



# COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rebecca Furr

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## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom Video Conferencing**

Chairman James Matthews opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

### **Present**

Councillors: James Matthews, Michael Spinks, Michelle Thackham, Richard Germany, Nicola Payne, Jo Copplestone (District) and Fran Whymark (County)

Speakers: Rev Chris Engelson

Rebecca Furr – Parish Clerk

### **1. Apologies**

Councillors: John Haschak, Doreen Snelling and Adam Wolton

Speakers: Kevin Fisher - Cricket Club, Ted McCarter – Bure Valley Youth Football Club, Peter Croot – Tree Warden and Joan Milligan – Coltishall Community Lunch Club

### **2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 9th April 2019**

Accepted as a true record. To be signed by James Matthews as chairman. The requirement to hold annual meetings in 2020 was removed under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### **3. Chairman's Report – presented by James Matthews**

I want to start by thanking the councillors personally and on behalf of the community for attending meetings so regularly, giving up free time to respond by telephone and email, and sharing their views on important issues arising in our community. Thank you.

We are greatly indebted to the extraordinary hard and well researched work from the Parish Clerk Rebecca Furr. New to the Job this year, she has attended training and sought expert advice over and above what would usually be expected, this is, and will be hugely beneficial to our community. Thank you.

The year started with the confusion and anxiety brought about the unfolding pandemic. There was a spontaneous move from residents who formed the Horstead and Coltishall Covid Response group. I applaud this, it was also attended by Jo Copplestone as District Council in support, it put an emergency operation plan in place that made sure anyone in difficulty would know who to contact in our area, to could get food delivered or financial support. A big thank you, especially to the Good Neighbour group for their work on this. Thanks too to the volunteers who slavishly tidied up after the extraordinary number of visitor's seeking respite in the beautiful Coltishall surroundings, escaping from their locked down lives, as sadly a few were inconsiderate and left rubbish. The Parish Council are providing a new rubbish skip this year in anticipation of further difficulties.

The last Chairman's speech of 2019, cited the Greater Norwich Local Plan, (GNLP) as the greatest threat to our and other local communities and residents, this is still the case. This Council have written a report in

response, challenging the legality of plans affecting our area. We are still fully committed to opposing the significant over development in Rectory Road, as it is clearly not environmentally sustainable as falsely claimed and a real danger to road safety. Thank you to Cllr Adam Wolton, Bob Grindrod and Vice Chair Cllr John Haschak for work on these reports.

I can further report that the Council is committed to supporting the Allotment holders, some difficulties arose in the year and new and restored procedures were drawn up and put in place. Thank you to the steadfastness of associated committee members.

We are underway in planning to improve play facilities for all age groups. Designed partly by Coltishall primary school children.

The council has committed to helping residents understand the difficulties of our changing Climate. We will review, celebrate and continue our support for the Village Hall and Recreation ground association (CVH&RG,) to further outreach and benefit the Charities stated beneficiaries. Thanks to trustees and volunteers for your contribution and labours.

We plan to further support road verge conservation and wilding projects, with new tree planting supported by naturalist groups and our own Tree wardens. Thanks to all involved.

We plan to examine and maintain boundaries of Council owned or affected land. Thank you all for supporting and guiding me, particularly, at some most difficult times.

#### **4. Reports from Village Organisations (submitted in advance and read by the parish clerk at the meeting)**

##### COLTISHALL COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

As for all organisations this past year has seen change and difficulties. At the start of the lockdown a decision was taken by our chief Cook backed up by the team that we would continue as a delivery service. This has been a success with us serving around half the normal seated people with the addition of several others who were new to us.

Sadly, during the course of this year, we have lost several of our members, I hasten to add that none of these were from Covid infections.

We intend to continue in this manner until the end of July, when we hope to assess and resume normal sittings.

I wish to give thanks to the cooking team and to the additional volunteers who stepped up to assist with deliveries.

Joan D. Milligan

##### BURE VALLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

At Bure Valley YFC the year has been destroyed by Covid, a stop start year that ultimately has been about keeping young people safe.

Our own Covid procedures have been very strict and the envy of other clubs. Parents and children have adapted very well to our guidelines in order to play and train when lock downs allow.

In the time when we were playing and training, we continued to see rapid growth with new children arriving at the club on a weekly basis, so much so that we were able to enter new teams. We now have an established 10 teams with a potential of 2 more this summer. We have the largest amount of female teams in the county.

We have a great partnership with Wroxham Women FC just down the road enabling us to provide the complete female pathway, from aged 3 to adult, no other club offers this.

Since we returned at the start of April we've had 30 plus new players join us. We have a brilliant reputation that we're very proud of. Our ethos of putting fun and enjoyment first is very popular with parents. The vast majority of our children are local, from local villages, we also have children coming from further away due to our reputation as a very good club.

The club has continued to put its own money into improving facilities in Coltishall. In partnership with CVH&RC we've purchased new portable floodlighting, built a storage cage for new goals, repaired the car park, cut back trees and hedges, erected a safety barrier and replaced a damaged drain cover. Our gratitude is to CVH&RC and its trustees who share our vision and want to see facilities improved. The club will continue to invest its own money into Coltishall and provide volunteers to complete community projects.

Sadly, the Parish Council has not been supportive of projects to extend the car park with eco matting, thus relieving locals of parking issues and also the construction of a small pathway for school parents to use to get safely to school. The Parish council may want to bear in mind the fact that the telephone mast that provided the PC with thousands of pounds sits in the middle of the football field, no funds from its construction have been used to improve the area around it. The club continues to feel unwanted by the PC, more of a hindrance than something to be proud of. We are here to stay.

We look forward to a more settled next 12 months as restrictions are lifted. Hopefully more and more children come to us to get involved in sport based in Coltishall. Thank you.

Cheers  
Ted  
Chairman  
Bure Valley YFC

### TREE WARDENS REPORT 2020-2021

#### **Community Orchard**

The apple orchard has had three Norfolk variety trees planted in it in the early part of 2021. These were obtained from the East of England Apple Orchard Project at West Raynham near Fakenham. A parishioner and I will be redrawing the map of the Orchard and will be sending a copy to the clerk in due time. The Orchard continues to be a great success and the wildflowers introduced to the area a few years ago, are creating a lovely wildflower meadow to be enjoyed by parishioners and wildlife alike. In the dormant season the northern hedge was extended and planting of new hedging was carried out by Coltishall Primary School and volunteers. It is hoped that this hedge will act as a buffer zone between the orchard and any potential new development in the adjacent field. The management of the area continues to be the same, cutting by and allan scythe in late summer/early autumn and raking up the cuttings by the Bure Valley Conservation Group (of which Peter is a member). This remains successful in the continuity of correct wildflower management. Many thanks to the Bure Valley Conservation Group for all their hard work.

#### **Coltishall Churchyard**

Another project is Coltishall Churchyard. Several trees had fallen down in the churchyard, one over some recent graves, these were dealt with by volunteers and replacement trees have been replanted. It is envisaged that in the near future that a seat will be created with surplus wood and scaffolding planks kindly donated by a parishioner and this will probably be situated in the old churchyard.

A "Wildlife in the Church" weekend is being planned for the first week in July and the Tree Wardens and Tree Warden Network Coordinator will be involved. After twenty plus years of tree planting on Broadland District

Council land and after a session of socially distanced tree planting earlier this year, I was dismayed by the request from Broadland District Council to remove the recently planted trees, after Bure Valley Railway had requested their removal. Fortunately, a local landowner kindly helped me remove the trees and has subsequently replanted the trees elsewhere. I do hope that all other trees that I have planted and are now growing into fine specimens (Rowan, Silver Birch, Cherry etc). are allowed to remain to continue to benefit local tourists and of course wildlife!

