

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 07 May 2019 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

Present: Mr Geoff Kilham – Chairman Mr Richard Gray
 Mrs Monica Mortensson Mr Mark Dorr
 Cllr J Moriarty Gill Welham – Clerk

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 8th May 2018

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

The last year seems to have passed quickly since becoming Chairman. I would like to thank fellow councillors for your support of the Parish Council in its' efforts to maintain and improve the village and parish life as far as we are able.

A special thank you to Gill who has been the driving force behind the installation of the defibrillator here at the Community Centre and her excellent work as our parish clerk is most appreciated.

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

Unlike many 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 Norwich diocese promotes an annual 'Open Churches Week' to encourage visitors to these ancient buildings. Flitcham supports this initiative and it has proved to be very successful

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 their morning assemblies in church several times during the year as well as the Christmas Carol Service and a Leavers' assembly at the end of the Summer Term.

The Organist – Mrs Avril Wright plays for regular and occasional services.

The churchyard – both the Old and New Churchyards are maintained by volunteers all retired residents from the village. Mr Trevor Farrow will take over the mowing in 2019 and we are very grateful to him.

The Parish Share for 2019 is £5,200

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.

The Church building

The Quinquennial inspection took place in April 2015 when the architect identified 3 areas of necessary repairs. The next Quinquennial is due in April 2019

- 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.

- Within 5 years it will be necessary to reslate the south aisle roof.
- The ruin has been repointed and made safe whilst work continues to complete the repairs.

With the exception of the South Isle roof the work has been completed.

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

The Flitcham Community Centre Management Committee is made up of representatives of various village organisations.

Regular users of the Community Room are, Good Companions, Thursday Craft Group, Friday coffee mornings and the Yoga Group. Flitcham Activities regularly organise Bingo in the winter months raising money towards their Pensioners lunch which is also held every year in the Community Room.

The Community Room is also used by the Parish Council for their meetings as well as the occasional private party and any elections. The social club also make good use of the Community room for the various events that they organise such as the monthly meal nights.

Hillington and Flitcham Good Companions

Good Companions is a local club that welcomes members from Flitcham and Hillington. They organise monthly talks, outings and lunches plus two fund-raising bingo evenings per year. The Chairman is Mr.Derek Bix, Treasurer Mr. Brian Todd and Secretary Mrs. Pat Cox. There is also a Committee that meets in early February when the programme for the coming year is decided.

In March we were invited to Briston by Mr.Graves who has developed a growing and successful business from humble beginnings. He now heads a Baker, Butcher and General convenience store in this growing village where

he also keeps his cattle which we were taken to see and admire. It was interesting to hear and see what hard work and opportunity can create. The Spring Bingo took place in April and later in the month, Jack Daniels from the Borough Council's Recycling department came to talk and discuss the work, problems and matters needing clarification in the matters they deal with. Rosie O'Grady from the local Magpie Centre visited in May when we learnt about the mental and physical benefits riding can offer Disabled People of all ages. Don Addiman came along in June and gave an illustrated talk about his cycling trip in Spain which sounded like a tiring but enjoyable excursion. Wisbech Rose Fair always takes place in July and interested members were invited to be taken there as in previous years. Later that month another traveller, Chris Bryant shared his pictures, experiences, knowledge and thoughts about a part of Nepal which he visits yearly. In September Good Companions celebrated its 60th Anniversary with much appreciated tea, cakes and entertainment at Ffolkes Arms with guests invited from Massingham Coronation Club, Grimston Good Companions and The Seniors Club in East Rudham. There was a useful and very professional Floral Demonstration by Irene Fuller in October and the Christmas Bingo took place at Ffolkes Arms in November raising a respectable sum for the club. In November the members also were invited for Christmas tea with musical entertainment to Massingham. The year ended with a Christmas Lunch at the Hour Glass in Sculthorpe.

For the first meeting in 2019 the popular speaker Jenny Shoebridge arrived to tell about new adventures and also give a warning about believable scams that are very easy to fall for. February is the month for our yearly AGM and the Spring Lunch also took place in February.

Meetings in the Community Centre are well attended but illness and hospital stays/visits have reduced members somewhat. People arrive in good time to chat and catch up with old friends. Those without transport are offered lifts. Talks are generally lively and on popular subjects. It is hoped that the meetings can prevent some loneliness and encourage more contact between individuals.

Thank you for continued support.

Monica Mortensson

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm