REEDHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 11th April 2022

at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

# Present

# David Hale (Chairman), Liz Bassett, Diane Rushbrook, Mike Barnes, Chris Mutten, and Tom Rednall. County Councillor Lana Hempsall, and the Parish Clerk Claudia Dickson.

Also present Chris Bradbury Reedham Community Association Chairman, Chris Edwards Head Teacher of Reedham primary School, and 4 members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

# 1.22) Apologies for Absence

Pat Bagshaw, Tina Davey, Lesley George, Simon Pittam, Richard Holt. DCllr Grant Nurden.

CCllr Lana Hempsall will be late.

# 2.22) Minutes of 2021 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes from 19th April 2021 were accepted as a true record, with 2 abstentions. The minutes were signed by the Cllr Hale as Chairman of the meeting, on behalf of the Parish.

# 3.22) Parish Council Chairman’s Report

Presented by David Hale: After 2 years of disruption we are now operating more or less as normal, we are keeping social distancing but that is about all.

I would like to thank all Councillors for your commitment during this very difficult period, we were after all able to master Zoom which enabled business as usual but in a different form.

The adoption of online banking has been fantastic with no problems once set up, Claudia has no longer to visit two Councillors for signatures, just the press of a few buttons and bills are paid.

We have gained new Councillors and I would like to formally welcome them and know that they bring new mind sets and skills which can only be good for us all.

A big thanks must go to Tina and all her helpers for organising the help for the needy during Covid. A very worthy effort showing that people do care. A new initiative is also being led by Tina to help people from Ukraine to settle in Reedham and I am sure you will all offer help in any way you can.

A number of people in the village not on the Council do an enormous amount for us all:

Mr Village Hall, Chris Bradbury. Thank you.

Peter Smith, never stopping in his quest to make thinks look good around the village. Thank you.

David Breeze, for always attending meeting and keeping us in order, and for his work on the neighbourhood plan.

Tony Noon, for chairing the neighbourhood plan meetings.

Mary Blanche, for the wonderful flower display on the riverside.

Sharon Barber, who has been cleaning to public toilets for many years.

Tom Rednall, and his fiancee for the donation of a laptop to the clerk.

To all the above, and many I have not mentioned, Thanks, you are what makes Reedham the wonderful place that it is to live in.

I was very proud and happy that we were able to renovate both War Memorials and the fence above in time for the 100th anniversary of the British Legion.

Finally my thanks goes to Claudia for her help to me personally and to all of us on the council. I must say without her advice and guidance I would probably not continue in my roll it would be too difficult. She takes calls from me without complaint and at any time within reason.

In a difficult world I am sure we will rise up as a council and do our best for the village in the coming year.

# 4.22) Norfolk County Council Report

Given by County Councillor Lana Hempsall: it has been a really interesting year. The elections took place in a very different place, ½ in ½ out of restrictions. My first few meetings were held at the Showground as there was not enough space to be socially distanced in the Council Chambers. It was difficult and daunting for a newcomer.

I have been elected Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Committee. You get an opposition point of view of all of the business that goes through the Council. We are actively challenged on policies, which is really healthy for democracy.

Policies that are of particular interest to me are the electric vehicle charging strategy and the environmental strategy. I am really hoping the Reedham EV charging quote will be going through.

The Council opted for a 2.9% increase in the budget just to keep things going. The cost of living crisis is something we are all going to have to bear but no-one anticipated how bad it was going to get with war in Ukraine, fuel prices, and no idea what going to happen to food prices.

Using my Highways grant for EV charging is really important as we depend so much on the car in Norfolk. Publicly available EV car charging points are going to be necessary and as a County Councillor I want to support if I can.

I am also Member Champion for sustainable transport, which has been hugely rewarding. In the last month we have been awarded £3.2m from the Department for Transport Commission, with First Bus, 10 single decker electric buses. If our future bids go through we are going to be commissioning several more double decker, to be made in Snetterton.

