the Public including representatives from the Bowls Club, Village Hall Committee, Fuel Trust and St Peters Church.

**1. Chair’s welcome**: The Chair welcomed all for attending the meeting

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**: no minutes available

**3. Annual Reports**

**Chairs Report:** Councillor Sharman reported that it had been a busy year following COVID and getting back to normal. There were various changes of clerk following Claudia Dickson’s resignation. Thanks were raised for Claudia’s hard work, reliability and knowledge during her time with the Parish Council. Thanks were raised for Catherine Moore who had been locum clerk until the position was filled by Tracy Neave who was considered to be capable of the role.

There had been planning applications with only one being still ongoing which is the old bridge site.

This year we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee, where a number of residents who were parishioners in 1953, received a commemorative mug. This was a wonderful day of celebration and the Chair passed on his thanks to the Committee.

Sadly the Queen passed away not long after the celebrations.

Thanks was given to newcomers to the village Darren and Debbie Saunders who have worked hard to bring the village and community together, as well as raising funds for the playing field and keeping the farmers markets alive, following the resignation of Chris Wallace, who thanks were raised to. Thanks was also given to Alan Thacker for his ongoing litter picking, and to the grass cutting contractors, Garden Guardian for the tremendous job they continue to do around the village. Thanks to Shauna Ellis, Peter Bond and Peter Lawrence for maintaining the planters around the village.

Cllr Sharman also thanks the members of the Parish Council for their support and continuous enthusiasm and hard work. Thanks to Chris and Carol for their time on the Parish Council.

Cllr Sharman extend a warm welcome to John Quickenden and Sam Mitchell who have been elected to the Parish Council.

A final thank you was raised to the playing field committee for a great night celebrating King Charles III Coronation. There is an afternoon tea in the village hall on 11th May when all the children of the village aged under 16 will be presented with a coronation mug. God Save The King.

**Financial Report:** The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2022/2023 have been viewed and passed by the Internal Auditor and will be reviewed in the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Parish Council had bought a marquee for the village hall and a new laptop for the parish clerk. The Clerk’s salary had been increased in line with a National Pay Award. The Precept had increased due to being reviewed against the annual budget. Annual Income was £12805 and Expenditure was £15650.

**Repps Fuel Trust Report:** There were 16 applicants in 2022 and the grant was agreed at £25 per person. All applicants were grateful to receive the grant. Currently there are just over £2000 in the funds. The charity is grateful to the Parish Council who contributed £400 via the recycling credits. Thanks was given to those who helped with the distribution of the grants.

**St Peters Church Report:** 2022 saw the Church and the Church community return to some normality. There were changes looming though when after Christmas 2022 we became a team of 17 churches [Flegg Parish Churches] led by Revd Steven Sivyer and Revd Jo Wood. Our patch known as North Flegg has the Churches of Repps cum Bastwick, Martham, Winterton Somerton and Horsey in it.

The 2022 Parish share of just over £10,000.00 was not paid in full to the Diocese of Norwich. Sadly only £6,500 was paid, the figure I told the Diocese we could afford. We are extremely grateful to the continuing support of the people of the village, our fundraising activities help to pay for not only the Share, but also the general upkeep of the building, insurance and utilities. The £6500 means that we get one Holy Communion and one Morning Prayer as regular services per month.

St Peters held three funerals and two ash interments in 2022.

The Church has been opened daily from 10 am and 4pm for private prayer, enabling villagers and other visitors to enjoy the peaceful and quiet interiors. May thanks to John Mitchell who opens the church each morning on his way to work.

The PCC and the Churchwardens are mindful that youngsters are not coming to church, and therefore the church would go out to them. An Easter decorated pebble hunt captured children’s imaginations, especially with an easter egg at the end of it. Wild Church with its outdoor activities, talk, refreshments, appear to be bringing in the children into the Churchyards at least. A very well-attended ‘Plough Sunday’ farm trailer ride tour with barbecue was a big hit. The Churchwarden took the children on the local farms during Rogationtide, for a successful countryside walk and experience. As an advent themed Wild Church, inside the church, on a bitterly cold day was a good start leading up to Christmas festivities. The participants helped to plant the Millennium Yew Tree which has been recorded as one of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Canopy.

The architect, Iain Walker, who prepared the Quinquennial Report for 2021 hired a cherry picker so that he could explore and investigate the condition of the Round Tower as crumbling and eroding masonry is a cause for concern. Subsidence in the Nave, near the Screen area is perplexing. Exterior works have been addressed such as rainwater goods [which are almost complete] have been made good. Ivy has been cleared off tombs and the trench around the church building is to be cleared of debris. Much of this work has been done by the work party of the Churchyard Community Hub led by Churchwarden Joan.

Installation of a new gravel pathway from the carpark area to enable access to the church porch is a significant contribution to aid access for all, along with and in pride of place for the new Queen Elizabeth II Bench dedicated to HM Platinum Jubilee.

Slowly fund raising events have been returning after the pandemic, such as the Summer Evening at Hall Farm. This should happen again if Councillor Sam Mitchell agrees to the use of his garden and will hopefully take place on 27th July.

All other major costs such as insurance and utilities were paid as and when required. Covenants and gift-aided donations, together with the tax recoverable, help to fund a good proportion of the parish share.

Her Majesty the Queen’s death in September 2022 left people in shock and mourning. A service of Remembrance to Commemorate Her Majesty’s Life and Service was held in St Peter’s and was well attended by locals old and new. A book of Remembrance was made available and open in the Church during the mourning period.

Charity donations were made to the Martham Food Bank following the Harvest Festival Service.

A pet service was held in the autumn where people brought their pets to be blessed. The Carol Service as a victim of the World Cup 2022, being moved from its regular time of a week before, to a couple of days before Christmas. Attendance just did not compare to previous years, pre pandemic.

