

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

Present: Mr Richard Gray Mr Phil Clarke
 Mrs Ann Beasley Mrs Denise House
 Mrs Deborah Morgan-Davies
 Gill Welham – Clerk

Members of the Public:
Dinah Lilley

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Roger Glazebrook

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2025

The Clerk had circulated the minutes in advance of the meeting. The 2025 minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by 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

When penning a chairs report I have gauged the councils past year on its achievements, which can be a fair assumption. But through this year, there has been a near complete change of counsellors which is welcoming and refreshing, to have new members wishing to serve and help run the parish council for its residents.

This has made me look at its achievements a bit differently and not about the quantity of achievements but more on how well we have carried them out.

As a lot of the council's work is of administrative matters, it is important they are carried out correctly and cost effectively, which we have, and dealt with, and dispatched under the skilful guidance of an incredibly good clerk, in Gill. Thank you.

Some of the highlights from the past year have been the football field, which now has a new user in the Dersingham football club. The council have also worked on measures to better inform and involve the parishioners, this is ongoing and always something to improve on. Councillors are also now issued with .Gov email addresses and substantial funding was secured for the repair works to the children's play-area.

I think the outstanding moment of the last year was when a lawful, with no consultation planning application for a fertiliser lagoon was brought to our attention, which raised issues to us the council and our residents. With the cooperation of Sandringham farms and the Borough Council a public meeting was arranged to air the issues raised. Well done to the PC in bringing this about.

I believe all parties have learnt from this meeting and a better neighbourly understanding and relationship for all in the future.

I will be standing down as a councillor at the annual general council meeting which follows this meeting. I feel I am due a break and with new and more counsellors on board now, it gives me the opportunity to leave the council in their capable hands. So I would like to say a big thank you to all the council for your hard work, service and support that you have given to the parishioners and myself, may it continue. Also not forgetting the tremendous work and effort that Gill does in keeping us all in order and on top of council business.

Thank you.

Richard Gray

Richard was then presented with a card and small gift from the councillors as a token thank you for all the hard work he has given to the PC over the many years he had served.

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 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 £2,000 towards our share. Like many organisations, numbers are dwindling which makes fund raising more difficult.

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 Twedde.

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 Social Club & Management Committee

The club continues to prosper with a lively membership and a resourceful committee providing many activities for the village.

These include Bingo, Darts Teams, Poker nights, Folk nights, Acoustic nights. The bar opening regularly on Friday and Saturday nights, and then on nights during the week when these events take place. We hope to be able to open on Sunday lunchtimes again during the summer months.

The meal nights continue to be a success, the most recent being a St George's night on the 25th April which is already sold out. Our free annual Christmas Dinner for the pensioners in the village was another success with nearly 50 people sitting down.

The community centre is available to hire for specific events/celebrations with catering and bar if needed.

During the year we have installed a disabled access to make it more accessible for people in wheelchairs and we plan to install solar panels later in the summer to provide electricity for the coolers in the beer cellar saving several hundreds of pounds a year in electricity costs. We still have money to raise for this so if you are able to donate please do so at the bar on an open night, cash or cheques are not a problem!

To become a member it is £5/year, you get drinks at the bar at cheaper prices than most other places in the area and beyond, usually catch up on the news in the village and enjoy good company.

Colin Lukey

Flitcham Bowls Club

The bowl's club is still managing to keep going but unfortunately we have lost 5 members this year due to advancing years and other commitments, our oldest member being 93 and no longer having the strength. On a positive note we have had 2 under 16s start and 1 other new member that brings our squad up to 19, so hopefully we can play all our fixtures.

The club is still financially ok but with prices rising on everything it is hard as we don't want to put more costs onto our players.

The green is looking well due to the hard work of our groundsman but we really need some rain to keep it through the season.

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