

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 08 May 2018 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

Present: Mr Richard Gray – Chairman Ms Joey Smithson
Mr Geoff Kilham Mrs Monica Mortensson
Gill Welham – Clerk
Member of the Public: Mark Dorr

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2017

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:

As before, I would like to thank you all for the time and effort you have given serving the council, and the Village. No council can operate successfully without a very competent and well trained clerk and we have one in Gill. Thank you.

And a special thank you to Geoff for the hands-on work on the projects he has undertaken, bringing the telephone kiosk back to its former glory; we also now have an executive 'bus waiting suite' for the now regular bus service that runs through the village.

And just to mention, we are somewhat closer towards owning a defibrillator for the community.

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 22. 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.

Friday 27th July – 12th August is Open Churches' Week this year. The Norwich diocese promotes this event to encourage visitors to these ancient buildings. Flitcham supports the initiative which has proved to be very successful.

The churchyard – both the Old and New Churchyards have been maintained by 3 volunteers, John Ross and Keith Loader – both retired residents, and churchwarden, Linda Neave. John and Buffy Ross have now moved away from the village and therefore more help is required with the task of keeping this large area well tended for the parish.

The Parish Share for 2018 £5,250. 50 + Group contribution £280

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.

WE are grateful to everyone from the village who supports and organises fund raising events. The September Flower Festival raised £4000 shared with the Social Club.

The Friends of Flitcham Church 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 at the present time the interior walls are drying out - plastering will start when the surface is fit.*
- Within 5 years it will be necessary to re-slate the south aisle roof.

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.

MRS F. S. STANTON - CHURCH WARDEN

Flitcham Community Centre Management Committee

Unfortunately there was no report from the Management committee, however Roger Young supplied a report on behalf of the **Flitcham Community Centre Social Club**

We seem to be on an even keel financially at the moment and I understand we turned a small profit last month although I am sure I will hear more detail at the coming committee meeting.

Other than that there is very little which is new and of significance. The folk who patronise the Cabaret meetings have been fundraising to help the Social Club acquire a new glasswasher. No specific model or price had been identified so we set a target of £500 which we were sure would be a positive help. I am delighted to report that this substantial target has been achieved in a short space of time. I take this as an expression of appreciation of the environment and service we provide by those who are pleased to use it. The proceeds will be passed to the Social Club Treasurer at the next meeting. We look forward to seeing this money fulfilling the intention as soon as possible.

You may well be aware that the bar-room has very recently been redecorated. The project was led by Geoff Kilham and he was assisted by his wife Jane and Patsy Young. It was a full two days work for the three of them. The results of their work is impressive and the improvement remarkable. The damage to the plaster was repaired, the walls and woodwork all washed down, the ceiling and walls repainted. The floor was scrubbed and the rubber darts mat cleaned. A very thorough job of work. We are all very grateful to them for their exemplary community spirit and we eagerly look to see how others in our community will match it.

The Social Club is trying to establish a “Flitcham Quiz Team” to represent our village in the quizzes which take place at the clubs on the Sandringham Estate. We feel that this would help in bringing other teams to any quizzes which we run in Flitcham in the future. Please feel free to suggest to any member of the Social Club Committee, the names of people who might form such a team. We would obviously like to prove that Flitcham has the best team.

The Cabaret organisers are planning a BBQ and “Al Fresco music” event in the community garden Saturday 14th July. This would be afternoon and evening. It is a normal Cabaret date but may help to compensate for loss of income due to the fact that there will be no meal nights the months of July and August.

Roger Young (Chairman)

Hillington and Flitcham Good Companions – Pat Cox

In her absence, Pat Cox provided the following report:

We had a busy and enjoyable year in 2017 and it is hoped that our members were able to enjoy our meetings with the speakers and if able join us on our outings. Our committee comprises Brian Treasurer, Pat Secretary together with Yvonne, Fred, Maureen, Val, Sandra, Brenda, Liz, Helen, Rosie and Carol. As you can imagine the year’s planning happens because of their input and support.

In March we went to the Anvil, Congham where we enjoyed our annual spring lunch and early April brought our usual spring bingo held at Flitcham Community Centre. In April we welcomed Mr Graves the butcher from Briston when you may recall the amazing way he transformed the community centre room into an up and running butcher’s shop. The amount of meat displayed was astronomical and the talk he gave us on his work as a butcher entertaining. The meat was beautifully displayed and offered for sale and it a considerable amount was sold at the end of the afternoon.

Our next visit was a beautiful morning in May when we met at the Sculthorpe Hawk and Oil Trust. Arrangements had been made for a guide to explain the workings of the Trust and when and what to look for at different times of the year. There were plenty of sitting areas and the walkway provided by the Trust made walking easy and a great help for wheelchairs. At the end of an enjoyable tour some members travelled on to the Fakenham Garden Centre for refreshment.

We had an invitation to Grimston Seniors in June when they invited us to Pott Row for tea and enjoy the Ukelele Band provided for our entertainment. At the end of June it was our intention to visit the Wisbech Rose Fair but regrettably this had to be cancelled as on the day we had a torrent of rain which looked as if it was set for the whole day and sitting around in wet clothes didn't seem like a good idea. We hope to go again soon.

On a beautiful summer's day in July we took a coach for an outing to the Wayland Six Churches Blossom and Yarn Festival. The churches were Thompson, Griston, Breckles, Caston, Stow Bedon and Great Hockham. Each church had a theme and all displays were knitted by villagers. The result was quite amazing and extraordinarily clever. We had arranged for lunch to be provided and this was held in the garden of Church Farm, Caston where we had a table with an awning, no doubt to protect us from showers which never arrived and where we enjoyed a lunch of home produced food. For our summer lunch we returned to the Ffolkes which had been completely refurbished.

In August we travelled to Thursford for afternoon tea and a tour 'Behind the Scenes'. The tour included a visit into the dressing rooms, a huge store room where costumes hang waiting for their turn in a show and the laundry rooms. This was followed by a fantastic high tea, definitely enjoyed by all.

September was our Harvest Festival tea at the Ffolkes which was provided and served by our members and where we welcome Grimston Seniors and the Massingham Coronation Club. Shirley Hone from Grimston Seniors played as accompaniment to our hymns and this year our visiting representative from the church was Canon George Hall.

Our meeting in October was the first meeting at the Community Centre since April which was rather a long time and had made some arrangements throughout the year more difficult to organise. Mike Terry came along with his guitar and serenaded us.

Onwards to November when our bingo took place at the Ffolkes and the committee take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated prizes and helped organise the event. The invitation to Great Massingham Coronation Club at the end of November was to join them for their Christmas Tea, a meeting of old friends.

Christmas lunch in 2017 was at the Hour Glass, Sculthorpe and our Christmas outing to the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn for Jack and the Beanstalk.

This brings us to January 2018 when our speaker is Jenny Shoebridge. Jenny continues to entertain us with her escapades and this talk was about her suggestion to her profoundly deaf daughter that they go on a holiday, anywhere her daughter would like. Jenny told us that she thought it would be Bognor or somewhere similar but they ended up in Borneo and an amazing time they had. Jenny wouldn't be Jenny if she didn't do something out of the ordinary and we look forward to hearing about her next adventure in January 2019.

Thank you for your continued support of the Good Companions.

Pat Cox

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm