

# Hindolveston Parish Council

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Present: Parish Councillors: Wayne Bowditch (Chair), Hazel Carter, Chip Davison, Wayne Jolly, Trevor Leeder, Neil Lewis, Mary Walsh (Vice-Chair)  
And four members of the public

## Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 17 June 2021 in the Millennium Pavilion at 7.30 pm

### MINUTES

1. The Chair welcomed parish councillors and parishioners for the first meeting in the Pavilion for over a year.
2. Apologies for absence from the Ladies Group
3. The minutes of the last annual parish meeting held on 18 April 2019 (meeting in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19) were approved and signed.

#### 4. Report from the **Parish Council**

It has been a strange year due to Covid-19 and the associated lockdowns and social distancing measures put in place. The Coronavirus Act 2020 allowed local authorities to meet virtually up until 6 May 2021. The Parish Council took advantage of this regulation and held meetings using Zoom. Although the parishioners who usually attend parish council meetings in person did not 'attend' these virtual meetings other members of the public did. The newsletter was suspended for a few months as it was not possible to use the photocopier at Little Snoring Primary School. However, since the school re-opened in September the regular monthly newsletter has resumed.

The Parish Council was pleased to see villagers setting up a local support group in the first lockdown to help with shopping and getting prescriptions. Thank you to all those volunteers.

The Parish Council received a small grant for distribution to individuals and families who were badly impacted by the pandemic. About half of the fund has been used, but we would welcome applications from those in need.

The Parish Council received a number of small business support grants from the District Council as the Millennium Pavilion had to close. Some of this has been used to upgrade electrical installations such as lights in the Pavilion. The Pavilion will also be re-decorated in July.

Although the play area was closed for the first lockdown, the grounds maintenance continued at the Recreation Ground. The work on the Pocket Park was finally completed with the sowing of wild flower seeds in the spring and the installation of three picnic benches – two near the playground and one on the playing field.

There was a problem with the emptying of dog bins which were left to overflow for a few weeks, but the District Council gave a refund.

The Parish Council appreciates the trouble that people take to keep the village looking nice (for instance picking up litter, cutting back overgrowth, providing flowers for the war memorial) for the benefit of all. Thanks to all those who contribute to the pleasant appearance of the village.

One highlight of the year was a Santa Romp. A tractor and trailer were decorated with Christmas lights, and with Santa and parish councillors in fancy dress was paraded around

the village. Presents were distributed to children and donations were collected for the Mid Norfolk Food Bank.

The Parish Council made donations to the Village Hall towards the refurbishment of the kitchen, to the Air Ambulance, Break and the Royal British Legion.

The Parish Council thanks all those who have helped and supported the work of the council. It is very much appreciated.

## 5. Reports from village organisations

### a. St George's Church

In 2019 the church was very lucky to receive a Lottery sum of £10,000 to refurbish the church hall. Unfortunately, due to rising costs only the kitchen was replaced. A second bid to repair and decorate was unsuccessful. Before the first lockdown a Free coffee morning was held to celebrate the opening of the new kitchen.

During the first lockdown Jeremy sent out readings and prayers to everyone who normally comes to church plus those who requested them. During the second lockdown zoom services were held weekly for the Benefice. St George's was closed apart from a funeral in November. In the autumn Jeremy announced that he would be moving on after eighteen years to the Quintet Benefice.

A Remembrance service taken by Carol Sexton (Lay Reader) at the War Memorial was well attended. Social distancing followed. For Christmas Eve Jeremy decorated the church grounds with fairy lights while Tim Walsh played the organ inside. Around forty people attended outside only.

At the end of December 2020 a farewell service was held for Jeremy and Lesley and gifts of appreciation presented.

St George's first service was in May 2021 and until further notice a service will be held on the second Sunday @ 10.30. Masks worn and social distancing adhered to. At other times the church is closed.

We are indebted to Carol Sexton and James Ramsey for organising and delivering services during this Pandemic since Jeremy's departure.

A big thank you to Sheila, Wayne, Tim and Nick for keeping the church grass cut last year and to George Kemp who has volunteered his services this year. We also really appreciate the Parish Council maintaining the old churchyard.

It has recently been decided that The Briston Benefice will join with Brinningham Benefice and we now await the appointment of a new minister to lead us into the future.

Sadly, St George's congregation has gradually reduced to a few members and realistically if St George's is to survive it needs the support of the village now before the audit on "How churches across Norfolk are being used" starts later this year.

Jill Davison (Secretary) St George's Church P.C.C. 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### b. Village Hall

In many ways, it's been a very quiet year as the Village Hall has been closed from March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. The committee decided not to re-open the hall between lockdowns as it was felt that it would be impossible to be "Covid Secure" within the government guidelines. We will keep this decision under review, taking into account Government rules and guidance, infection rates and the specific constraints of the building. The hall was open as a Polling Station for one day in May.

However, a lot has been happening behind the scenes. In 2020 a good deal of time was spent applying for grants for the proposed extension. Last August we heard that we hadn't received the match funding we needed from BIFFA to allow us to build the extension. We decided to see what could be done with the money raised so far. We had money promised from The Geoffrey Watling Trust, North Norfolk District Council's Big Society Fund (now the Sustainable Communities Fund), the Parish Council, Crafts in Action and a number of generous donations from village hall users in Hindolveston and nearby. We have also

received Covid grants via NNDC to cover expenses during the time the hall has been closed. Having highlighted the cramped conditions in the kitchen in all our bids for funding we felt that improvements to the kitchen should still be a priority.

During the spring of 2021 the kitchen was re-designed and refurbished. It's now a bright, light space with new cabinets and new appliances and has been re-decorated by a village hall volunteer. The kitchen and servery area have been re-wired and the main consumer units for the whole building have been up-graded.

We commissioned a fire risk assessment for the Hall and it has proved invaluable when working on the improvements. We have had a new (re-conditioned) boiler installed which should be much more efficient.

The original project included moving the main entrance from where it is now to the opposite side of the building, facing the main entrance to the car park, we are working on making that happen now. We feel that this will give a much more welcoming approach to the building and allow us to implement a one way system for entering and leaving the building for as long as that is required.

The Committee are very grateful for all the help and donations given to enable all this work to be carried out. We are looking forward to the day when we can safely open the building again.

#### **c. The Coffee Shop**

The Coffee Shop has been closed since March 2020, due to the pandemic. We hope to reopen, subject to a risk assessment, once the Village Hall has reopened. We are delighted that the kitchen and servery area in the Hall has been so improved and will be much more efficient and COVID secure for Coffee Shop volunteers and customers.

Mary Beek

#### **d. Bowls Club**

In spite of not being able to play bowls in 2020 due to lockdown, the club continues. The green has been well maintained after the reseeding and general maintenance. The members have all helped to maintain the green but special mention must go to Eddie Stearman for cutting the grass and also to Chippie Davison for the hedges.

In 2021 we hope to be able to use the green once more, even if it is just for friendly matches as the Fakenham League has been cancelled for this season.

Kind regards, David Fenn and George Burton

#### **e. Hindolveston Charity Trust**

The Trust was first established in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and provides funds for people in need in the Parish. Mary Walsh is now the Chairman, Dick Seaman having retired after many years. Requests for help are considered in confidence and funds distributed at the discretion of the Trustees.

- f. **Ladies Group** (no report as they have not met in the previous year and have no plans for this year)

6. Open forum – villagers may talk about any issue in the village. No raised.

The meeting was followed by the Parish Council meeting