

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

Present: Mr Richard Gray Mr Terry Allen
Mrs Ann Beasley
Gill Welham – Clerk

Members of the Public:
Denise House, Sally Stanton, Harry Verney, Robert Timmins
Paul Blackmur, Dinah Lilley

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Susan Allen. Unfortunately due to ill health, she was unable to attend the meeting and would be standing down as Chair. Cllr Gray thanked her for her commitment to the Parish during her time in office.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2024

The Clerk had circulated the minutes in advance of the meeting. The 2024 minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair.

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

In her absence, the report was read out on her behalf:

Your Parish Council has continued to serve the interests of residents so far as we are able. In November, we organised a training session for the Defibrillator, which also included CPR tuition; several residents attended. The village has continued to be represented at discussions with the Sandringham Estate about the impact of the summer concerts. These meetings have been fruitful and some of our suggestions were taken on board, particularly the encouragement to engage more fully with local communities.

Nevertheless, we have relied on just four councillors. Although we will be co-opting an additional member today, my accident just before Christmas continues to severely limit my activities. For this reason I shall be now stepping down as Chair and Councillor and wish to thank everyone for their concern and continued support.

Susan Allen

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 granted permission to publish the financial statement on the Flitcham Website.

7 Reports from Village Groups

St Mary's Church Flitcham

The Church

When St Felix came from Burgundy to bring the Christian message to Britain in 630AD, he is attributed with founding churches in Babingley, Shernborne and Flitcham. The church would have been built in wood, not stone, but there are no visible remains of it, although there is evidence of the 11C Norman church. The church has been here in Flitcham for over a thousand years and each generation has played its part in maintaining the building.

In 2025 the church is cared for by a dedicated team of volunteers. The church is open each day to visitors and many come because they have an interest in church history and architecture and the church as a historical building.

Each month there are two services; at the beginning of the month an afternoon celebration of Holy Communion and on the fourth Sunday, the Family Service. The Family Service is a short service and followed by social time in church with tea and coffee.

Apart from the regular services, the school holds some of its assemblies in church. Weddings, Wedding Blessings, Baptisms and Funerals also take place.

The Parish Share

The Sandringham Group comprises six parishes: Sandringham, West Newton, Castle Rising, Wolferton, Hillington and Flitcham. Each parish in the Norwich Diocese is asked to make a contribution to the Parish Share, which is primarily the cost of clergy, and enables us to have a Rector in charge of the Group. As a PCC (Parochial Church Council) we pay our share (£2,000) annually.

The Friends of Flitcham Church

The Church is very fortunate in having a dedicated and active group of Friends under the skilled leadership of the chairman, Bill Tweddle.

A "Friends of the Church" group is a way for parishes to build support and raise funds for the church building.

The Churchyard

The Parish Council made a contribution of £350 towards the upkeep of the churchyard for which we are very grateful.

We have one paid worker to cut the grass, otherwise all maintenance of both the Old and New Churchyards is carried out by volunteers and we extend our thanks for all they do. All residents of the Parish are entitled to be buried in the Churchyard and it is a Parish responsibility to keep the ground in good order.

The Rector, Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council thank all who support St Mary's Church both as a place of worship and an ancient building.

Sally Stanton

Church Warden

Flitcham Community Centre

- It has been a further year of recovery and success for the community centre with an enthusiastic and ambitious team driving it forward. This was recognised and rewarded by King Charles III visiting and meeting the team on the 25th Anniversary of the Centre being opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 2000.
- The Folk Night thrives and during the year an additional acoustic night has been established.
- Darts & Dominoes also thrive with the league finals being held at the club on the 17th April. We won the Dominoes league, were runners up in the Darts league and also in the King George 6th Cup. Further, the teams in the darts league raised £1,515 for Tapping House during the season!
- Meal nights continue to be popular and are an entertaining social event with varied themes and chefs. This includes the Pensioners Christmas dinner that is funded by the club and is free for those in the village that reach a certain age.
- Bingo is very well supported and is a great fun night with dabbers coming from far and wide.
- Coffee mornings have been established, every other Saturday, and are proving a success.
- These events and other individual events during the year are not just the mainstay of keeping the club going financially but also a backbone of sociability in the village.
- Please join if you have not already, £5/year.

Colin Lukey

Flitcham Bowls Club

Last season we managed to win the North West Norfolk Subsidiary Cup but narrowly lost in the Albert Victor Cup Final by 6 shots and the Bridge's League Cup Final by 1 shot! Over the closed season we've put 2 tonnes of topsoil on the green and reseeded it. John has put in a lot of work with the scarifier and spikes so the green no longer floods in heavy rain. We are currently working on the entrance gateway and tidying that up. Financially

we are in a good way; we have lost a couple of members but hopefully we will be gaining three new ones. The green opened on a damp Easter Monday and in the forthcoming season we will be competing in three different leagues plus cups. New members are always welcome and can call me on 07867572231 or the Captain, Janet Frohawk, on 07799795451.

Paul Hunter

The meeting closed at 7:55 pm

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