Harvest Festival returned to the church but did not attract the people numbers of the previous barn Harvest Festivals. It may be back to the barn this year. We are hoping to bring the Nativity back this year in December.

We are blessed with a well-cared for Churchyard and our thanks again must go to the Parish Council for the grass cutting service. As ever the Parochial Church Council extend their thanks to all those who play a significant part in looking after the Church and Churchyard. It is very much appreciated.

**Bowls Club Report:** Last season 2022 ended with Repps holding a position in the Duffield League, just above the bottom – we were not last. This limited success gave us much encouragement, and we’re looking to make further improvement in the coming season. We’ve joined an additional League called ‘The Sixes’ to boost the number of matches we can play in a season. It also means it is easier to find a team of six players, as is required for each match, rather than having to borrow players from other clubs, which we have been doing.

Due to the moles and the state of the green we played all our home matches away last year. This year we are determined to ply on the Green. The moles have been kept at bay largely due to the wall of paving stones which surround the extent of it. We only need three rinks to be playable, for we only have three games per match to be played simultaneously.

There is debris on site from the alterations to make the two new toilets. When we find a way to make it, it will disappear in due course. And the site apart from the Green, we will work to make more attractive and easier to maintain as time goes by. There are four of us who regularly turn out on Wednesday as required. When we announce a ‘Work Day’ we can usually raise a few more.

The building still requires attention. The outside changing room needs a roof. The wind and rogue teenagers have been named as possible causes for the state of the transluscent corrugated plastic and we hope, when we get round to it, that we make it corrugated iron. We don’t expect to have the time to put that right before the start of the season. But since there are only eighteen playing bodies to be accommodated we are hoping to do it within the confines of the main Clubhouse. Our first home match will be on 11th May, wish us luck!

**Village Hall Report:** The chairman’s report was as follows:

The year from April 2022 and early 2023 has been very successful. We started the year with plans to bring back a number of old favourites, such as bingo, quiz nights, beetle drives etc. This has been accomplished and they have been added to established regular items, such as the village market, the art group, afternoon teas and pub night. All these have now been joined with yoga classes and doggy training.

This means that the hall is now well used and it is intended that this will continue to be the case.

During the year we celebrated the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, when the children of the village were presented with a commemorative mug, by Mr Fred Sharman. These were also given to 15 villagers who lived in Repps at the time of the coronation, and who still lived here. Again, the village joined in and made this a day to remember our queen.

Moving on to September, we reintroduced the horticultural show. Despite the glorious summer, entries were of a very high standard and received high praise from the judges. Also included was a section on vintage cars and tractors, as well as children’s fancy dress, all of which help turn this into another brilliant day for the village. At the end of the year we introduced another event, which was Christmas carols around the Christmas tree. This featured Colin and Paul on accordions.

We completed the year with a Christmas Village Market. This proved to be Chris’s final farmers Market, and we thank him and all his team for all they have done for us. The Village Hall Committee felt that the Farmer’s Market was too important to allow it to cease, and so after an emergency meeting, they decided to undertake the organisation themselves, and so far, it is doing very well.

With regard to the coming year, we, together with the Parish Council, will begin by celebrating the King’s Coronation on 6th May. There will be an evening party, a BBQ and dancing to the Macaronas, who also played at our late Queen’s Platinum celebrations. Please help us make this a successful and fun occasion by attending and dressing as ‘Royally’ as you can.

We have a new event on the 28th May, which is the Dog Show. This is intended to be a day of fun and laughter. There will be stalls of doggy paraphernalia, a BBQ and doggy competition, with prizes. Doggy entries are £1 per competition.

July 8th will be the 50th anniversary of the Village Hall. We plan to mark this milestone with another party, which will include picnics and games in the afternoon, with singing and dancing to the ‘Twiggly Strings’ band in the evening. There will also be a BBQ.

We would like to construct a collage of pictures and memorabilia of events that have occurred over those 50 years and make this a permanent display in the hall. We therefore ask anyone who has photos they could lend us,  or items they are prepared to let us have, we would copy them and return them  to their original owners. It is 50 years since Repps won the Burgess Football Cup. Anyone with pictures of this event are asked to allow us to copy them as a reminder of past glories.

On December 9th our Christmas Tree event will take place. Following last year’s successful event, we will have decorated trees around the hall, and Father Xmas has promised to visit us via a tour of the village. We plan to end the year with a bumper Christmas Farmers Market.

At all these events, where suitable, the bar will be open.

Regarding improvements to the Village Hall, there is nothing really major. We have received a quote for a new window at the rear of the hall. We are also planning to extend the concrete pad at the rear of the hall, in order to be able to completely cover the ground beneath the marquee. The current quote of £10,000 is felt to be too high, and so further quotes are being sought. We are also upgrading the current four-ring cooker in the kitchen, which is being replaced with a commercial six-ring cooker. We believe that this will benefit the hall and make it easier to cater for future events. I am pleased to say that it will be installed this Monday.

Finally, a big thankyou to the Parish Council, for supplying the large marquee for our use.

Thank you all for attending this evening and for your interest in, and support of the Village Hall.

Lastly, I would also like to thank all the committee members for their hard work and support throughout the year, and without whose dedication none of what has been achieved would be possible.

We are looking forward to the coming year and I believe that with your continuing support and hard work, this will be an exciting year.

Thank You.

**4. Open Floor and Question Time:**

There were a few questions regarding the Village Hall: a Licensee plate is being prepared for the Hall. There will be a new Designated Premises Supervisor. If own alcohol is bought to an event when the hall has been hired for a private function, there will be a corkage fee.

**5. Date and time of next meeting:** Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall Repps with Bastwick