### **St Michael's Loke**

The project along St Michael's Loke (from St James to Tunstead Road) which involved the planting of over eighty trees (which took place in March 2020) has unfortunately, due to the late planting and a hot dry summer, suffered a lot of casualties. However, replacement trees were obtained and before lockdown, some socially distanced volunteers planted the replacements, which hopefully, will survive this time. Replacement trees and hedging are in pots in my garden, a friend's allotment and in pots in another friend's garden to be "grown on" or to be used as replacements for any casualties throughout the parish.

### **Lower Common**

Mike Spinks and I have carried out pruning of the London Plane Tree on Lower Common, which was planted in 2012 for the Commemoration of the Queen Diamond Jubilee. The tree in the past has suffered damage but Mike and I are determined to shape it up and keep it going in spite of permission being given to fell it!

### **Biodiversity Wildflower Project**

We are hoping that a project at the junction of White Lion Road, The Street, St James will come to fruition later this year. Basically, the thought is to create a wildflower area on the triangle with involvement with parishioners and the local school.

### **Other Work and News**

Advice sought by parishioners of tree wardens has been given throughout the year and parishioners have been "signposted" to others, which has hopefully been helpful.

A newly trained and appointed tree warden has joined the Broadland Independent Tree Warden Scheme and has expressed an interest in joining Mike and I to gain experience in tree wardening. He is Stewart Life. Who lives in the village, is a local teacher and is very enthusiastic about trees and wildlife in general! I have met him and explained what we have done and hope to do in the Parish and he is hoping to meet up with Mike soon. I'm sure he will be a great asset to the Tree Warden network!

### **My Thanks**

So, now I would like to thank Mike Spinks for his support and practical help and John Fleetwood, the Tree Warden Co-ordinator for his help, advice and support. Coltishall Parish Council Chairman and the Parish Clerk have been most supportive, as has the Parish Council and also Jo Copplestone, our local District Councillor. I would like to thank various volunteers and other parishioners for their help, advice and sometimes guidance! As I am sure that I and local parishioners, are grateful to live in this lovely part of Norfolk, especially in this last difficult year.

Peter Croot

Tree Warden

### **CRICKET CLUB**

"The cricket club's league season, starts this coming Saturday, after a couple of home friendlies.

Although there are still minor issues of needless vandalism to the pavilion and shed, all club members enjoy the facilities the village hall and surround offer.

As always, we are always open to new players of all abilities. Looking forward to a successful and enjoyable summer ahead for all.

Kevin Fisher - Cricket Club

#### COLTISHALL VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND

The past year has been locked down for nine months for hirers. The hall has been compliant for Covid restrictions and for the 3 months they have able to operate with the rule of six.

Coltishall & Horstead Preschool have continued to open during lockdown for children of key workers and open to all when permitted.

We would like to thank the Parish Council, Tarmac, Broadland District Council and Just Financial Planning for their very generous grants/donations.

We are planning to update the cricket pavilion which is in desperate need, additional CCTV cameras, car park maintenance (thanks to Ted and his team for completing the football field car park), new outside storage and any other items that need attention when they arise subject to funds being available.

At the present time of writing the village hall is due to be available for hirers from May 17<sup>th</sup> but with the restriction of the rule of 6 but this could change. We are waiting for an update from the government.

Our trustees have all been working hard over the past year as volunteers to enable the village to use the facilities as and when permitted.

The village hall has been updated with a report from Michelle who has organised the whole project and worked extremely hard throughout.

The Football club with Ted and his team of volunteers has cleared the area of brambles and rubbish and is now operating under Covid regulations.

Michael has done weekly risk checks on the buildings and both fields.

Kevin has worked with the finances and when all the projects have been completed we will have a final total of balance. We do however need to consider the future which at the moment is dependent on the government.

Finally, my thanks to Kevin, Michael, Michelle and Ted for all their hard work over the past year in difficult circumstances

Doreen Snelling Trustee

***These reports were provided by the speakers in attendance***

#### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

As for all of us, the last year has been a challenging one. In 2020 no services in church were held from Mothering Sunday onwards, until July. We had opened up the church for individual quiet and prayer and kept tracking details.

