

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

Present: Mr Geoff Kilham – Chairman Mr Richard Gray
 Mrs Ann Beasley Mr Terry Allen
 Cllr J Moriarty Gill Welham – Clerk

8 members of the public were also present

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Robert Walden

The Clerk advise there had been two resignations of councillors, Mark Dorr and John Beasley. Regret over the loss of two councillors were expressed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2019

The Clerk had circulated the minutes from the meeting pointing out that an Annual meeting did not take place in 2020 due to the pandemic and temporary change in legislation. The 2019 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

It is now two years since our last Annual Parish Meeting due to the Covid virus restrictions on normal village life and activities.

One activity that has increased during the year is walking locally. Residents do not have a choice of local off road walks without venturing on to the 'no go' area of the surrounding estates. The Parish council is looking at where we can improve the situation.

Since the past Parish Meeting we have introduced the speed awareness sign which we share with Hillington. This was funded by Cllr Stuart Dark from his County Council allowance for which we are most grateful.

The Children's Playground requires additional funding for repairs and maintenance which becomes a major expense as the equipment ages.

There have been difficulties with Emergency vehicles and delivery drivers unable to locate addresses, the Parish Council and the Borough Council are looking for a solution to the problem of duplicate house numbers in the same road and haphazard numbers throughout the village in order to improve the lives of those affected.

I would like to thank fellow councillors past and present for their support in the Parish Council's efforts to improve the village and parish residents lives as far as we are able. A special thank you to Gill Welham who organised Zoom meetings when we were unable to meet in person, for her excellent work as Parish Clerk with finances, record keeping and providing us all with any information and guidance relevant to the obligations of the Parish Council.

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

St Mary's Church Flitcham is open every day and is enjoyed by parishioners and visitors throughout the year. The small congregation meet for worship twice a month at a Service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and The Family Service on the fourth Sunday. During term time Flitcham Church of England Primary Academy hold some morning assemblies in church.

Financial support is also given by the Friends of Flitcham Church, a group whose aim is to fund the restoration and maintenance of the beautiful and ancient building.

The Pandemic

2020-21 has been a strange time for us all. Churches were closed for worship and to visitors after Christmas 2019 and with the exception of one service in September we did not meet until Christmas Day 2020. January, February and March saw closure again until Easter this year. Not only has it been sad not meeting as a congregation but like many other organisations no fund raising has proved financially challenging.

The Parish Share

The Parish Share is the annual contribution made to the diocese of Norwich by all churches and is primarily the cost of our clergy. Flitcham is part of the Sandringham Group which comprise Sandringham, Castle Rising, Wolferton, West Newton, Hillington and Flitcham and the Share enables us to have a Rector of this Group. The share for St Mary's this year is £5,460.

The Churchyard

The old and new churchyards are maintained by volunteers whilst those cutting grass are paid. All parishioners are entitled to burial in the churchyard. The Parish Council made a contribution of £150 towards the upkeep of the churchyards and we are most grateful.

The Rector, Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council thank all those who support the church, both as a place of worship and as 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.

Due to the pandemic and Government guidelines the Community Centre has been closed since 23rd March 2020. Prior to this the Community Centre had been used for Elections, Christenings, Wakes, Yoga, Craft Afternoons, Bingos as well as various meetings.

Currently some repairs are taking place, a damp wall has been re-plastered, some electrical works need to be undertaken before we can redecorate but hopefully when all works have been completed and restrictions are lifted the Community Centre will be able to reopen and welcome back all those who have used and hired it in the past.

Hillington and Fritcham Good Companions

Good Companions haven't been able to meet since our AGM in February 2020 and due to Government restrictions we will not be meeting again until possibly June. This would be on the assumption that the Fritcham Community Centre was open once again. Until those two points are sanctioned our hands are tied.

Social distancing remains a problem as a lot of our old friends require lifts to the meetings together with the problem of how we will be able to sit as a group in the Community Room. Of course this should become resolved in June when we hope all get back to normal.

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm

DRAFT