

## **Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

**Held at Margaret Preston Room, Village Hall  
on 10 May 2022 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** 4 councillors, 13 members of the public

The meeting was chaired by Michael Hill

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **District Councillor- Nigel Legg**

South Norfolk Council proposes to borrow some £20m at advantageous rates to fund various capital projects in the area. This includes £4m to provide a new GP surgery in Hethersett in order to help with the increasing demand for Primary Medical Care following the major housing developments in Hethersett and Cringleford. I have been assured that, should such a building take place, the current surgery in Mulbarton will remain open.

The Councils Help Hub remains open and is available to offer debt advice and management for residents affected by the current cost of living problems. The Council proposes to spend £100,000 upgrading its temporary housing accommodation provision. This is required to help the Homeless and those covered by the new Domestic Abuse Act.

Community Action Fund and Ward Member grants are to continue and at an enhanced level. Residents who wish to take advantage of these should contact the local District Councillors in the first instance.

There are proposals to move the current office from Long Stratton to the recently vacated office at Horizon House on the Broadland Business Park to be shared jointly with Broadland Council.

Parish Councils will be offered electric charging points to be installed in suitable public areas. Details have yet to be finalised. Councillor Lambourne requested that the council look to install a bank card payment for use of the facility rather than an app-based system due to ongoing reported problems with these.

The Council is supporting refugees from Ukraine. A reception area at Long Stratton has been proposed if necessary. Host families will be assessed for suitability by officials.

A recent diktat by Natural England has put a stop to housing development approvals where any new accommodation involves "an overnight stay". This covers the catchment areas of the rivers Yare and Wensum, i.e., most of South Norfolk. At present no new approvals can be given until such time as The Council can produce suitable guidance on the "Nutrient Neutrality" problems. There is no time scale for any guidance to be produced.

Looking to the future there are proposals for a new town in South Norfolk and for an extension to Hethel Engineering Centre. The former could be sited at Hethel.

### **Heritage Group – Jean Lambourne**

This year has been eventful - literally - for the Heritage Group. We staged our first major exhibition in October to showcase some of the impressive amount of information we have been fortunate to obtain from both residents and former residents, and it was generally considered a great success - in response to pleas both from visitors to that exhibition and those whose missed it, we re-presented the story of our local farms, and some new information from the village shop's long history, in May this year, to coincide with the arrival of a touring exhibition by the Food Museum. That day also attracted many visitors from the village and others nearby.

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In its first days, WHG needed to prioritise; we kicked off with a relatively blank canvass and, initially, it wasn't easy to predict how the group's activities would evolve. We have now arrived at a point where our aims and activities have become clearer. Thus, we are now in a much better place to create a comprehensive / engaging website – and which represents what we actually do.

Fortuitously, this coincides with a very positive and helpful suggestion from the Parish Council. They have kindly offered to assist us by including our website within the existing "Wreningham Village" website hosting arrangements – whilst still enabling the WHG to present its own website identity and establish its own style. This won't diminish our identity - but it will save us money and also provide the site with a level of ongoing security we wouldn't otherwise enjoy.

Work on the new website is about to get underway with the creation of a design concept. We then expect some of the initial work to build on local subjects we have showcased during our meetings and exhibitions.

We will also have a dedicated area for the voice recordings we have been collecting through interviews over the last 3 years – with more interviews to come.

We want the site to look dynamic and engaging - and subjects will evolve. We will include front page "news" & "notices" information to ensure our front page remains "current".

We will include web-links to other history/heritage groups in the area and encourage those other groups to reciprocate – because our village story should not be seen as an "island" – and neither should theirs'.

Whilst it's too soon to declare a go-live date for the site, we hope to be up and running by the autumn. It won't all be there on "Day 1" but we expect to make continuous and steady progress.

The Group is attracting visitors from outside the village and new members from the village, at each meeting and we are confident of going from strength to strength in the years to come.

### **Wednesday Coffee Morning - Jean Lambourne**

Our monthly coffee morning continues to be a well-loved function and we have welcomed new staff to the kitchen, which makes life easier for everyone. One of the aims, when these monthly coffee mornings were reintroduced in the village some years ago, was to send donations to charity whenever funds built up to a healthy figure. This year we have done rather well....

In September we held our annual Macmillan Nurses fund raising event and surpassed all former sums raised, with a final total of £567.70 going to the charity after a really well supported coffee morning with what seemed like a hundred cakes arriving from our generous village bakers.

In March we decided to donate all takings, plus a small surplus to the Disasters Emergency Committee, to aid their work for Ukraine and, with Gift Aid, we were able to send them £250. Particular thanks must go to Nancy and Rick Adams of Ashwellthorpe for steering their group of hungry and thirsty walkers in our direction that day, but our regulars came up trumps too, with donations on top of their usual orders.

