

Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 14th May 2024, 6:30pm

Margaret Preston Room, Village Hall



Agenda

- 1) Chairman's Announcements, Apologies, Introductions and Meeting

Organisation

- 2) To receive reports from District Councillor and County Councillor.
- 3) To receive reports from village groups and organisations.
- 4) Other matters: An opportunity to raise any issues not otherwise covered.
- 5) Formal closure of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Note: Each report should be brief: please describe the group's work, highlights and plans for the next year. If possible a written report to be submitted to the Clerk for adding to the Village records.

Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting 2023

**Held at Margaret Preston Room, Village Hall
on 9th May 2023 at 6.30pm**

Present: 7 councillors, 6 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 will move into the new premises – Horizon House before the end of May. Council are opposing the use of overhead cables in the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury project and feel this should be offshore.

Council tax has remained the same. There is a large problem with homeless people due to current global financial situation. There is a housing shortfall and South Norfolk propose purchasing properties to assist with this.

District Councillor – Jim Webber

South Norfolk will be selling off the old council offices in Long Stratton once transfer to new premises is complete.

All opposed to the 'pylons' for the Norwich to Tilbury project. There is a lack of infrastructure. South Norfolk planning should take into account the flooding which villages have had to contend with into consideration for future developments. A newly appointed Flood Officer will be contacting all parish councils to arrange a meeting to discuss concerns.

Chair advised that drainage has always been the main consideration in relevant planning applications.

County Councillor - not in attendance

Wreningham VC Primary School - Rob Jones

The school is thriving and well supported by parents. Currently 110 children on the school role. New phonics scheme has been purchased through the Wensum Trust Fund. National curriculum is busy and awaiting Ofsted last one 2015. There has been noticeable mental health issues after Covid 19. School has a full governing body and well supported by the Friends. The fundraising carried out pays for school trips and the book corners. School trips planned to How Hill and Norfolk Lakes and in 2024 a residential trip to the Horstead Centre, near Norwich. Budgets are tight but very grateful to the Friends for all they do. School has two parents who are fully trained to carry out reading projects with pupils. The Eco Club is still in operation and working towards maintaining its green flag status which was awarded in 2011-13.

The school has areas of concern and will need addressing in the future. The mobile classrooms require the floors to be replaced and the laminate walls have water seeping in. The roof also has an issue with damp. The mobiles have become not fit for purpose and there has been no assistance from County regarding replacement. With budgets tight the school can no longer carry out repairs.

The Oil Syndicate - John Knight

10 – 15 orders at a time with new people in the village joining the syndicate. Average 12,000 litres per order. New people are always welcome to join. Currently looking for someone to take over the role or co-ordinator.

Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting 2023

All Saints Church - Christine Minns

Wreningham All Saints church is one of 7 churches within 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 retired at the end of April. We know that eventually, when the legal paperwork is complete we will be joining with the Tas Valley Benefice where there are currently 3 clergy. In the meantime the Revd Dawn Davidson, who is the rector in Tas Valley Benefice is to be licenced to act as Priest-in-charge within our Benefice.

All Saints, Wreningham has applied for a faculty to remove the pews in the chancel. The floor is unstable and in order to get to it to do a repair, some of the pews will need to be removed and we hope for permission to then not put them back. Faculties take several months to come through and we are still waiting for permission to carry out the work.

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. I would also like to record my thanks to those who helped yesterday in the churchyard as part of the "Community Big Help Out".

The church is open for private worship each day and for Sunday services 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.
Mr Keith Morris – appointed by the Parish Council in 2022.
Mrs C. Bilham a co-operative Trustee
Mrs I Jackson, a co-operative Trustee
The clerk is Miss C Minns.

The Trustees have met several times during the past year.

Last year I reported that the Trustees were seeking permission to sell the only piece of land still owned by the Trust. During the year the sale went through and the proceeds were invested with the Charity Commission in their COIF investment account which attracts both capital growth and interest.

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

In view of the increase in cost of heating the Trustees felt that they should be selective in who they gave support to and made reasonable grants to 2 people on "end of life" care, along with 2 other families who were known to be struggling. They made a further 7 payments, of slightly less value to people they considered might be in most need in the village.

They always retain a small sum of money each year so that funds are available for any resident of the parish to apply for in times of need and this is always treated as confidential.

Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Village Hall – John Knight

Difficult situation with committee last year. Have now taken on the role as temporary Chair and willing to discuss issues. Lack of numbers and still require a secretary but managing to get work done. Leaves the committee as a small team and require support with bookings and bar keeping. Going forward there is a full calendar of activities throughout the year. Bookings are good for the hall, which is the hub of the community.

Energy costs have doubled and therefore have had to introduce an increase in hire costs. Will investigate the installation of solar panels to help with energy costs. The financial accounts are good but there are large projects such as a replacement kitchen, which have been deferred and will have to be prioritised. Will investigate the install

Interested in the installation Electric Vehicle Charging Points which South Norfolk Council hope to roll out to village halls, but would need to know more on costs ownership etc.

Newcomers to the village are using the hall and there is a mix of ages.

Wreningham Heritage Group – David Kirk

We are pleased to report a successful and productive 12 months.

Financial Summary

We have a healthy bank balance. This would enable us to initiate minor projects but would require new external funding for anything major. The village hall charges us for the use of the Margaret Preston Room – and the sale of tea/coffee and cakes at those meetings balances out these charges – hence our regular income and expenditure remain well matched.

The various external grants which preceded our 2021 exhibition provided the additional benefit of equipment which continue to remain in ongoing use at both meetings and for support. Currently, we regard ourselves as adequately resourced.

We are attempting to transfer to a different bank because our existing bank caused us some challenges. We anticipate completing this transfer soon.

Meetings and attendance

Wreningham Heritage Group meetings have fallen into a regular pattern of 1 every 2 months in the village hall. Meetings are typically led by a speaker – either from Wreningham or outside and we have been complimented regarding the content. We get up 20 attendees – including regulars from other villages and have developed a network of very useful contacts.

The WHG Website

At last year's Parish Meeting we promised the launch of a new WHG website by the autumn – it duly went live in September. Initially the website was optimised for use on desktops and laptops and its operation on tablets and mobile phones has recently been greatly improved.

Every month since the launch the website the content has been expanded and this will continue. Watch out for a further interesting development.

Wreningham Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Our thanks continue to go to Wreningham Parish Council for covering our website hosting costs under their umbrella contract for the Wreningham village website. We also give special thanks to Barry Jarvis for his occasional but vital assistance.

Cataloguing & Loan Materials

As ever, we would have nothing if it wasn't for the support of village residents who share their information with us. We have recently stepped up our cataloguing of these materials.

Our medium-term aim is to be able to share the catalogue with anyone in the village who wants to view it. It is likely to become available in several phases. By this time next year, we hope to have implemented the first phase of this plan.

We have already amassed a very special combination of materials – dare we suggest “unique” for a village of this size. As a result, we have recently offered a subset of our historical data to an academic institution for study – having obtained the permission of the owners of that information subset, first. Should that offer be taken up we will release further information.

Last Wednesday Coffee Morning – Jean Lambourne

Our monthly Coffee Morning in the village hall continues to have a steady attendance and willing helpers. We have been obliged by rising costs to increase our prices during this last year – at the moment we are just managing to cover the rent for the village hall and the cost of coffee, bacon rolls and biscuits and thanks to our ever loyal kitchen staff we also have the occasional treat of a homemade cake.

We held our usual event for Macmillan Nurses in September and, with the proceeds from sales of food and drink, jams and pickles, and a highly successful raffle of prizes donated by generous villagers, we sent a final total of £530 to Macmillan – a new record.

With a small surplus of funds at the end of the calendar year, we were able to make a donation of £75 to Bramble Bears Playgroup, which caters for pre-school children from both Wreningham and Ashwellthorpe – and we received a delightful thank you card from the children in return.

It is always gratifying to see new faces and there have been a few of these this year – we now play host to some Ashwellthorpe folk and those from a local walking group and we are pleased to see them and to develop contacts with other villages, to our mutual benefit.

After payment of the rent for our April coffee morning we have a current balance of £111.23 to take forward to what I trust will be another successful year.

Meeting closed at 19:40.