

# NORTH CREAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors A Bunkle (Chair, Parish Council), J Brettingham Smith, L Fletcher, B Lynn, J Robinson and the Clerk, Sarah Harvey.

The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor A Bunkle.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. **Apologies**  
Apologies of absence were received from County Councillor A Jamieson, Borough Councillor C Morley, Parish Councillors S Sandell and I Studd.
3. **Minutes**  
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, copies of which had been circulated were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **Chairman's Annual Report**  
Councillor A Bunkle presented the annual report on behalf of the Parish Council.

'In the past 12 months the Parish Council has met 11 times. It has been a year of getting largely back to normal for the parish council after contending with the effects of Covid-19.

The past 12 months have seen:

- **Land at Shammer** – We are waiting for the easement monies of £1,000 to be paid to the parish council in respect of the water pipes over the land at Shammer.
- **Village Gateways** – these have been installed and look good.
- **Stone Pit** – the agreement for the clay shooting club has been discussed and offered to the clay club for their comment. This will bring matters up to date.
- **Covid-19** – the effect of this virus has abated somewhat over the past 12 months, and we have resumed normal service in how we handle our meetings.
- **Christmas Lights on the village green** – this was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that we have had a Xmas tree plus associated lights in the trees on the village green and round the corner on West Street. Thanks must go to the team of volunteers who helped with the lights set up and take down and those who helped on the night, also including Fr Clive. This year the switch on event was back to normal after dealing with the events trust upon us by Covid-19.
- **Adopted Telephone Box** – the parish council has recently bought the village Phone Box and had it painted. The plan is to equip the phone box with a defibrillator, and we have set aside funds to do this. • **Agricultural traffic** – we have experienced very few, if any, reported problems this harvest period. Communications with the operators have improved.
- **Business rates registration of holiday homes** – there are a few properties in the village who pay business rates instead of council tax, and the council contacted them to invite them to make a voluntary donation to the parish. By paying business rates the owners of the properties do not contribute to the precept of the parish at all, so all the streetlights and grass cutting costs are borne by the council taxpayers. One business rated property contributed and promised to do this every year (we are grateful to them for this), but the remaining 13 owners who we sent letters to ignore the request, so this will be followed up.
- **SAM2 Speed Sign** – these signs record speeds in their various village locations in excess of 80mph on each reporting occasion, and we try to encourage the Norfolk Speed Partnership van to visit us as regularly as possible.
- **Changes to the parish council** – There have been no changes in the last year, although there are elections next year so there will bound to be some change then.

It is interesting to note that we do not have many, if any, parishioners in attendance at our meetings and the optimistic way of interpreting this is to say that we must be doing an ok job, otherwise I hope that someone would say something to the contrary!

I have been proud to have served as Chairman of North Creake Parish Council for the past year and in fact the past 15 years. It is a good and caring council with a diverse selection of characters, and it serves the village well with commitment, care and common sense.'

**5. County Councillor's Report**

It was noted that the report from the County Councillor A Jamieson had been made available to the meeting but given the amount of content contained in the report it was agreed these would be posted as an appendix to the minutes on the website.

**6. Borough Councillor's Report**

Borough Councillor C Morley provided a short report to advise that various grants to support residents and businesses were progressively becoming available and people should regularly check the Borough Council web site. The Councillor Community Support Grant was also continuing in 2022/23 and could offer small sums to local community groups. It was noted that South Creake Tennis Club had received £500 for equipment as an example.

**7. Burnham Market Area Community Car Scheme**

A report was read on behalf of Mrs D Potter (BMACCS, Co-ordinator).

'During the last financial year, we attended 1,552 medically related appointments. This included 192 for South Creake. During the financial year ending 2019/20 we attended 3,170 and in 2018/19 4,896 – how times changed – with appointments made drivers found and then cancelled – to the pandemic and lockdown.

We are managing with 9 drivers and 2 weekend drivers when they are available and 2 retired will help occasionally in emergencies. We are being asked to attend hospital appointments at weekends. Recently a driver has been taking a passenger to a London hospital. We regularly take a passenger to a clinic in Littleport, apparently used by Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

Most of the drivers continue to wear masks and sanitise hands. Some of the passengers prefer to wear a mask too.

With the price of fuel increasing, we have asked if we can charge more than 45p a mile with £5.00 minimum charge – this is the amount the Chancellor has stated for volunteer drivers using own vehicles. The answer is NO – we are asking passengers, if at all possible, to give a little extra. I have advertised for more drivers and had a response from a resident in Burnham Market -he has moved full time into his holiday home. He has helped with a car scheme before.

We still visit surgeries – including Burnham Market, Wells, Docking etc, opticians, physiotherapists, dentists and podiatrists. Because of Covid we are rarely asked to visit care homes and day centres. We do need funding to maintain this service.

John Crombie our chairman has died, we offer his family and many friends our sincere condolences. He will be greatly missed, I am sure by lots of organisations, we will certainly miss his input into BMACCS and his friendship to us all.'

**8. Village Hall Report**

A report was made available and read on behalf of Mr P Lines, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

'This will be the 89th year of continuous Community access for this very fine and historic Village Hall.

Although now fully open, regular usage of the Hall is limited to Post Office and monthly Coffee Mornings and the occasional rental.

The Creakes Drama Group has tentative plans for a production later in 2022 with rehearsals proposed for August to November. This will provide good rental income.

As a result of a customer survey and other factors, listed in VHC minutes, it has been decided, by those concerned, not to re-open the Cinema in the Creakes as it is unlikely to be a financially viable concern.

The VH continues to be independently financially secure. Thanks to the efforts of the Committee and in particular, it's Treasurer, Adam Bunkle.

The VH website, managed by Andy Culshaw, has remained in operation and has been useful in communicating information to the community.

The VH will be the focal point for two days village celebration for The Queens Jubilee in June.

The last year has been one of cautious optimism, and I look forward to more constructive and pleasurable use of our fine Village Hall for the benefit of the North Creake Community.

As always, I give thanks the VH Committee members for their excellent support and unpaid labour.'

**9. Shooting Club**

It was noted that no report had been made available.

**10. Parishioners Question Time**

No parishioners were present.

With no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.15pm.

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Chairman

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Dated