

Flitcham Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Flitcham

Present: Mrs Susan Allen Mr Richard Gray
 Mrs Ann Beasley Mr Terry Allen
 Cllr Stuart Dark
 Gill Welham – Clerk
 Members of the Public: Colin Lukey, Robert Timmins

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Alistair Beales sent his apologies for absence prior to the meeting. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023

The Clerk had circulated the minutes in advance of the meeting. The 2023 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

Last year I was rather despondent by how little we seemed to have achieved but not so now. Although the speed limit has never been properly discussed with the Highways Department we hope that Stuart Dark will sort it out.
Draft 5 of the Flitcham Community Emergency plan was drawn up last June and will be reviewed next month. Thanks to our persistence the leaning wall of Hillington was finally addressed by Mr Ned Dawnay. There has been much effort in the children's playground thanks to Richard and Terry. They also repaired and repainted the bus shelter which has now become a library that needs keeping tidy. We are a small group. Seven parish councillors are allowed and we have only four. Thankfully we have Gill, a very helpful clerk.
Following demands and kind words from parishioners, Terry resumed producing a Newsletter which he writes, prints and delivers with help from Ann.
We four would welcome three more if any members of the village are committed and ready to help, and we do get to have a good laugh quite often.

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

Sally had hoped to attend the meeting and read the report herself. Unfortunately due to unplanned personal matters on the night, she was unable to do this and sent her profound apologies. The report was therefore read in her absence.

The Church

The Parish Church dedicated to St Mary The Virgin, is maintained and cared for by a dedicated team of volunteers. The Church attracts many visitors and is open every day for private prayer and for those who have an interest in 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 followed by a social time in church with tea and coffee.

Apart from the regular services the school hold some of their assemblies in church.

Weddings, Wedding Blessings, Baptisms and Funerals also take place.

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 Tweddle. This year The Friends are funding a major project including repair to some windows and currently relating to the South aisle roof which is being re-slatted. The restoration of the organ has also been completed. 'An evening of midsummer music' will take place on 23rd July.

The Parish Share

Each year all churches in the Norwich diocese make a contribution to the Parish Share which is primarily the cost of clergy and enables us to have a Rector in the Group. The Sandringham Group comprises 6 parishes:

Sandringham, West Newton, Wolferton, Castle Rising, Hillington and Flitcham. This year Flitcham will endeavour to meet the cost of £5,000. In 2023 Flitcham failed to meet this payment.

The Churchyard

The Parish Council made a contribution of £350 towards the upkeep of the churchyard for which we are very grateful. We have 1 paid worker to cut the grass otherwise all maintenance of both the Old and New Churchyards is carried out by volunteers and we are very grateful 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 grounds in good order.

THE RECTOR, CHURCHWARDENS AND THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THE CHURCH BOTH AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP AND AS AN ANCIENT BUILDING.

Sally Stanton

Church Warden

Flitcham Social Club

The social club was closed at the beginning of January 2023 following several bad years, partly as a result of Covid, and was re-opened in March 2023.

There was some initial hostility from a small number of people but donations were received from a few benefactors to replace equipment that had not been maintained as it should have been or was just needed. The Estate generously assisted with building works that were necessary and an enthusiastic team was then established. The club has gone from strength to strength with a clear strategy and business plan focusing on social activity for the village.

Teams were established for darts and dominoes and other functions were established like the 'Folk Club', Bingo, Poker Club and Meal Nights. After the difficult start the Club had, a profit of over £1,000 was in the bank at the end of the financial year in 2023.

The new financial year has seen the enthusiasm continue and other events are planned. These will include World Title Snail Racing (participants are already in training), music nights and other social functions. We are also looking at the possibility of installing solar panels to reduce electricity costs and we are in discussion with the Estate about the siting of these panels. This project will need some fundraising and we would invite the Parish Council to consider making a donation to the Social Club for a project that so many villagers would benefit from. This year we are targeting to make a profit of over £5,000 and we hope to exceed that with the enthusiastic and dynamic team that are driving the success.

Colin Lukey

Flitcham Bowls Club

I am happy to report that the 2023 Season was fairly successful for Flitcham Bowls Club. We were runners-up in one League and also in the North West Norfolk League Cup. The team looked smart in their new shirts.

As to the new season, the green is looking in good order and has had a lot of work over the Winter. We have lost a couple of members but have also picked up two new ones making our membership for this forthcoming season twenty one. We are lucky to have three of those under 30, which is not the case with most clubs. Financially, we are in a good state with, hopefully, only having to cover ground maintenance and running repairs. Once the weather gets better, it is our intention to repaint the clubhouse and tool sheds.

Paul Hunter, Treasurer

The meeting closed at 7:55 pm

DRAFT