

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

Present: Mrs Susan Allen Mr Richard Gray
Mrs Ann Beasley Mr Terry Allen
Cllr A Beales
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: Noelyne Fuller (now deceased) and Roger Glazebrook. Despite advertising vacancies to replace these councillors, no one had come forward.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May 2022

The Clerk had circulated the minutes in advance of the meeting. The 2022 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

My first year as Chair of the Parish Council has been one of a good deal of effort but little achievement I fear. Firstly there was the house renumbering, a decision not to proceed being taken regretfully because of the stress that it was causing.

The death of Noelyne, a previous member of the Parish Council, shocked and saddened us all.

We are still in conflict with the County Council Highways Department regarding a 20 MPH speed limit in the village and our County Councillor, Stuart Dark, should be arranging another visit from the Highways Department for us.

We now own the Speed Awareness Camera which Richard Gray and Terry Allen move regularly.

The playground has been inspected and is checked regularly by Terry Allen.

The bus shelter has been repaired and painted by Richard G and Terry A. As it is now being used, without prior consent, as a free book store it needs regular inspections as to appropriate content and organisation.

It has been decided that as no one has offered to produce the newsletter monthly now that Terry A has stepped down (even he has run out of ideas!) this service will end. However at busy times such as Christmas a newsletter will still go out. We should all thank him for producing this for the last two years.

I am well aware that a husband and wife team is not a 'good look' for a Council but fortunately Terry and I do not always agree and he usually has some new project to pursue. For example, at the moment this is the work needed on the wall down the road to Hillington.

At the end of this year with Gill as Clerk, Richard as my deputy and Ann always ready to advise and help I have felt well supported and thank them all.

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 Parish Church

Since the closure of all churches during the Pandemic and like many organisations, it has taken time to return to the activities we were used to and took for granted before 2020.

There has been change in the parishes.

The Revd Canon Jonathan Riviere retired in June of last year and he and his wife Claire moved to Holt. Jonathan was Rector in the Group of parishes for 19 years and his ministry was appreciated in this village especially his work in the school - a Church of England Primary School.

The Revd Canon Paul Williams moved to Sandringham last September as Rector of the Sandringham Group of parishes. We welcome Revd Paul and his wife Revd Catherine. Revd Paul has continued the work with the school children and holds assemblies and school services in church.

St Mary's maintains a small and committed congregation.

The monthly Family Service is well attended and coffee-time after the service provides a good point of social contact especially for visitors and new residents in the village.

The Church Building

Our regular volunteers maintain the interior of the church in excellent order. This is much appreciated by the regular congregation and visitors especially those attending Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals.

The Friends of Flitcham Church, chairman Mr Bill Tweddle, raise money towards the maintenance and repair of the fabric of the church.

The Organ Appeal was launched in January this year.

The J. W. Walker organ was a gift to the church from King Edward V11.

As I write in May the group has a shortfall of £2,000 to meet the target of £25.000 required to restore and repair the church organ.

Commencement of work is scheduled for September

The next project is repair to the South Aisle roof!

The Churchyard

The churchyards both need constant attention especially at this time of year.

A 'gardening' morning during May proved successful and there will be another working party later in the summer. Volunteers are always welcome to help in keeping our churchyards in good order.

The possibility of extending the area left for wild flowers is being explored and whilst this would be beneficial to wildlife it would also mean a reduction in grass cutting hours. The church is grateful to the Parish Council for their contribution to this work.

The church is here for all Flitcham parishioners and we thank those who help, in many ways, to maintain St Mary's for future generations.

Sally Stanton

Church Warden

FLITCHAM BELL SOCIAL CLUB REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

We have had a year of change, including having no Chair or Treasurer and very few committee members to now having a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We still have only 4 committee members. We did close from 1st January until the 3rd March as at the time with the limited number on the Committee it was not sustainable and very little response to an evening of trying to recruit more members.

Following the closure and a heart felt plea to the Village and surround this resulted in a successful drive to recruit the Chair etc and numerous weeks of meeting and plans to enable the Social Club to reopen. Only having a small committee does affect the running of events.

Prior to closing we had Poker nights, Wolf Club evenings, Bingo, Quiz nights, party nights and cabaret nights. Following reopening the Wolf Club have returned and meet every other Thursday evening, the Cabaret is also coming back but this is not monthly as previous, Bingo has re started and is monthly, the Poker nights are going to return. Meal nights are also coming back to the Bell soon.

We have had a couple of Party nights, but it was a lot of organising and costly and lacked support. Quiz nights have not returned as again this lacked support.

A great success was the Village Yard Sale, we had a lovely warm sunny day and sold out of Bacon butties, the open bar was also welcome by visitors.

A new Chiller was installed recently, paid for by private donations organised by Colin Lukey. This will hopefully reduce the electricity used which has been considerably high.

We have had a successful live music event and have another coming in June, these are ticket sales only, this is easier for the committee to manage.

We are having a Eurovision evening and will be doing a sweepstake and as this is being written before the event, we hope it is well attended.

We have a Farmers market coming at the end of July and could be up to 30 stalls. The Committee have also purchased a TV licence for customers to be able to watch TV – football, rugby, darts but not on Satellite.

Joey Smithson

FLITCHAM BOWLS CLUB

During the closed season we have been very busy making more improvements, lead by our Treasurer Paul Hunter. Paul has been busy organising bowlers to help remove a bank and old wood boards around the edge, and replacing with new wood boards, concrete slabs and shingle behind.

He, and our grounds-man John Farrow, have been to Nottingham to purchase a new mower, which should improve our green. We have also purchased new score boards and club shirts with the Flitcham logo. A new gate has also been fitted at the entrance.

Our green-keeper has been busy killing moss on the green which he has managed to remove.

We held our Open Day on 30th April and gained one new member who lives in Flitcham, the day was well supported by our members.

The green bowled very well, all due to our hard working green-keeper and the new mower.

Nick King

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm