

ILKETSHALL ST MARGARET PARISH MEETING

These are the Minutes of the Half-Yearly Meeting held on 23rd November 2023 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Alastair Tomkin, Chairman, Juliet Haley, Brenda Mace, Ed O'Brien, Ann McVicar, Chris McCrave, Roger Webb, Jane Waring, Clerk, and 16 village residents.

1. Apologies

Judy Cloke, Toby Hammond, Anthony Specca and Joyce Hunt.

2. Minutes of the AGM – 23rd May 2023

The minutes of this year's AGM number 163 were read by the Chair, proposed as correct by Chris McCrave and seconded by Fiene Kolvoort.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Street lighting – Judy Cloke is still pursuing this with the new street lighting contractor for SCC, but no progress to date.
- b. Springfield Farm – several environmental impact concerns had been raised regarding the scoping application for potentially building an anaerobic digestion plant. These included air quality, noise and odour and the Council's report concluded that a full environmental impact assessment would be required and the case is now closed.
- c. Following the AGM a session on emergency response awareness including the use of the defibrillator was kindly provided in September by Pat Seaman, a local first responder, which was well received. It was suggested that a refresher course could be held every 12 months or so.

4. Half Yearly Financial Statement

The Clerk ran through the transactions since the last meeting and reported that the current balance at the bank on the 23rd of November 2023 is £3,097.03, although £1,600 had been pledged to the Village Hall towards the roof repairs and this will be transferred in January. Those present confirmed that payments made since the last meeting were appropriate in accordance with the Constitution.

5. Consultation on Spending the Neighbourhood CIL

This is a fund held by East Suffolk Council and is generated as an infrastructure levy on new developments in the area. They are currently holding £ 1,779.33 for our Parish and we are able to draw this money down. We have been in discussion with the Council, who have been eager to help and have asked that we ensure that the local Parish residents have been consulted on how this fund is deployed. Those present were asked if they had any other suggestions for use of the funds or were they in favour of using the money for the Village Hall roof repairs. Funding the roof repairs was agreed unanimously by all present.

6. Precept 2024/2025

The Precept requirement will need to be confirmed to the Council by January 2024. It has been £750 for several years and if the Parish wish to maintain this level it will be presented as a charge of 0.75% increase on the Council Tax bill. It was unanimously agreed by those present that it should remain unchanged for 2024/2025 and the Clerk was asked advise the Council.

7. Planning matters

None

8. Highways

The issue of speeding through the village had been raised again for discussion and this is particularly due to heavy agricultural vehicles through Low Street during the day, as well as smaller vehicles in the early hours of

the morning. A green car has been observed speeding at 7am in High Street and the driver of this vehicle has been identified and requested to slow down through the village. The Evergreen lorries through Low Street were causing concern again and the Clerk was asked to contact Adrian Smith at Low Farm, St Peter's to ask his drivers to drive more courteously. There was also an issue with school taxis and various courier companies and it was suggested the possibility of reducing the speed limit to 20mph be investigated. The Clerk was also asked to look at the costing of speed awareness signs. The Clerk mentioned that this was an issue being supported by our East Suffolk Councillors in other local areas and this would be investigated too.

9. Village Newsletter

Jon Lewis – currently working on the Christmas edition and has a half page left to fill. The deadline for contributions is 10th December in order to publish in time for the Christmas lunch.

10. Reports from Village Committees

Village Hall – Rob Hardman – the car park resurfacing process has been secured and will be completed in the next few weeks. The final major piece of work for the Hall being the roof repairs and the CIL funding completes the requirements for this work, which is planned to commence after the Burns Night supper. The Trustees are continuing to fund raise and have put some event prices up to reflect general increases, but have managed to hold some lower cost events to keep a balance. Rob mentioned that as most of the major works are complete perhaps someone else might like to take on the role of chair. Also, there is still a vacancy on the Board of Trustees and the change to charity status has not been pursued, due to a potential legal advice cost in excess of £3,000.

Flower Show – a report from Roger Webb was read and is filed with these minutes.

PCC – Eva Collyer – the church remains financially sound and various successful events have been held. There will be an Advent Carol Service at 6pm on 3rd December and the usual Carol Service on the 24th at 3pm, both with the local choir. There was no update on the land that may have been left to the church.

Charities – Eva Collyer – £1000 is pledged to the Village Hall and £100 will be given to local pensioners in need.

Footpaths – Brenda Mace – the paths are very wet and slippery after all the rain, but have been good over the summer. Someone had complained about a diversion around Old Hall Farm, which had been put in place during Covid, but as this just avoided going through the yard this wasn't seen to be a problem.

11. Updates from Local Councillors

Judy Cloke – County Councillor – had sent her apologies and updated the meeting on the street-lighting.

Toby Hammond and Anthony Specca – District Councillors – had sent through their top 10 report, the highlights of which were read by the Clerk.

12. East Suffolk Bulb Planting

The Clerk had collected the daffodil bulbs from the Council's Lowestoft depot and split them into bags of 30. Those present took the bulbs to plant along the verges and green spaces in and around the village.

13. Any other business

Trevor Mayhew mentioned the X41 bus from Halesworth to Norwich, which provided a good service, but sadly could not be caught from the end of High Street nor Moles Lane. This was discussed and as the residents had explored this issue several times before and as it was seen to be too dangerous to have stops in these locations did not plan to pursue this again.

The High Street sign from the A144 was obscured again by the hedge and Simon Deakin offered to speak to the land owner to resolve this.

The damaged Low Street sign at the end of Brook Lane has been reported, but the bollards by the stream in Brook Lane and the drain that was blocked again, need to be reported.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:30pm.