

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

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

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending. It was noted that two councillors had resigned in the year: John Beasley and Robert Walden and three new councillors had joined: Roger Glazebrook, Noelyne Fuller and Susan Allen.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2021

The Clerk had circulated the minutes in advance of the meeting. The 2021 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

This will be my fourth and last report to the Annual Parish Meeting as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Following on from last year's report seeking off road circular walking routes, we had a couple of meetings with Mr Edward Parsons from Sandringham Estate. We gave him map details of possible mostly off road circular routes where the Estate could give permission to walk. He came back with an agreement with conditions relating to a long established walking route between Flitcham and Appleton Churches which was unacceptable for the Parish Council to sign.

The renumbering issue is a bone of contention among Councillors and village residents. We are awaiting a proposed fairer voting scheme from the Borough Council before we can move forward. The Borough Council has the authority to impose a renumbering scheme on health and safety reasons but would be more reluctant to do so had there already been a Borough Council organised village vote majority against renumbering.

Playground repairs were completed to repair rotting timbers. Fence and play equipment were repainted with a special thank you to Don Addyman who helped Terry Allen and myself get the work done.

A new Speed Awareness Camera post was erected in Abbey Road allowing the camera to be moved to three different positions in the village. Hillington plan to have their own camera allowing us to keep the camera in Flitcham on a permanent basis.

Our gratitude goes to Robert Walden to his refurbishment of the village sign.

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 resident's lives as far as we are able.

We are indebted to Gill Welham our Parish Clerk for all her work with our finances, keeping records and her guidance in making the Parish Council run as smoothly as possible. On a personal level I would like to thank Gill for her advice and support during my time as Chairman.

Geoff Kilham

Cllr Gray thanked Geoff for his valuable service, time and effort during his time as chair, and previously helping to drive the ship forward on behalf of the PC. He would be sorely missed. He was thanked by all the councillors for his dedication during his time on the 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 FLITCHAM

The Church

The church, like many Norfolk churches is dedicated to St Mary the Virgin and attracts visitors from all over the country. The door is open every day and the building is kept in a very good state of repair. Since the Pandemic there is now only one service a month. On the fourth Sunday The Family Service. at 11 o'clock

During term-time Flitcham Church of England Primary Academy come to church for some assemblies.

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. Bill Tweddle of Flitcham Old Vicarage has been appointed as Chairman following Colin Lukey's retirement, and he is looking at the organ with a view to repair and refurbishment. A fundraising programme will be necessary to enable this project.

The Pandemic

Opening the churches towards the end of the pandemic was a great joy to many congregations after nearly two years without music and hymn singing. In Flitcham we again welcomed the Fring Singers, which includes members from Flitcham. This group bring music of a very standard to the Festival Services.

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 comprises Sandringham, Castle Rising, Wolferton, West Newton, Hillington and Flitcham and the Share enables us to have a full time Rector in this Group. The share for St Mary's this year is £5,460

At the end of June we say goodbye to The Revd Canon Jonathan Riviere who has been with us for 19 years and await the appointment of the next incumbent.

The Churchyard

Volunteers continue to maintain the old and new churchyards and Terry Elyard is continuing to cut the grass. All parishioners are entitled to burial in the churchyard and it is a parish responsibility to keep our burial grounds in good order.

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 all 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 Village Hall and Community Trust was set up as a charity having a 99 year lease of the ground floor of the former Bell public house from The Sandringham Estate in 1996. The Management committee members represent various village organisations and are all trustees of the charity.

The Social Club had a 25 year under lease from Sandringham Estate and the Trust management for the rent of the bar serving area and for the use of the ground floor facilities. This lease agreement expired in October 2021.

The Community Trust's income is from room hire, Social Club rent and donations.

The Community Centre, after being closed to the public for over fifteen months was able to open up again at the end of July 2021. During closure the damp wall in the bar room was repaired by Sandringham Estate. The repaired

wall and the toilet area were then decorated by Paul Brennock to whom the Management Committee are most grateful.

