

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 09 May 2017 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

Present: Mr Richard Gray – Chairman Mr Roger Young
 Mr Geoff Kilham Mrs Monica Mortensson
 Mrs Dawn Nash
 Cllr Tim Tilbrook Gill Welham – Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Ms Joey Smithson

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged that Cllr John Dobson had now retired and the Clerk had not yet made contact with the newly elected Councillor Stuart Dark. **Action: Clerk**

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May 2016

The Clerk had circulated the minutes from last year's meeting. These minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Chairman's Report

Richard Gray gave the following report:

"Once again, I would like to thank you all, for the time and the hard work you have given to the Village through serving this council, and a big thank you to our clerk Gill, for the same dedication and hard work she gives... keeping the smooth running of all council matters, before, after and during meetings.

I wish to thank Geoff for the hands-on work in finding the long-lost bus shelter and bringing it to a position to which a new roof can be attached".

6 Parish Council Financial report

The clerk presented the Annual Financial Report of the Parish Council which was agreed by all and signed by the Chairman. The clerk was given permission to publish the financial statement on the Flitcham Website.

7 Reports from Village Groups

St Mary's Church – Sally Stanton

The Church

Flitcham is a small village and the parish church is attended by the residents, visitors and school children throughout the year

Church Services - Two regular services are held in church each month.

Holy Communion at 8am on the First Sunday of the month and the Family Service followed by coffee and chat at 11am on the fourth Sunday.

Easter Day and Christmas Day are celebrated with a Morning Service – baptisms, weddings and funerals take place during the year.

The Remembrance Day Service for Flitcham, Hillington & Sandringham was held at Sandringham in November and afterwards wreathes were placed on the Flitcham village memorial.

The church is not locked during daylight hours and is frequently visited by those who enjoy historic buildings and /or value the building as a quiet place for prayer.

The Organist – Mrs Avril Wright is now playing regularly for Sunday services.

The 8am Holy Communion has a small but regular congregation.

Whilst our monthly Family Service is attended by an average congregation of 25. The Morning Services at Christmas and Easter are very well attended by regular worshippers and visiting families. The school holds assembly in church several times during the year including the Christmas Carol Service and a Leavers' assembly at the end of the Summer Term.

Sunday 5th – Sunday 13th August is Open Churches' Week this year. The Norwich diocese promotes this event to encourage visitors to these ancient buildings. Flitcham supports this initiative and it has proved to be very successful.

The churchyard – both the Old and New Churchyards are maintained by 3 volunteers, John Ross and Keith Loader – both retired residents, and churchwarden, Linda Neave. A new mower has been purchased for £900. Earlier this year the Leylandii trees surrounding the new churchyard were felled. This has opened up the grave area and enabled the hedge to the east be cut. More help with the task of keeping this large area well tended for the parish would be much appreciated.

The Parish Share for 2017 - £5,026

This is the annual contribution made by churches towards the cost of ministry, and is primarily the cost of clergy. The payment enables Flitcham to remain an active church within the Sandringham Group of parishes, supporting our school and welcoming all who come for baptism, marriage and funeral services.

Each parish also pays £500 towards the general running costs of the Group.

We are grateful to everyone from the village who supports the fund raising events and to 'The Friends of Flitcham Church' who are building up funds in order that future work can be carried out on the church building.

The Church building

The Quinquennial inspection took place in April 2014 when the architect identified 3 areas of necessary repairs.

- Of utmost urgency: principally repair to parapets and flashing on the vestry roof which has been completed.
- Within 2 years:
Attention to the ruin, rearranging the tower rain water outlets and repointing the tower at the lower level. *The water outlets are finished and the remainder will be completed very soon.*
- Within 5 years it will be necessary to reslate the south aisle roof.

Additional work on boiler house has been carried out and the boiler house roof has been replaced.

The Rector, Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council are grateful to all who support the church both as a place of worship and an ancient building.

Flitcham Community Centre Management Committee

Unfortunately there was no report this year despite repeated requests.

Hillington and Fritcham Good Companions – Pat Cox

In her absence, Pat Cox provided the following report:

After a year of hospital stays and new knees, etc., our members look forward to a year of good health and to be able to continue meeting up with friends. When we have our meetings in Fritcham Community Room there is always a buzz which continues about half an hour before the meeting starts. Friends and neighbours arrive greeting each other; the kitchen is full of noise from the chink of cups and saucers, plates bearing biscuits and kettles being filled. As members arrive and take their seats, our Treasurer, Brian Todd, reimburses those committee members who have brought items on behalf of the Good Companions, maybe tea, sugar or a receipt for raffle items. Another committee member will be going around collecting the 30p 'tea' money and raffle tickets are purchased. We have an auction every meeting, maybe home-grown tomatoes or a plant or even a tin of baked beans. All these activities are giving us a small income towards our expenses. Our Chairman, Derek Bix, welcomes everyone and the meeting commences.

In 2016 our speakers were Annette Croote who talked about her tracking holiday in Iceland, Annette's fund-raiser is for the MacMillan Nurses and she has been entertaining us for many years. We also enjoyed listening to Steve Scott who explained the reason behind Scotty's Little Soldiers which is a charity helping children who have lost a parent due to war by giving a holiday, a birthday present or arranging Christmas parties. The charity has five chalets and a caravan in seaside resorts and helps bring a little joy into the life of a bereaved child. Jenny Shoebridge, another of our regular speakers related her experiences on a visit to the Ruhr Valley and the emotions of the Menin Gate. At the end of Jenny's talks we find we have experienced sadness but there is always humour and this is why we invite her back to us every year. We also had some singing with Mike Terry who came along with his guitar and our members particularly enjoyed singing along to familiar oldies.

Susan Cross talked about her interest in the lighthouses of Northern Ireland and the important role they play in keeping mariners safe, the fact that they are painted with a unique pattern/colour thereby assisting mariners to identify exactly where they are which was particularly relevant before the days of radio, radar and sonar. We had a visit from Neil Chadwick from the Sculthorpe Hawk and Owl Trust, a small charity set up in the late 1960's as a research organisation into the reason why birds of prey were decreasing in numbers, which turned out to be due to the use of DDT on crops. There are now 100 volunteers who help to maintain and improve the 200 acres at the disposal of the Trust. An interesting talk which prompted us to consider visiting in 2017.

Our regular free lunches were held at the ffolkes and due to the refurbishment of the ffolkes we gave the Anvil a try, and very nice it was to. Our outings included an invitation from Grimston Good Companions when we shared the expense of a talk by Christine Adams who gave us an insight into the life of her relative May Savidge and her life's work rebuilding her house which was taken down brick by brick in Ware, Hertfordshire with the intention of rebuilding in Wells-next-the-Sea. An amazing story. We went on the Poppy Line from Holt to Sheringham, a popular journey for our members, lunched at Sheringham and were then transported to Cromer for the Summer Show at the end of the pier. Great fun.

The Massingham Coronation Club members invited us to their Christmas tea party where we enjoyed a lovely festive tea and were entertained by a singer/guitarist who encouraged us to clear our throats and sing along to old familiar songs with words we knew!

The two bingo's we had for raising funds were the Spring bingo at Fritcham Community Centre and the Christmas bingo which takes place at the ffolkes Arms and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking the residents of Hillington and Fritcham for their continued support of our group by donating prizes for the Christmas bingo, your generosity is very much appreciated. We also had our regular Harvest Festival tea which was held in the ffolkes

function room, the service being taken by Paul Ringwood with the Grimston Good Companions secretary, Shirley Hone accompanying the singing of harvest hymns.

A successful year we thought and may we have many more and we thank you for your continued interest.

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

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