There is also progress with the Net Zero city bid for Norwich. A business case is being developed to eliminate everything not already carbon neutral in the areas already restricted in the city centre, for example outside John Lewis. I am very proud of this.

Reedham: Highways! A lot has been done, with a few still outstanding, but we are getting there.

# 5.22) Broadland District Council Report

Provided by District Councillor Grant Nurden: We have come to the end of another year that has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This virus is still with us and still affects our daily life, but we remain positive that as we adapt, things will get easier.

This year has seen the return to in person meetings with the lapsing of the regulations introduced at the beginning of lockdown in 2020, the Council being awarded the armed forces Gold standard, work started on site at the Broadland Food Innovation Centre and delivering fantastic homes at St Giles Park. The year has been full of successes.

The Council’s staff (the One Team) have continued to play their part in looking after our community and businesses and since the start of the pandemic has paid out a very impressive £104 million pounds to businesses across both Broadland and South Norfolk. This is an outstanding achievement to disperse these grants to business that really needed them, while at the same time doing amazing work to support the NHS.

As the Council continues its collaborative journey, we have welcomed lots of new starters both Councillors and staff. We have launched our joint website, and started to align the systems that sit behind it and have launched ‘Teams’ which is proving to be a great new tool, particularly for communicating in the agile working space. We are working through our accommodation review which will hopefully see us consolidate on one site, and the waste contract has been let with the Contractor (Veolia) expected to maintain a quality service. The One Team are also key players in driving the new ICS model (Integrated Care System), ensuring that the work we do as a district is front and centre of how we collectively support our community. The new business plan has been signed off and the 2022/2023 budget approved reflecting a zero percent increase in Broadland’s share of the annual Council Tax bill. This has been due to both councils continuing to show a reduced revenue requirement.

Looking ahead there is still much to do, - we await the Levelling Up white paper, Planning Reform, Implementation of the Environmental Bill and Local Government finance review, all of which will have significant impact on our team and the community.

We have started a review of the collaboration journey and will be undergoing an external Local Government Association Peer Review which will help us drive out the best value and quality services for our residents whilst robustly maintaining the independency of the Council. Who would have known when we embarked on our collaborative journey just how timely it was to build resilience ahead of a pending pandemic or how important our IT refresh would be to enable remote working and keep our services running. But above all, the collaboration is reducing individual and collective revenue requirements year on year, creating capacity to be able to support our community and businesses as well as embark on some big projects, both internally and externally.

# 6.22) Reedham Community Association

Presented by Chris Bradbury, Chairman: Since last July the village hall has been open following the Covid restrictions were lifted. It’s been less challenging, however this year we are faced with a new challenge of a forecast of rising utilities costs. Inevitably our hall hire will have to be reviewed and we look to save costs where we can.

Fundraising: we didn’t have the Fun Dog Show or an annual Fete, but did have a successful outdoor Craft Fayre combined with car boot. We also managed to hold our annual bonfire, monthly cash bingos, quiz nights, film nights and the Christmas Fayre. Once again we were achieving our objectives of providing enjoyable events for the village and to raise funds for the village hall. None of these events are possible without the commitment from the committee and trustees.

Revenue from the village hall hire was only modest, a total of £16,231, a drop from the previous financial year. This was due to lockdown caused by the Covid 19 outbreak. We have seen another increase in membership for the outdoor tennis court.

We are continuing to invest in maintaining or improving the facilities of the village hall with a completely new CCTV upgrade for security, and also had an upgrade on our fire alarm system. The costs of the upgrade came from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Over this weekend we have finally replaced the main hall windows to UPVE, with the cost coming from the village hall funds.

The RCA stage school for young children this year is still very well supported, and we look forward to seeing their show case performance “Treasure Island” in July, following on from their successful production of “A Christmas Carol”. Also, our adult drama group rehearsals are underway for their June production of “Only You”. All profits from these productions goes to the village hall.

The village hall still undertakes inspection of the play equipment on the Searchlight Playing Field. There have been repairs to the zipline A frame and part of the multi frame was damaged. WE recently replaced the football goal posts as the old ones had to be taken down as they were in a very poor state. The cost was covered from S106 monies. The Parish Council still provide the RCA with an adequate fee in the form on an allowance for maintenance, insurance, and admin etc. I am pleased to say that we still have a respectable relationship with our Council.

Village Hall events are often helped by committee’s family members and friends, and we must not forget the members of the local groups and clubs who also support the Village Hall.

In summary I believe that the past year has been successful under the very difficult circumstances the Village Hall Management Committee has had to deal with. In closing, I should wish once again to record my thanks to the committee and finally my thanks to everyone who has supported me as Chairman.

Thank you to the Parish Council for inviting me to attend your meeting to give my report.

# 7.22) Parish Council Accounts

Presented by the Parish Council Clerk: The Precept for 2021/22 was £16,500. The Precept for 2022/23 will be £21,668. This is an increase of 31.3%, or £0.98 per Band D property per month and includes an amount for the Parish Council to take on the running and maintenance costs of the public toilets.

S106 Spending

£3,300.11 S106 monies were spent on

Equipment for the New Age Kurling group

Equipment for the badminton group

Tape to mark out the sports areas in the village hall

New goal posts for the playing field

Repair of the tennis court surface

Draft Accounts and Budgets 2021/22

Receipts were £36,365.46, including a precept of £16,500, and a grant of £5,700 for the Neighbourhood Plan, and £4,516.27 S106 funds.

Payments were £43,877.18, including the remaining £8,082.51 CIL funds on new CCTV cameras at the village hall, £2,722 on refurbishing the War Memorials, £1,120 on maintenance of the fence next to the War Memorials, and £5,700.00 on consultants for the Neighbourhood Plan. Donation spending was £60 to the RBL for the poppy appeal, £120 to the Outlook, and £30 to the Broadland Tree Warden Network.

There was a, draft, overspend of £1,027.81 but as the Precept budget for 2021/22 was set at a deficit of £1,770 the, draft, overspend is £742.19 less than expected.

Reserves at Year End 2021/22 (draft)

Permissive Path £11,374.00

Woodland Walk £ 1,319.00

Footpaths and signposts £ 1,262.00

War Memorials £ 378.00

Seats and benches £ 1,700.00

Village Sign £ 1,400.00

Speed Sensor £ 200.00

Noticeboard £ 200.00

Permissive Path fundraising £ 1,103.15

CIL £ 0.00

General Reserves £ 8,343.35

Total £27,279.50

Allotments £ 1,295.12

Projects for 2021/22

The Parish Council is hoping to participate in some way in the village celebrations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

There are early discussions taking place with Broadland District Council in regards to the Parish Council taking on the responsibility for the public toilets but nothing has been agreed or decided yet.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are progressing well with the Neighbourhood Plan and are about to do a call for sites for locations for affordable housing and green space in the village. It is hoped the draft plan will be produced by the Autumn.

Further Information

All finance information of the Parish Council can be found on the website.

The Finance Report will be published in the Annual Parish Report 2022, and the full accounts will be available in due course once they have been finalised. Details will be published on the website, or contact the Clerk.

# 8.22) Freethorpe First Responders Report

No report received. The First Responders are not operating at the moment.

# 9-22) Reedham Church

Provided by the Church Warden:

The church is the**body of Christ**—his heart, his mouth, his hands, and feet—reaching out to the world: Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27, NIV)

We continue to strive in Reedham to do this, to support those in need, to offer love and to be a welcoming to everyone.

 We currently have 25 members on the Church Electoral roll, but if anyone is interested, please let us know. (Outlook has the Church Warden’s details or I am sure that Claudia will re-direct).

After a period of Zoom services, we are now able to meet in person again – we are part of the Acle, Yare to Bure Benefice, so perhaps there are other services within our group of Churches that may better meet your needs if you feel Reedham does not (see Outlook).

