



East Rudham Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 21 May 2024, 7.15pm

Parish Councillors present: Malcolm Pearson MBE (Chairman), Tony Elburn (Vice Chairman), Sue Jones, Rosemary Weeks, John Dawson, Trevor Davis, Mark Tizard, Richard Spencer and Michael Chenery (County Councillor). Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk), there were 2 members of the public present.

1. Welcome and to receive apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Apologies were received from Chris Morley . Apologies accepted.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2023

The minutes were signed by the chairman as a correct record.

To receive reports from:

3. To hear from Malcolm Pearson MBE, Chairman of the Parish Council, on the Council's year

Please see appendix 1.

4. To hear from Michael Chenery (County Councillor)

CLlr Chenery noted that the mile markers are being lifted, refurbished and re-laid.

The Local Members Fund will be available for applications again this year. CLlrs Pearson & Elburn agreed to meet with CLlr Chenery outside of this meeting to discuss the Councils ideas for projects.

5. To hear from Chris Morley (Borough Councillor)

Not present.

6. Receive reports from local organisations

Report received from the Primary School - published on our website.

Playing Field Committee, James Ringer

In brief the playing field has been just that since 1947, used as a play area throughout.

James' father together with Malcolms father, saw through the purchase of the field in the 80s. Its purpose has been and remains for health and recreation, also to maintain a green space for people of the Rudhams and surrounding area to either play sport, exercise their dogs etc.

People's gardens seem smaller now and with the MUGA they want to provide a safe area away from the main road and traffic and want to encourage people to use it.

This year they have installed a pétanque/boules pitch which will hopefully be well used and enable people to engage and socialise with each other. Boules are available to hire, with a refundable deposit.

The Committee has limited funds and are a not-for-profit organisation. The insurance is around £1000 per year plus they need to run their mowers too, but they hope people find it an asset for the village.

DRAFT until agreed at next meeting

The annual summer fete will be held on 15th June 2024.

Donations to the playing field committee can be made via the JustGiving page, but they are working on a QR code too. Cllr Spencer wanted to say thank you for everything the Committee is doing and for doing such a good job, all agreed. Cllr Pearson also thanked James for coming along to the meeting

Village Hall Committee

John Dawson gave a brief report. The Committee has been running for approaching 30 years – they had reduced to about 3 members about 18 months ago, but now there are around 10 members, and they are solvent. Trevor Williamson has been the lead in getting the Committee back up and running.

The next project will be replacing the windows, and they are planning to organise some more social events. Thanks, given.

7. To hear from members of the public and discuss any other business

There were none.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.35 pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date:

Chairman's Report 2024

During the last year the number of Parish councillors has increased to eight with Richard Spencer joining the council. We currently have two enquiries for the one council seat available and hope to fill this vacancy very shortly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors and the Clerk for their work over the last year especially those who have undertaken tasks that would otherwise have cost the council money. It is partly due to this that in this time of raising costs we have managed to maintain the precept at the same as last year. However it is important that we hold suitable reserves should we need to pay for these services in the future.

To summarise some of the Parish Council projects worked on over the last year.

1. New equipment has been installed at the play park particularly for the use of younger children. A big thank you to councillor Tizard for his work in obtaining funding for this project
2. The construction of a new Bus shelter on the A148 at the top of Eye Lane has been delayed due to uncertainty as to the location of the entrance to the new development there. Funding has been obtained and the shelter should be in place soon.
3. Improvements at the Cemetery are continuing which included re – gravelling the drive and ongoing work to tidy up the older graves which will continue through the summer.

Unfortunately the poor weather meant that the Village Green could not be cut as early as hoped this year but a new local contractor is now in place and it should now be cut regularly along with the Cemetery.

Lastly I would also like to thank our unpaid volunteers who help keep our village looking so nice including John and Viv Dominy for all the work they do looking after Stonepit Wood and Adam Neeve for his work on the village green.