



MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH meeting Tuesday 29th May, 2018

PRESENT Parish Cllrs. Barber, Belson, Bloomfield, Kinnair, Lunken, Roberts, Gordon Murray, Philip Merry, Rob Barber, Shirley White, Ann Daniels, Jan Hall, Phil Newby, Jeannie Bloomfield, Fiona Glover, Jackie Ridding, Herbert Frost, Ian Campbell, Mary Bradley

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – Cllr. Trevor Roberts presided as Chair and Cllr. Maggie Barber delivered the Chairman's report for 2017/18
- 2. COUNTY AND DISTRICT REPORTS** – Jessica Fleming delivered reports for the year covering Merger, Office move, Redevelopment Of Old Needham Market site, Funding & Budget, Housing, Ward Boundary Review, Planning, Local Plan Universal Credit for District and State of the County, Budget, Highways, Home to School Transport, Local Transport and Planning for County Council. Jessica took questions.

All reports along with minutes are available on the village website at: <https://www.walsham-le-willows.org/explore/governance-community/parish-council/>

REFRESHMENTS SERVED

3. SPEAKERS

A speaker for **Walsham bell ringers group** was not able to be present but Chair Trevor Roberts read out an update: The bell ringers under the leadership of Denise Monk have continued to ring for services and special events throughout the benefice and are always happy to welcome new ringers.

1 **Gordon Murray - Allotment Holders Association**

The half plots, originally intended for use by children, are now taken by regular tenants as they are popular with people wanting a slightly smaller plot. Chickens are now kept on the site and there are plans for beekeeping. Events and working parties are held and formed throughout the year including the annual Pimms party in support of Gardens Weekend. The Walsham allotments compare well with many others around the country having as it does a series of colourfully painted 'beach huts' for each plot which originally led locals to refer to the site as 'Walsham-on-Sea'. The Allotments Association is always trying to come up with new projects and ideas and example being the recently built pond to encourage wildlife. Only one ½ plot remains vacant which demonstrates the popularity of the site and the support it garners from the community. There is a list to which names can be added for anyone wanting to take on a plot.

2 **Rev. Philip Merry - Children's Praise and Parochial Church Council**

An annual report for the benefice is available from which this report has drawn but with specific reference to Walsham, Philip paid thanks to the Parish Council for the maintenance of the churchyard and its wall and also the support St Mary's receives from the Gardens Weekend Committee and the Church Fayre event. He noted that the new mobile mast is now contributing to the upkeep of the Church which was able to pay the 'benefice share' last year with the help of a large donation, and is hopefully on target to pay the benefice share this year independently. The (independent) Quinquennial Report 2016 identified total repair costs of approximately £35k which is to be expected. The Church will receive a new Organ in July hopefully in time for the Bishop's visit. The Church maintains good ties with the Primary School with Philip Merry attending assemblies and

children attending specific services. The very popular Poppy exhibition will take place again in November this year. The Church continues to be in demand for baptisms and some weddings. Philip is in the process of reviewing structure of services across the benefice to ensure they are providing what parishioners want from the Church. And a two day workshop will be held young people in August.

3 Rob Barber - Community Council and Coffee Shop

Thanks were given to Jeannie Bloomfield for her work in pulling each edition of the Observer together. Shared use of benefice printers continues to minimise production costs. The Bowling Green, private car park, recycling facilities and the Freeborn Memorial Garden continue to be supported and maintained by the Community Council. New windows and new energy efficient heating and lighting upgrades have been completed and plans for the new kitchen and bar are advancing with a planning application having been lodged and £5k in the building fund already. The Treasurer, Ian Bartholomew, continues to very successfully source more funding and grant aid. The Memorial Hall continues to host the Coffee Shop, Parent and Toddler Group, Badminton club, Community Lunches, Cinema Club, Touring Theatres, Sales and other entertainment events, all of which contribute to the building fund which demonstrates how well it is used as a community facility whilst also generating a income.

4 Shirley White - Community Lunch

The Community Lunches were started in February 2017 with some trepidation as to how successful they would be. There were 15 people regularly in attendance at first but this has now climbed to 35-40 each month, some from nearby villages. This has amazed and pleased the organisers who will continue to organise these events so long as they are required.

5 Ann Daniels - History Group

Ann gave the report in Joe McCann's absence due to his convalescence. The history group was established 40 years ago after a field walking programme had successfully recorded all finds. From this the History Group has gone on to chronicle the rich history of Walsham le Willows in what were originally Quarterly Reviews (now less frequent but usually tri-annual), all available from the History group and on the village website. The most recent reviews are made public with a delay after release to History Group members. Attendance at the group is approximately 30 and the group continues to develop links with the village.

6 Jan Hall - Horticultural Show

No report was given but it was noted that the show will be held on 11th August this year which will be its 150th year! Doors open as usual at 2pm when tea, coffee and cake is served. The July Observer and the village website will have the schedule of classes under which exhibits can be submitted.

7 Phil Newby - Neighbourhood Plan

Phil began by noting that although the group has got off to a good start with a committed core of members, more volunteers will be needed as the work progresses. Phil noted the importance of a neighbourhood plan to give villagers influence on planning decisions. The plan is all about what makes a village from a planning perspective, the kind of development that people think is required, the tenure type, site locations, densities, numbers of units, sight lines, amenities required for servicing the new development etc etc. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, Walsham, and other

villages like it, will remain vulnerable to speculative development given the continued pressure from the growth of Cambridge. No plan = No voice. A Plan means we will be proactively seizing the opportunity to have that voice. A Neighbourhood Plan, once voted on by local electorate, approved and accepted then has to be taken into account when planning applications are considered by the District Council. It also has the benefit of increasing the percentage of CIL monies that flow to the Parish Council for the benefit of the village. One of the first questions to be answered is what will the boundary of the village be for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan. Is the current village boundary the right one? Lastly Phil advised that it was his firm intention to encourage the group to get on with the plan, aiming to have it approved and adopted within 18 months. The sooner we have it, the sooner we are less vulnerable and we get the influence we need.

8 Jeannie Bloomfield – Observer

This month will see the 48th copy of the Observer produced under Jeannie’s editorship. Other than ongoing submission of too much copy from contributors at deadline rather than in advance of deadline Jeannie reported no other concerns. The Observer continues to have a wonderful team of volunteers including Jan Hall and Phyllis Lunken and the magazine is delivered to the nearly 600 households in the village free of charge and financed by advertising revenue and donations. It remains very popular and the team are always looking for new ideas from readers.

9 Fiona Glover - Poppy Appeal

Fiona Glover and Jan Hall started the Poppy Project in September 2016. The people making the poppies numbered 90 women and 1 man and the organisers are grateful for donations from the Garden Weekend Committee for the purchase of materials which in November last year resulted in 6000 poppies being draped over the Church and its walls. The display drew attention from local and national media. The organisers extend their thanks to all who helped and of course to the Revd. Philip Merry for agreeing to the use of the Church for this magnificent display and commemoration. The plan this year includes the decoration of the interior of the Church where refreshments will also be served.

10 Jackie Ridding - Primary School

Jackie who is Chair of Governors reported that the school currently has 140 pupils and is at capacity. Whilst it is good that the school is so successful, there is now a wait or new entrants have to attend school outside the village which is far from ideal for early years children. The staffing is as follows:

Number	Post	Hours
1	Head Teacher	Full Time
4	Teachers	Full Time
1	Teacher	2 days
1	Teacher	4.5 days
1	Office Support	Full Time
4	Teaching Assistants	Full Time
2	Teaching Assistants	3 days
1	Teaching Assistant	4 days

There will be one new member of staff in year 6 following a departure. And one member of staff will take maternity leave from June and cover has been appointed to cover from September.

A range of trips have been made during the year including year 4 residential, a pantomime, Colchester Castle, the Science museum and a Dinosaur park. 11 year 6 children are about to go on a week long French trip. The School continues to support a number of charities including Jeans for Genes, Sports Relief and the NSPCC. Activities in school have included Macbeth at the Apex where the Walsham children really held their own and put on a fantastic and very creditable performance. Others included science days, Living Eggs and Sports Days.

The school had a successful OFSTED report in October which graded the school as GOOD.

Friends of Walsham School continue to raise funds for the school and have bought the Hobbit House which is used for 'interventions' and as inspiration for other work. The Summer Fayre is coming up again on 13th June and also supports the school.

The School continues to develop links with the Church through attendance and involvement in Remembrance, Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter services. There is also an 'End of Year' service, this year on 24th July. The Choir has sung at Westhorpe Care Home during Christmas and Easter. There are a range of school clubs including sports clubs, the choir, STEM and gardening.

11 Herbert Frost - Royal British Legion

Meetings are held in the Cock Inn Stanton second Tuesday of each Month. Sadly four members died during 2017 Dr Alec Russell , Ronald Rodgers, George Theobald ,and Francis Ramp. Membership now stands at 58. The branch is part of "C" group made up of 6 branches, Bury St Edmunds, Felsham with Gedding, Horringer, Ixwoth, Hopton and Stanton. These branches work together for major fund raising events including the Festival of Remembrance which was held in the Apex 10th November, as a result we were able to donate £4062 -36p to the Poppy Appeal.

The branch was invited to RAF Honington on three occasions, for a Cheese and Wine Evening, 80th Anniversary of RAF Honington and a Christmas Meal.

Branch Event during the year	Raised
Coffee Morning Stanton	£171.83
Branch Annual Dinner	£129.00
Table Top Sale Stanton	£300.00
Sausage and Mash evening Stanton	£90.00

The Chairman and secretary represented the Branch at the County AGM held in Needham Market on 4th February. The secretary Brian Bartrum attended the National Conference held in Southport on the 20/21st May. Ivor Bowden the Branch Standard Bearer paraded the Standard on seven occasions as follows:

- RAF Honington for the dedication of a new Memorial in memory of all RAF personal from Honington that were killed during WW 11
- Suffolk Show
- RBL Race Day Newmarket
- St Ethelberts Church East Wretham in memory of Czechoslovak and Polish Airman who died in WW2 from East Wretham an Honington.
- Festival of Remembrance at The Apex
- Walsham War Memorial
- Remembrance Sunday Stanton

Two wreaths were purchased at the cost of £50 and placed on Walsham and Stanton Memorials and £25 was donated to "C" Group.

At the County AGM our Branch was awarded the Treasurers Tankard and a framed certificate for donating the most money £1500 to the County Benevolent Fund in the small branch Category. During the last six months ending 31st December 2017 requests for help were met with a total pay out of £49,956.82. As at 31st December 2017 Branch funds were £1624-21p

12 Ian Campbell - Sports Club

The Sports Club in Walsham has a long history dating back to the 1800's. Much of this is noted on the village website: <https://www.walsham-le-willows.org/explore/clubs-groups/sports-club/> Initially there were separate cricket and football clubs and in 1952 these came together. The club caters to, and is used by, a wide age group, offering Cricket, Football, Bowls, Tennis, darts and Snooker and latterly a new innovation, Walking Football and Walking Netball. These latter two activities are proving surprisingly popular and the club will, with input from Community Action Suffolk, be adding a social event, 'Talking Tuesdays' on the same day as these two activities take place to build on the obvious demand for this that the two walking events have revealed. Sports Participation is something the government champions and Walsham le Willows sports club is doing it!

Steps have recently been undertaken to change the governing structure of the Club's landlord to incorporate it into CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) after which the Club will close its CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) status and send its assets into the CIO. This means that the club would then hold the freehold of property and under the CIO status, trustees would be protected if the club were to fold which looks very unlikely at the moment! The club intends to have the right Trustees in place to take it forward giving it the capacity to determine the correct changes which might allow, under some circumstances, borrowing to fund longer term development and in the short term to broaden what the club can offer.

13 Mary Bradley - Women's Institute

The Women's Institute in Walsham is a local branch of the Federation of Institutes and like the Sports club, has recently voted for incorporation into CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). A national resolution this year was to focus on Mental Health Matters across local and national groups. There are 12 meetings per annum, on the second Wednesday of the month, one being a party! The group has a summer educational trip each year and selects the topics for monthly talks from a wide range of subjects. All in all the WI'ers have a lot of fun. They also play a big part in the annual Church Fayre and Walsham Open Gardens Weekend amongst other village events. The Walsham group is, as you would expect, supportive and friendly and always welcoming of new members..

Maggie Barber also gave a plug for a trip to see the Calendar Girls Musical in Norwich on 16th February 2019. Speak to Maggie if you are interested. Her number can be found on the village website.

Kevin Boardley Proper Officer, Clerk to Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council