We will continue to send our monthly profits to the DEC for the foreseeable future.

### **The Oil Syndicate - John Knight**

The syndicate has run well over 2021 placing quarterly orders with 66 on the mailing list, 48 actively ordering, and an annual total of 67,000 litre orders placed. Going forward hoping for better prices, oil price

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placed February 2021 was 21 pence per litre, this February 91 pence. To increase membership suggestions of linking with other local villages, advertising in the Mardle and also the village Welcome Pack.

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

A successful and busy year for the school with a new office staff member introducing new processes. Covid still remains in the background has at times staffing levels and had to implement recent bubble closures. The children have been on Horstead and Aylmerton residential trips, sports tournaments with netball at Gresham's, basketball at Framlingham. The good links to the church continue with an Easter Service and trip to the Cathedral. Father Christmas visit made the local news and the school remains an eco-school which is an important focus. Recently the children raised money for Ukrainian refugees. Pupil numbers remain buoyant, and nice to have younger pre-school children come in regularly to the school with the Wren tot's activity. School budget remains tight which impacts the curriculum and building. Tried to replace mobiles but not enough budget despite best efforts. Overall, a good year, and Mr Jones emphasised being very proud of the staff and children at the school.

### **Village Hall - Val Keel**

It's been a challenging year not least because of Covid restrictions. Committee Meetings were either held online or outside, spread across the patio. After many months of keeping our distance and staying outside, the end of May 2021 came and we were finally able to come indoors and welcome our hall users.

Since that date, Zumba, Last Coffee Morning, Mother & Toddler Group and Parish Council have held their regular activities. We have also welcomed use by Wreningham School, All Saints Church and the Heritage Group who held a highly successful weekend in October. It's been a fun time for dancers with regular 60's dances, swing and tea dances along with the popular Zumba ball and a Rock & Roll event to raise money for Ukraine. The hall continues to be a go to venue for private hire and we've had children's parties, adult parties and wedding receptions. Ramblers continue to book our car park as a starting and ending point for their walks and we've been the muster point for the annual village litter pick.

The Witch & Wren suffered a drop in patrons during Covid but numbers are increasing with cocktail nights once a month from November (increasing to twice a month from March 2022) and family nights returning. After losing the fish & chip van, we are looking to introduce other food vans but this is proving a challenge. The long-awaited Wine tasting event was extremely well received with a hall full to Covid-allowing capacity. We have also introduced Games Nights which are full of competitive spirit and Menus around the World Dining Nights with a highly successful Italian Night in April and Thai Night planned for May.

We lost committee members over the year and the hall had been running on a reduced committee since July 2021 until the AGM in February 2022 when our numbers swelled to 8 Trustees. It's been very challenging to meet the demanding workload but we have pulled together to ensure hirers continue to be supported and their events don't suffer. We are now looking forward to bringing new, exciting events to the hall as well as old favourites with new committee members and with the help of our band of volunteers. We are also looking at revamping our website to show what the hall can offer and sell its features to new and regular hirers.

In terms of the fabric of the hall, no major renovations were carried out (as income was reduced) although we did replace the picnic benches outside, add patio heaters and update outside lighting to the rear – supported by grant contribution. We have also improved the sound system in the bar area to allow a more flexible experience and this will be rolled out into the main hall soon. As income increases, we will continue with our program of improvements to ensure we have a hall that is number one when hirers are looking for a venue and one the residents of Wreningham can take pride in. Our future key projects are to extend and

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improve the patio area, to ensure the roof is repaired and watertight, investigate replacing the kitchen and to follow up on the sub-committee report on possible solar generated electricity for the hall. We have also signed up to County Broadband which will come on line eventually and facilitate even better service to our users and what we can provide for them.

We continue to ensure the hall meets all regulations including Governance, Trust documentation, food hygiene and security. Our immediate concentration is to focus on events for the Jubilee.

### **Post meeting report: Village Recycling Hub - Val Keel**

The hub was established in February 2019 and continues to grow in popularity with donations being dropped off daily.

8 programmes raise funds for our chosen charity PACT through TerraCycle:

- KP snacks, nuts, popcorn, crisps and pretzels
- Confectionery
- Lavazza Eco Coffee Caps
- Pladis biscuits & snacks
- Toothpaste tubs and toothbrushes
- Cheese packaging
- Hygiene Home – dishwasher tablet pouches, dishwasher salt, packaging from cleaning wipes
- Coffee bags

Every programme is sponsored by a company which dictates what is acceptable under that programme. TerraCycle sets the minimum weight required to qualify for points (which are converted to money). To date, we have raised £650 and saved a total of 750kg of plastics from landfill and are thrilled to have been able to send PACT £535 in donations.

In addition, we take in items that are passed to Hallswood Animal Sanctuary – bakery plastic packaging, bread bags, bread wax wraps, Pringles tubes and Carex refill pouches. We also pass on any stationery writing items to Wreningham School, contact lenses and their blister packs to a local optician, medicine blister packs to Superdrug in Norwich for the benefit of Marie Curie Cancer Care and used bras to Smalls for All which supports women in Africa.

Sadly, the pet food programme has now closed (as has the baby food programme) so it's even more important we save everything that can raise money from its recycling especially as supermarkets will now take crisp packets, confectionery and biscuit wrappers. Charities need the funding more than ever and recycling through supermarkets takes money away from organisations that need it.

We are actively encouraging people to collect at work, school or in social situations. A Facebook Group has been set up to encourage not only dropping off at the hub but also changing elements of life to a more environmentally conscious one whether that be by sharing information, alerting people to situations that need attention, new initiatives or asking questions.

It is planned to hold a 'Green Day' later this year where people can find out how they can address issues, clarify what they can do with x,y,z, meet others with the same outlook as themselves and share information.

If you have any questions please email me on [val@valkeel.co.uk](mailto:val@valkeel.co.uk) or join the Facebook Group:

**Eco living in and around Wreningham** where you'll find lots of ideas, questions, answers and support.

Val Keel: 01508 488231

### **Footpath Warden – Lynda Craig & Jean Levis**

- Path across the B1113 from the Bird in Hand is slippery, adversely sloping adds to hazard, needs a handrail. Update since meeting - this has now been reported to NCC Highways.

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- Path behind Old Rectory Farm is overgrown, difficult to navigate; the sign to Ashwellthorpe Woods is loose on the ground.
- Path heading toward north alongside Longs Field from Wymondham Road has stumps and tree roots that are a trip hazard.
- Noted some people still not managing their dog waste, although most are.
- Spring surge in growth means some paths have overhanging branches, but all paths remain navigable.
- Road walking remains hazardous in the village prohibiting families from walking their children to school.
- Query raised why the village does not have a 20 mph speed limit, whereas roads around Mulbarton and Long Stratton schools do. Noted 30mph speed limit in village with narrow single track roads is too fast and further discussion ensued on this issue and approaching Highways.

### **All Saints Church - Christine Minns**

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. Our Priest- in-Charge is Rev. Lydia Avery who will be retiring at Easter 2023, is with us in a full-time capacity but concentrates much of her time working with the 4 church schools in the benefice. Over the coming year she will also be helping with the Pilgrim Benefice (Long Stratton Group) where they have only 1 part-time clergy.

I know that Wreningham school staff have welcomed the support she has given them over the past year.

Wreningham church is now “open for business” after the completion of the major works to the east wall.

We had a “Gift Day” appeal to mark All Saints Day in 2021 and many of the parishioners were very generous in their donations which has helped to start replenishing the “Fabric Fund”.

We marked the second anniversary of the first day of COVID lockdown with a service in church followed by the dedication of an Oak Tree placed in the graveyard to serve as a reminder of the COVID Epidemic which has swept across the whole world.

I would like to record my thanks to the volunteers who manage to keep the graveyard tidy with the grass cut regularly. We are grateful to the parish council for their grant towards the cost of fuel and spares for cutting the grass. My thanks to the church cleaners, the flower arrangers, those who are responsible for providing and flying the flag on the tower, my fellow churchwarden Christine Bilham for her support and all who support church social events.

The church is open for private worship each day and regular Sunday services re- instated, although we have to share these with the 7 other churches in the Benefice so only hold the occasional service at this church.

### **Wreningham Fuel Trust - Christine Minns**

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

Mr I Howlett, the chairman, appointed by the Parish Council in 2020.

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.

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The Trustees have met twice during the past year. The only land the Trust owns is known as the Town land and is rented by V D Long & Sons. However we have been asked if we are willing to sell this land and after much negotiation we have arrived at a figure which we think the Charity Commission will consider a fair price. If we are successful in selling this land we will invest the money in an interest paying, capital growth fund with COIF which is where all the other assets of the Trust are invested.

Income from the investments with COIF have given a good return again this year. Despite bank interest being almost non-existent these investments have pay a quarterly dividend which matches that earned in past years. We have also Capital Growth.

We had no requests for help in exceptional cases during the year so the Trustees decided to make the usual annual payment to 19 of the older members of the community but to retain part of the surplus in anticipation of possible requests for help.

The funds are available for any resident of the parish to apply for in times of need and this is always treated as confidential.

**Closing – Michael Hill** thanked all for attending. Meeting closed at 7:35 pm.