

DRAFT MINUTES OF PARHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7.15pm Tuesday 8th May 2018
Parham Village Hall

1. Chairman's welcome

Andy Nicholson, as Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone. There were 10 parishioners present.

2. Apologies

Received from Annette Gray.

3. The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 8th May 2017 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. To receive a report from Parham Parish Council

Andy Nicholson was pleased to report that the new village sign had now been erected and the unveiling ceremony on 7th May 2018 was attended by over 80 people. The unveiling turned into a lovely village event. The new sign was well received and people enjoyed a social gathering afterwards with Councillors serving refreshments in the village hall.

Following the resignation of Councillor Cochrane, there is a vacancy for a Councillor which can now be filled by co-option.

Despite growing costs, the Parish Council decided to keep the precept level the same as the previous year and use some of the built-up reserves rather than increase the precept.

The Parish Council tries to support village assets and schemes. They have pledged to donate £500 annually to help with the maintenance costs of the village hall and they pay for the 'Community Speedwatch' speedgun to be serviced and calibrated every year.

Andy reported that the Parish Clerk, Lydia Kirk, is now a paid employee, having worked in a voluntary capacity last year following her period as a parish Councillor. Andy thanked Lydia for her work helping to ensure that the Parish Council is compliant with its obligations and runs smoothly.

Andy thanked Michael Gray for restoring the village telephone kiosk that the Parish Council have adopted. Andy also thanked Rhodri Griffiths for his thorough and comprehensive survey of the village's footpaths and pavements, which highlighted some serious safety concerns. The Parish Council are liaising with various organisations in this regard.

6. The Village Recorder provided a written report detailing changes in the village over the year. He has also filed the report with Suffolk's Records Office.

7. Reports were received from the following village organisations:

Parham Airfield Museum

Lydia Kirk gave a written report about the museum's year. They have welcomed over 5,000 visitors and hosted several clubs. The museum was very pleased that the B-17 was included on the new village sign.

The museum has a new website this year which has been received very well, as has the WW2 Jeep that was donated from a supporter in America.

The museum is financially stable but is looking for new volunteers to help greet visitors and serve in the tearoom.

Corrance School Trust Adam Paul provided a written report, detailing the history and purpose of the Trust. A fundraiser for the Trust raised £380, and 3 grants totaling £130 were given between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018. Adam did not have the Trust accounts to hand but will forward to Michael Gray or the Parish Clerk.

Biodiversity Group

Michael Gray reported that this year they have worked on encroachment of the greens at Silverlace Green and North Green, which included digging out blackthorn roots. The disturbed ground will be left to regenerate back naturally rather than planting with seed.

Tree Officer

Adam Paul reported that as the Tree Officer he helps the Biodiversity group, as well as working for the Parish Council in checking trees on village land. He reminded all present that parishioners are welcome to report any concerns that they may have with trees, and a professional opinion can be sought if required.

Copies of all written reports have been filed.

8. The opportunity to ask questions of the above

A parishioner asked Adam Paul what funds the Corrance Trust has available to distribute. He replied that whilst interest rates are very low, there have been additional donations of over £2,000 that have been added to the savings account that can be granted to applicants as they do not form part of the Trust's assets which must be kept as a permanent endowment.

The Parish Clerk is to check that information about the Corrance Trust and application details are on the village website. Also to stress that the money is not a 'hardship' fund, but that any young person in Hacheston or Parham can apply for financial support with educational trips or clubs, or to advance religious education.

9. Any other business

A parishioner had rescued the plaque which was erected when a line of oak trees were planted for the Diamond Jubilee. Sadly the trees have died, but it was suggested that new trees could be planted and the plaque then be re-erected. This will be added to the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

Andy Nicholson thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 7.45pm.