 The building itself continues to need upgrades and we would like to thank Edward Gilder for organising and overseeing these repairs. If anyone is interested in being more involved in the Church building, then please let us know. The Church building is open every day but it would be great it there were more people available to lock and unlock (again, please let us know).

 The BellRingers continue to make the most of the wonderful bells and there is a Churchyard maintenance group who meet regularly - please contact Mary Jones for both these.

The Church, as a whole, has focused on safeguarding – we would like to thank Diana Gilder for her guidance in ensuring that the PCC (and other Church groups) have the training and knowledge to understand and manage any issues arising. We have also been addressing racism and other behaviours that may lead to feelings of exclusion. Therefore we would say, if you haven’t been to Church for a while, why not give it a go. We welcome everyone – happily/unhappily married/ separated/ single/ would like to be/ don’t know; all identities and orientations. We meet to worship God – not to judge.

 Other items of interest:

Ecumenical Pilgrimage, which started at Great Yarmouth and ended in Glasgow for the COP26 Climate Summit - passed through Reedham on 21/22nd August 2021. We were able to provide food and places to sleep for the pilgrims as well as passing on messages to take to COP26.

Eco Church, we have a bronze award and offer pill package recycling in the Church and also available is a list of all local recycling centres for e.g. cat food pouches, crisp packets.

Ethical banking and services – we are currently moving the bank accounts and services to more ethical suppliers.

The Berney Brass is in process to be re-installed in the Church and there are an additional two plaques in memory of members of the Berney Family.

Coming soon – Easter Service on Sunday 17th April, Michael Nicholas’ Organ Crawl 23rd April, Jubilee Jolly on 3rd June – see Outlook for the details.

Finally we would like to thank Revd Martin Greenland, the Church Wardens Kati Cowen and Jonathan Londsale and all the Lay Preachers (especially Nicholas Cowen) Assistant Worship Associates and members of the Parish Church Council who ensure the ongoing running of our Church.

# 10.22) Reedham Primary School

Presented by Mr Chris Edwards, the Head of Reedham Primary School: it has been a tumultuous year with Covid but despite that the school is continuing to flourishing. Pupil numbers are holding up really well at the moment but are predicted to drop in next few years due to the number of children currently in the village.

The main problems caused by Covid were the amount of time off for both pupils and staff. Planning has been a nightmare because of all the gaps in learning. We have successfully implemented a range of catchup programmes across the year groups. This has also been a challenge with more Covid absences. However there has been no huge outbreak in the school thankfully. The nursery was shut for 1 day due to a wedding and Covid.

The school took over the nursery just as 1st lockdown happened. We rode out the lockdown and invested heavily in it to feed into main school. Numbers have been quite good. We would like more but this might be affected by Covid. Liaising has been difficult to reach out to new parents.

The school has had a massive overhaul. There was a large influx of children from other schools when they were going through a few difficult issues. This means the school is in a really good position and has made a conscious decision to celebrate and promote that. We never say no to a child in the village and we do have a bit of capacity at the moment.

We have renovated the upstairs to create another intervention room, redesigning the staff room, toilet, the office, invested in nursery, an outdoor area, and an outdoor classroom. We are half way through redeveloping the wildlife area. We are trying to utilise every inch.

We are currently trying to work out what to do with the old toilet block at the entrance to the school. Currently used for storage but it is highly impractical as it is split into 3 narrow areas, and possible asbestos. In an ideal world we would like to gut it and turn it into a learning centre but there are not the funds for this. To demolish it may cost around £7k, which, if nothing else, would increase the playground space. We would hopefully be able to incorporate a buzz-entry and exit system to manage better the flow of people into and out of the school.

SATS are back this year. Y6 are a weaker year with lots of new ones.

There have been a few changes to the governing body and we need new Governor(s) please.

Looking to hold a belated Covid postponed 150 year anniversary celebration. The school was built 1871 but opened in 1872.

We will also hold a Queen’s Jubilee event in conjunction with the church and RCA, yet to be confirmed/planned.

At a recent cluster event won a team gold at the netball! A historic achievement considering the size of the school.

We are raising money for Nelsons Journey who support children who have lost a close relative due to 3 children being impacted in the last 2 years (younger brother, mother, father).

# 11.22) Tree Warden Report

Provided by Jo Lester:

**Tree issues**

Two issues were identified to the tree warden during the reporting period.

This involved 2 mature beech trees at a property on Middle Hill in Reedham. The Tree Warden was contact following the felling of the first, smaller, tree, as there were concerns the second would also be felled. The remaining tree proved to be a large beech, in generally good condition, although with some rot in part of the crown following previous tree surgery. Broadland District Council’s Tree Officer was contacted for advice, and determined tat the tree met criteria for a Tree Preservation Order. This is now in place. BDC will work with the owners of the property to ensure that the tree is safe and mainlined in good condition.

One of the circular copses on the edge of Searchlight Field was thought by an adjacent property owner to be had become over-tall, blocking light to the property and with some branches considered to be unsafe. On inspection, the trees are all <40 years old, and in generally good condition, with non considered to be unsafe and none overhanging the property. Minor trimming was carried out.

**Tree Planting**

A number of fruit trees were ordered for the allotments from Broadland District Council. The Council continues to provide a small budget for this.

A walnut was planted in the east of the Searchlight Field in memory of those who lost their lives to the COVID pandemic. The event took place on Sunday 6th March, with members of the WI, village hall committee, and District Council representative present.

An oak and field maple were supplied for planting at Reedham Church in March 2022.

A standard oak was planted at Searchlight Field on Sunday 27th March in celebration of the Jubilee.

**District Tree Warden Network**

The Broadland Parish Tree Wardens Network now operates under the auspices of the national Tree Council, a registered charity. Around 40 Tree Wardens are coordinated through an Executive Committee made up of 7 individuals including myself. Our Network Coordinator, John Fleetwood, is also the lead representative for the East Anglia Region on the Tree Council’s new Tree Warden Advisory Group.

Funding for day to day running of the Broadland Network is supported by a small annual donation from town and parish councils.

**Requests for trees**

Requests for trees for delivery and planting in the autumn-winter of 2022-2023 should be made by email to the Parish Tree Warden jo.parmenter@tlp.uk.com by the end of September 2022. We are sorry, but due to a change in the Broadland DC funding, it is no longer possible to provide fruit bushes or canes. Native trees, cultivated fruit trees and hedging whips are still available.

# 12.22) Norfolk Constabulary Acle Safer Neighbourhood Team

Provided by PC 1586 Jackie Chambers and PC 1682 Steve Godden:

Please note recent change of supervisor to Sgt 487 Olly Ketteridge

We have had a look at the crime figures for just Reedham from 01/01/2022 to 30/03/2022.

There were 8 Criminal investigations recorded. 8 Common Assaults, of which, all were part of a single incident in a care home and the other crime was an Assault ABH which was domestic related.

There have been no calls to raise any concerns for the local community, no calls of Anti-social behaviour.

We held our Priority Setting Meeting for the Acle LPNT, which includes Reedham, on 29th March.

The following priorities we set:

Speeding and Traffic Calming.

Tackling Anti Social Behaviour.

The next Priority Setting Meeting will take place at 6pm on 28th June 2020 via Microsoft Teams, please get in contact with us on SNTAcle@norfolk.police.uk for any further information or to raise any concerns.

We are aware that as the summer approaches, the activities on the area will increase, we always work closely with our colleagues from the Broads Beat across the summer months to help increase the policing cover to the area on both road and river.

We will also be holding further community engagement days in which the team will set up at a location in the village and be available for the community to come and speak to us on a face to face basis. Please follow Broadland Police Facebook page for any details of any future engagement events in your area.

Please see that attached promotional posters for Community Speed Watch and Neighbourhood Watch.

# 13.22) Public Participation

None received.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed………………………………........................ Date……………………………….