We managed to have a harvest festival with food for Night Shelter, and there was an outdoor only service on Remembrance Day at the War Memorial. After Christmas Day, we closed our doors again until March this year.

The Church, through the Rector, was part of the Coltishall and Horstead Community Support group, to help ensure isolated and elderly got their shopping, prescriptions, and offered emotional and spiritual support, working with Good Neighbours.

The church had a great response in November to the appeal for clothes and toiletries for the homeless-2 van loads.

In place of Sunday services we used our website and Facebook Page to post news and a weekly message and prayers. Then, in December, began to record a Sunday service, which we continued until this month- now just recording the sermon.

For several months, the only services at church were graveside funerals.

At present, we are wearing facemasks and not allowed to sing. Sadly, no wine for the congregation at Holy Communion, or greeting with shaking hands or a hug- which we all miss so much.

However, we look forward to being able to do more as this year unfolds and are holding a Wildlife Weekend on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. -to use our churchyard conservation area for the school and community, with the help of Bure Valley Conservation, NWT, and local people.

Like everyone, our finances have suffered, as we have missed many Sunday's collections, and fund-raising events. But I would like to say thank you to parishioners who have made kind and generous donations. We will hold the annual Churchyard Gift Day in the Autumn, as Covid subsides.

I thank the PC for your support and wish you well and pray for our local community as we move on.

Revd Christopher Engelsen  
Rector

#### COLTISHALL VILLAGE HALL PROJECT

Last August CVH&RG were thankful to be awarded a sum of £19,394 from Tarmac Ltd via Derbyshire Environmental Trust, which is an approved body for landfill tax redistribution.

This has funded the following improvements :-

- 2 sets of aluminium double doors to the front of the building
- A new kitchen supplied and fitted
- The serving area has been fitted with new shelving and worktop, and a counter built out from the hatch. This area has been designed to have bar capability as well as for serving food and drink.
- Upgrade of both general and emergency lighting
- New external kitchen door
- Most of the cost of flooring to kitchen and serving area

The Parish Council contributed a sum of £5000 to the project, and this was spent on :-

- Painting and decorating
- Plastering and blockwork
- New windows to kitchen and serving area
- Other electrical works and toilet occupancy lighting

The project has recently been delighted to receive a very generous donation from Just Financial Planning of

£4000. This money will pay for fridges, cleaning and sealing of the main floor, some new folding tables and will cover some sundries such as door ironmongery and kickplates, blinds and counter lighting.

CVH&RG have also funded tiling work to the kitchen and the remainder of the flooring cost plus a new carpet for the 'stage' end. There will also be plenty of other sundries to pay for over the coming weeks.

I have used local tradespeople as far as possible, including :-

- Broadland Windows and Conservatories
- Hyspek Maintenance
- Spectrum Decorating
- G-Spoke Cabinet Making & Joinery
- EGC Electrical
- Andrew Randell Flooring

And would like to thank them all for their quality work.

I would also like to thank the following people for their voluntary input ...

Holly of Just Financial - for supporting me financially and personally with this project

Dale of CAPS Architecture - for the serving area CAD plan

Richard - for ripping out and disposing of the old kitchen and flooring

Brian - for his help with many practical jobs including taking down the suspended ceiling

James - for the ceiling repairs

And my partner Trevor - for making doors fit, filling holes, changing door handles and fitting kick plates and vent covers.

The hall will be ready for use by May 17th, and will have finishing touches added throughout the summer. We look forward to being able to advertise it as a function room and venue to cater for all manner of requirements. The regular exercise and dance classes, the Brownies and short mat bowls will be better served by the improved facilities, and we hope to welcome users who wish to hire the hall for coffee mornings, birthday parties and meetings. It is also my hope to see new groups and clubs using the hall as the community centre it is intended to be.

Michelle Thackham

Trustee

Coltishall Village Hall and Recreation Ground

## **5. Open Forum**

None. The chairman thanked all for attending.

**Meeting closed at 7pm. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 6.00pm. The venue to be confirmed.**