Extensive electrical work was also carried out before the Centre could open safely. These repairs would not have been possible without the available grants received during the pandemic and reopening would not have been an option.

The Community room has recently been decorated and hopefully it will be a more attractive option to hirers. A Borough Councillor Community Grant of £150 was received towards the cost of decoration.

In the financial year to 30th September 2021 the Community Trust accounts were £8800 in profit but this was due to grants of £18900 in pandemic grants received from the Borough Council. In the present year with increased costs and lack of income the accounts are predicted to show a loss. From reopening to the present no rental income has been received from the Social Club.

There is much apathy amongst the local population regarding the Community Centre despite huge efforts by the Social Club putting on events to attract more attendance.

Geoff Kilham (Treasurer)

FLITCHAM BELL SOCIAL CLUB REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

After a long time being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic we reopened on Friday 23rd July 2021. Prior to opening the committee and friends spent some time sorting the garden and planting some new flowers, placing the boat at the top of the garden and putting wood stain treatment on the tables and chairs. Some new garden furniture was also purchased.

The walls in the bar side had become damp and this was repaired and painted prior to opening. Members and friends also spent several evenings cleaning and setting up for the restrictions required for opening with COVID-19 still prevalent.

Opening day - It was a wonderful evening with many locals attending. The following day we had a 'Folk in the Garden party' another well attended event with good weather.

We started opening Friday's, Saturday's, and Tuesday's. Following the Darts restarting it was felt that we would be better opening Thursday's Friday's and Saturday's. We hope, in the near future we will be able open more evenings.

As a committee, we committed to meeting every other week to try and get the Social Club into a far better financial situation than prior to the closure. This went on for several months and with a lot of hard work, we are feeling the benefit of this, we have regular events that are well attended. We now meet monthly.

As any committee we struggle with members and would always welcome anyone who would wish to join.

Joey Smithson

FLITCHAM BOWLS CLUB

During the past two years we have been very busy at Flitcham Bowls Club. The clubhouse has been stained and painted outside; inside we have a new carpet and new chairs.

On the green we have had constructors scarifying the grass, levelling with soil and re-seeding the whole bowling area. The bank near the road has been taken back and had concrete slabs put in place as the bank was starting to encroach the green. The toilet area has been repainted and cleaned up ready for our restart which is Sunday 24th April.

New fence panels are being erected as the high winds damaged quite a few. We will be replacing the gates onto the greens very shortly. We are also looking for a new mower.

As this is the last outside sporting club left in the village, we welcome new members. If you or your friends would like to come and join us all you need is flat shoes.

We play in three leagues; on a Monday, Friday and Saturday. At present we have about 20 members.

Paul Hunter

Hillington and Fritcham Good Companions

During the pandemic, The Good Companions venue had been closed but after two years, members could again meet up during October 2021. This meeting was mainly centred on the fact that our secretary, Mrs Pat Cox, had decided to retire and so had the chairperson, the treasurer and all except one member of the committee. Everybody was two years older with more aches and pains and the question was, would some people really be healthy and reliable enough to book venue, speakers, outings, transport and handle financial affairs.

Good Companions had been in existence for more than 60 years and members were reluctant to closure but in discussion, it was also acknowledged that times, lives and the villages as a whole were totally different nowadays and we, as members, did not feel confident or knowledgeable enough to take on all the tasks that Mrs.Cox carried out more or less singlehandedly. The verdict/conclusion was that Good Companions had come to a natural end and all members still able to attend would be invited to a final meeting/get-together in form of a Christmas lunch at a good hotel in the area. Transport would also be available to pick up everybody from home and bring them back again.

The Christmas lunch took place on 8th December at Le Strange Arms Hotel with pre-meal drinks and coffee following the lunch. Appropriate people were thanked for their long and committed service to the club and were presented with flowers and gifts.

The Good Companions had over the years paid membership fees, held bingo evenings and received donations, thereby accumulating a respectable sum of money. During the lunch members were invited to write down, to which charity they thought this money should be donated. The majority of those present, voted for it to go to Tapping House Hospice in Hillington.

Monica Mortenson

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm