

## **Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2019 at 6.30pm in the Margaret Preston Room, Wreningham Village Hall.**

### **Present:**

Four parish councillors, Mick Ryder Footpath Warden, parish clerk and three members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Michael Hill

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Rob confirmed it has been a very good year for the school. Residential trips take place every year, either to Brancaster, the Horstead Centre or Holt Hall. The school has attained the Gold 'PE award, which is a terrific achievement for a small school. This has been possible due to successes in the following events: Norfolk School Games – Bronze Athletic winners, South Norfolk small schools – athletic champions, South Norfolk – Girls football finalists, Netball County Champions and South Norfolk small school – runner up basketball.

The school has also retained its 'Eco Green Flag' award. This is a kite mark for eco awareness and projects including the small school pond, the nature trail, the eco-council and encouraging recycling and careful energy use all help towards the award.

Other recent events include a trip to Norwich Castle, joining with 10 other schools to put on a choir performance and winning the Big Book Quiz Championship. Walk to school week take place next week and there will be a sports day later on this year.

With regard to the fabric of the school, Rob reported that the two mobile classrooms are now in a very poor condition and are also quite uncomfortable for the children as they are difficult to regulate for heating purposes. However, Norfolk County Council have deemed them fit for purpose so will not be recommending they are replaced with a proper extension to the school.

The Summer Festival will be taking place on 29 June 2019 and everyone is welcome to attend. Councillor Morris reminded all present that they can help to publicise events via the Wreningham village website, just send any content to him or Michael.

### **Wreningham Heritage Group - Mick Ryder**

The group held its inaugural meeting in November 2018. It has a constitution, a committee and has been successful in attracting funding. Documents of all kinds are being collected and catalogued. Some members attended training at the 'Time & Tide' museum as to how to conduct an oral history interview. A couple of interviews have taken place already and the group hope to work with the school during the Autumn term. The group are currently trying to locate the Admiralty signalling station, Wreningham being the point between Norwich and the next station at Carlton Rode. The group are tying in with a three year

## **Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting**

partnership with the Norfolk Records Office and the NRO are seeking funding for two additional archivists specifically to work with groups like the Wreningham Heritage Group. The group hope to put on a small exhibition and display in the near future.

### **Footpath Warden – Mick Ryder**

The permissive path from the bridge on Wymondham Rd to Long's Wood has been opened up with the help of the Ramblers. The location is currently quite wet but it is hoped this may dry out now that it is more exposed. The Ramblers planned to lay boardwalks at the beginning section of the footpath opposite the Bird in Hand pub, however, the current path varies to accommodate a small copse at the moment and NCC would not give permission for the boards to be laid if they did not follow the path in accordance with the definitive map. Horse riders continue to use footpaths without the permission of landowners. Mick confirmed he is currently researching any 'lost' footpaths in the area. A new definitive map will be published in 2026 and any paths not showing on the new map will be lost forever.

### **Wednesday Coffee Club – Jean Lambourne**

Jean confirmed the coffee mornings are continuing to run successfully and are a helpful way of welcoming new residents to the village. A very successful event enabled the group to send a donation of £313 to Macmillan Cancer Support. The group have welcomed local walking groups a few times recently and this has helped to boost funds enough to purchase a new coffee machine and still end the year with £110 in the bank. Jean gave thanks to the people who help to run the coffee mornings, without this help it wouldn't be possible to carry on and they seem to be very much appreciated by the residents who attend.

### **Wreningham Oil Syndicate – John Knight**

John submitted a written report - The Oil syndicate has been running smoothly over the last 12 months. I have been in constant touch via e-mail to the members giving them adequate time to place an order if in needed. Orders each quarter (placed February, May, August and November) have ranged between 9,000 and 22,000 litres so we have been able to negotiate good rates for the village resident users.

The scheme overall has grown to a total of 66 members but I am very aware that we have seen several newcomers into the parish over this period so I am still very keen to ensure everyone is aware of the possibility of joining and hopefully growing the group numbers to a healthy figure, thus ensuring maximum discounts from suppliers each time.

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

Christine provided a written report - Wreningham All Saints church is one of 7 churches with in the Parochial Parish of Upper Tas Valley All Saints and along with Fundenhall PCC we make up the Upper Tas Valley Benefice. At the start of the past year we were without a clergy but still managed to hold regular Sunday services within the Benefice. Rev. Lydia Avery was licenced as our Priest-in-Charge in September. She is with us for 5 years in a full-time capacity but is expected to concentrate much of her time working with the 4 church schools in the benefice.

## **Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting**

Throughout the year we have had a 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion service at Wreningham on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month but as from April (last month) this has become an 8.30 a.m. service and a 2.30 pm service has been added on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. We share the seasonal services with the other churches but usually have a well-attended Carols by Candlelight service on the Tuesday before Christmas.

There is a very small number of people in the parish who attend church services, but thanks to the help of volunteers we have managed to keep the graveyard tidy with the grass cut regularly. The cost of fuel for this has been supplemented by the Parish Council. The church is regularly cleaned and the flowers replaced as need be again by volunteer helpers.

The church is normally unlocked during the daytime. The notice board mentioned in my report last year has been erected by volunteers from within the parish and I thank them for their help. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parish council for their contribution towards the cost of insuring the oldest historic building in the parish.

The cost of its maintenance and upkeep is high but during the year we have been awarded 2 grants of £5,000.00 each – one from Norfolk Churches Trust and the other from Garfield Weston Trust and a very successful Gift Day in November raised a further £5,000.00. Final quotes for the repair to the east wall and the retiling of the north side of the chancel, a small section of the nave and the east side of the north transept will cost a total of about £53,000.00. It is anticipated that a grant will be available from the “Listed Places of Worship” to cover the equivalent of the inclusive VAT which leaves a short fall at the present time of about £4,000.00. The architect has been instructed to accept the quote and it is hoped the work will be done in September/October.

### **Wreningham Fuel Trust – Christine Minns**

Christine provided a written report - 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 2018, 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. These investments pay a quarterly dividend and also provide Capital Growth which means that the capital retains its value.

As well as provided two lots of 500lt heating oil in response to requests for help in exceptional cases, the Trustees made 19 payments of £150.00 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.

### **Closing – Michael Hill**

Michael thanked all for attending.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm.