

# **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING STRUMPSHAW, BUCKENHAM AND HASSINGHAM**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Strumpshaw Community Hall on Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 7:30 pm.

## **1. Welcome by the Chairman of Strumpshaw Parish Council**

Sheila Ashford, Chairman of Strumpshaw Parish Council welcomed everyone.

Also present: Parish Councillors: Martin Page, Paul Dexter, Martin Kentish & Tina McAulay. County Councillor Andrew Proctor, District Councillors Jan Davis and Eleanor Laming. There were 4 other residents present.

## **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 18 May 2021**

These were agreed to be correct and were signed by Sheila Ashford as Chairman of the meeting.

## **3. Parish Council Report**

Sheila Ashford said she was elected Chairman on the 10 December 2021 following Maureen Hammond's resignation from the Parish Council. The Chairman then thanked Maureen Hammond for her services as a Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council and then thanked Hilary Hammond for his term as the Deputy Clerk.

Martin Kentish was co-opted onto the Parish Council on the 15 March 2022, filling the casual vacancy because of Maureen Hammond's earlier resignation.

The Parish Council currently has another casual vacancy due to the recent resignation of Richard Palmer and this should be filled by co-option at the Annual Parish Council meeting that follows this Annual Parish meeting at 8p.m. Everyone is welcome to stay for this meeting.

The Town and Parish Council elections are scheduled for 4 May 2023 and will be combined with the District Council elections on the same day, if anyone is interested in standing as a Parish Councillor information will be published on the South Norfolk and Broadland Council website around March 2023, with links on the Strumpshaw Parish Council website.

Megan Wilby resigned as Parish Clerk August 2021 and the current Clerk; Tanya Rowlandson started work 5 January 2022.

### **Lord Lieutenant's plaque**

Lady Dannatt, the Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, commissioned blue plaques to commemorate the resilience of Norfolk's communities during the pandemic. The Parish Council were pleased to support the nomination and award of a blue plaque to The Shoulder of Mutton and Strumpshaw Coffee Break. This was presented by David Hill, Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk on the 8 March and is now on display at The Shoulder of Mutton. The plaque is inscribed with the words written by Harriet Martineau born in Norwich (1802-1876) 'Live your best and act your best and think your best today'.

### **Allotments**

The annual inspection of the 6 Parish Council allotments was carried out by 4 Councillors on 11 May, and all plots are being cultivated. The Parish Council will determine who is responsible for the upkeep of gravel footpath alongside the allotments as it has becoming very weedy.

### **Bus shelter**

Following the successful bid for funding from Norfolk County Council, and charitable grant donations received from the Paul Bassham Trust and R C Snellings, works for the installation of a new bus shelter on the Norwich bound side of the road outside St. Peter's churchyard scheduled to commence 16 May. \*Works rescheduled for the week commencing 13 June as the shelter roof was damaged

### **Buckenham Wood**

Two notice boards and two cycle stands have been fitted at Buckenham Wood. Notices about the wood, its history and possible developments are placed in the notice boards.

Quotations have been accepted for providing steps on the central path slope; removing one old bench at the top of the central glade and installing three new benches in that area; improving the causeway from the Wood Lane gate for about 44 metres; providing a new wheelchair friendly path from the end of the improved causeway for 50 metres towards the site of the new benches. This project is being funded from a payment linked to some of the new houses in Strumpshaw which can only be used for green infrastructure. The funds are held by Broadland District Council, and we are awaiting their release so that the orders can then be placed.

The owner of Buckenham Woods adjoining the Parish Council's land has approached the Council with a view to it purchasing the seven and a half acres of woodland. The Council has been exploring the issues that would be involved.

### **Community Hall**

The Community Hall continues to receive positive feedback from hirers with google reviews now being linked to the Strumpshaw Community Hall website. Hall usage continues to increase with ad hoc hires for children's birthday parties. The Community Hall Committee are in the process of providing two wheelchair accessible picnic benches for the lawned and fenced area for use by hirers.

There are a range of regular weekly classes, including art classes, pilates, yoga, group fitness and children's taekwondo classes. There is also a monthly folk music gathering at the hall. The first organised live event for the hall on 29 April was "The Time Machine" presented by The Keeper's Daughter. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

### **Flooding**

Norfolk County Council Highways design work continues in tandem with Anglian Water, toward a full solution being built at the same time. Liaison continues with the Environment Agency to secure necessary consents and approvals. Funding is secured for

construction in 2022/23, but exact timing depends on a successful outcome on the land negotiations, joint timing with Anglian Water, and securing consents. For the Norfolk County Council scheme, land acquisition is progressing well, and landowners are supportive. Soil testing and public utility surveys are underway, results awaited. Anglia Water work remains on track to use pumping stations and a smart control arrangement to optimise upstream storage capacity in their network to prevent spillages on Norwich Road, where Norfolk County Council are aiming to build an improved highway drainage scheme and infiltration basin. The Norfolk County Council highways scheme is contingent on the implementation of the AW scheme, to secure the necessary Environment Agency approval and landowner’s agreement.

**Norwich Road, footpath and speeding**

For many years, the Parish Council has been pressing Norfolk County Council Highways for a footpath to complete the missing stretches along Norwich Road. The Parish Clerk had May finally received an email today (17 May 2022) from the Highways Engineer confirming “a new footway is unlikely to be funded in the near future by Norfolk County Council.”

Speeding through the village remains a safety concern and the Parish Council will explore the enforcement of the 30 mph speed limit through the village.

**Queen’s Green Canopy**

60 cherry, rowan and silver birch trees were planted at Buckenham Wood, as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative to commemorate Her Majesty’s platinum jubilee. The trees and their planting were generously donated and carried out by the Rotary Club of Norwich Centenary. The planting of this new copse will increase the biodiversity of the site and help secure the enjoyment of the wood for future generations. The planting is also part of the overall Green Infrastructure scheme for the Parish.

**4. Public Forum**

Two residents of Mill Meadow addressed the meeting with their plans to purchase two silver birch trees to be planted in the Autumn, either side of the Community Hall entrance to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

A rota would be drawn up amongst the residents of Mill Meadow for the initial care of watering the young trees, and then once established, the ongoing care and maintenance would be the responsibility of the Parish Council. Sarah Cartwright, Chairman of the Community Hall Committee, and those Parish Councillors present, were all in agreement to this proposal.

A further discussion followed on speeding through the village, it was resolved that the Parish Council will explore the costs and funding opportunities through the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme for purchasing a fixed Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) or the Speed Awareness Message (SAM2) signs.

**5. Close of meeting**

Sheila Ashford thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....