

Minutes from Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting 2017	2
Parish Council APM report 2017	4
Fuel Trust APM report 2017	5
Church report APM 2017	6
Ashwren report APM 2017	7

## **Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 May 2017 at 6.30pm in the Margaret Preston Room, Wreningham Village Hall.**

### **Present:**

Four parish councillors, County Councillor Colin Foulger, District Councillor Phil Hardy, Mick Ryder Footpath Warden, parish clerk and six members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Michael Hill.

**Apologies:** Jon Moon and Hilary Gauthier.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **County Council – Colin Foulger**

As elected members are currently in a period of purdah, County Councillor Foulger simply gave some facts and figures about the work of the County Council this year. 7,000 pot holes were repaired in 2016. NCC are responsible for 6,000 miles of roads in the County. Highways recently met with the parishioners of Ketteringham, to discuss the proposal to close Cantley Lane, as part of the improvements to the Thickthorn roundabout. 40,000 tonnes of waste were recycled or composted during the last year and 4 million people used libraries. Fire & Rescue dealt with 7,100 incidents. 87% of schools in the County are now rated as good or outstanding.

### **Parish Council – Michael Hill**

Michael provided a written report in respect of the parish council.

### **Ashwren Players – Val Keel**

Val provided a written report.

### **Short Mat Bowls – Sue Sayers**

Sue wrote to the clerk confirming that the club is still in existence but does not have enough members to meet on a weekly basis. The club is still in the South Norfolk League and they meet to play matches, home and away. Many other clubs have similar problems attracting new members. The club is still financially viable and the new season will begin again in September.

### **Wreningham VC Primary School – Rob Jones**

Rob confirmed that 50% of the children at the school come from outside the catchment area. 21 parents have put Wreningham as their first choice for the September intake, with only 15 spaces available. The school is currently full, with 109 pupils. The library has been improved this year, thanks to a successful Lottery bid. The school now holds "Wren Tots" sessions, which are designed for parents to bring younger siblings of pupils in, to read with them. The Chairman asked if either different stops for the library van or working with the attendees of the Wednesday Coffee club would help with community engagement. Rob advised that this was a possibility, although all necessary safeguarding issues would need to be addressed.

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Class 3 pupils have been to How Hill this year and some of the older children went on a trip to Brancaster. The school are still tag rugby champions for small schools. There will be a Summer Fayre in July, as well as the school sports day.

Driving and parking remains a concern around the school, with one particular near miss this year, which involved a car mounting the pavement. Rob also mentioned that the zig zag lines outside the school desperately need repainting. The clerk will look into both matters. First aid training for older pupils at the school was suggested and the clerk will pass on the contact details for the Mulbarton First Responders. It is hoped some staff from the school will be able to attend the defibrillator training. The school will put the clerk in touch with the right person to discuss the best goalposts for the playing field.

### **Wednesday Coffee Club – Christine Minns**

Christine provided a written report.

### **Wreningham All Saints Church – Christine Minns**

Christine provided a written report.

### **Wreningham Fuel Trust**

Christine provided a written report.

### **Footpath Warden – Mick Ryder**

Mick advised that the reporting process to Norfolk County Council does not work very well but much more success has been gained by working with the Ramblers. There have been some issues this year with footpaths being used by horse riders, with the landowners permission. Some footpaths do not seem to follow the route shown on the definitive map and it is important to start to sort these issues, plus identifying missing footpaths, soon, as a new definitive map will be finalised in 2026. Mick hopes to talk to long standing residents, with a view to identifying old footpaths which are no longer accessible.

### **District Council – Phil Hardy**

Cllr Hardy noted that the parish council have received some CIL money this year. Cllr Hardy also donated £100 from his ward member's grant to the Wednesday Coffee Club. A further donation is due, in respect of the village hall broadband project.

### **Closing – Michael Hill**

Michael thanked all for attending.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

## **Wreningham Parish Council 2017 Report to Annual Parish Meeting**

Wreningham Parish Council comprises 6 councillors, one Clerk and has one vacancy for a councillor. Our meetings are held every other month on the second Tuesday here in the Margaret Preston Room. Parishioners are always welcome to attend and contribute their input and ideas. We strive to be visible and relevant to the parish. We make full use of the noticeboards and the website to ensure that our meetings, discussions and decisions are available to all. And, therefore, I will not detail what we have dealt with in the past year – it is available for you to see.

We will be working in a number of areas in the next year:

- As the landlord to the Village Hall, we will continue to support and work with the managing committee as they provide this facility and service to the community.
- Some £10,000 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) raised from new building within the Parish has been received from SNC. Parishioners have responded to our invitation for suggestions for its use. We will be discussing these and initiating action in the next few meetings. SNC require us to spend the money within 5 years, account for it annually, and ensure expenditure is for community benefit.
- We have a vacancy for a Parish Tree Warden. This is an important role to help maintain the rural aspect of the village. They liaise with County Tree Wardens and will coordinate work relating to Ash Die-back and general tree and hedge management. If you, or someone you know is interested, please speak to me.
- Our NCC & SNC councillors have provided a grant for the installation of a community wi-fi hub in the Village Hall. The design is largely complete and when the funds are confirmed as being available the installation work will commence.
- SNC's Governance Review 2017 will finish its public consultation shortly. Information is available on our website and parishioners are encouraged to respond to the short questionnaire.
- The 15 new build houses in Church Road will be occupied by new parishioners this year. Hopefully they will come with ideas and energy to benefit this community. We expect to see them welcomed and helped to settle into village life.

The Council is busy working for the parish and covers a lot of ground in its meetings. You can suggest agenda items for our meetings via the Clerk. Please read the minutes posted in the web-site soon after every meeting. We represent the parish and will be pleased to have your input to guide us in our discussions. In between meetings, we often receive notices of (utility) work being planned, consultations, events and community meetings. Wherever possible we ensure that parishioners are aware of these and have the opportunity to make comment. Please keep an eye on the website to keep abreast of council happenings and do ask if you think the Council can help.

Michael Hill  
Chair, May 2017



# WRENINGHAM FUEL TRUST

Charity No: 216331

## Trustees Annual Report to the Parish Council 2017

During the past year the Trust has been administered by 4 Trustees:

Mr I Howlett, the chairman, appointed by the Parish Council in 2016.

Mrs Hilary Gauthier – appointed by the Parish Council in 2014.

Mrs C. Bilham a co-operative Trustee

Mrs I Jackson, a co-operative Trustee

The clerk is Miss C Minns.

The Town land is rented by V D Long & Sons.

Income from the investments with COIF have given a good return again this year.

The Trustees made 25 payments of £130.00 in January, mostly to older persons in the parish who had either applied or were considered as deserving. A number of people said how grateful they were for this help towards the cost of heating.

The Trustees received a request for help in an exceptional case but felt that they could not help due to the domestic circumstances of the person applying.

## All Saints Church, Wreningham

Report to the Parish Council on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Wreningham is part of the Upper Tas Valley Benefice and one of the churches of The Parish of Upper Tas Valley All Saints. Rev'd Suzanne Cooke has for the past year been "Rector" although she is due to leave this part-time appointment at the end of June and to date we have no idea what will be the future of the Benefice or how it will be organised long term.

There are only 2 people living in Wreningham on the church electoral roll.

The Churchwarden is Miss C. Minns, who along with Rev'd Cooke is responsible for the day to day care of the building.

Over the past year All Saints, Wreningham has had a Holy Communion service 9.30 am on the first Sunday of the month and other services have been held at special occasions in the church calendar including Remembrance Sunday and the Carol Service.

The church is cleaned by volunteers and the altar flowers throughout the year plus the additional arrangements for special occasions are also provided by volunteers. Equally the graveyard is maintained by volunteers. We are very grateful to all those who help in any way. I would also like to thank the Parish Council for the grant towards the cost of cutting the grass in the graveyard which paid for most of the petrol and contributed towards machine spares.

### Fabric Report

Over the past year the condition of the church has deteriorated and as well as the poor state of the roof mentioned in my report last year, there is also concern that the east wall appears to be moving outwards and large lumps of plaster are falling off the walls inside, particularly towards the back of the church. An appeal to the village for people interested in preserving this historic building to come forward to discuss the problem resulted in a negative response. Unless the Parish takes an active role in maintaining the church or an alternative use can be found for the building it look as if in time the building will become a ruin.

Christine Minns. Churchwarden.



**Ashwren Players report for Parish Council AGM 9 May 2017**

Ashwren performed a very successful pantomime, Hansel & Gretel, written by local member Alan Miller in February 2016 and had hoped to repeat this in 2017.

A story was agreed and a script started but time ran away from us and, with membership low, it wasn't possible to put on a full show. Rather than take another year off with the possibility of losing more members, we decided to put on a variety show which needed far less preparation and rehearsal. The acts were able to rehearse in isolation, perfecting their routines and coming together at final rehearsals to work with techies and the rest of the cast.

The show, directed by Julie-Ann Stevens, showcased the talents of new and existing members of all ages in sketches and song with guest appearances including a local poet, a young singer, a classical musician/singer, Mulbarton Gymnastics and Long Stratton choir.

It made for a very entertaining evening produced café-style and much appreciated by the audience.

The intention, in addition to entertainment, was to raise funds for charity and we were able to donate cheques of £150 each to Mulbarton Gymnastics and Bramble Bears Playgroup in Ashwellthorpe.

In debrief, it was felt we had pulled off a very successful evening and decided to repeat the exercise in the Autumn to keep momentum going rather than waiting for our usual February half term event.

It was lovely to welcome new members but without the guest appearances we would not have been able to give the audience a rewarding evening. We are struggling to maintain numbers and hope this type of performance might attract more members since it is less intensive than a full blown pantomime and far more relaxing. We still hope to give a pantomime, especially if numbers pick up but the ability to put on a successful variety show will fill in the gaps until then.

Val Keel