



Weybread Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Held at the Village Hall Minutes 16th May 2023

Present: Mr G. Gibbs – Chairman, Mrs S. Middleton, Mrs A. Pickess, Mrs M. Sheldrake and Mr G. Tibbenham.

Also present: 2 member of the public, Cllr Lavinia Hadingham and the Clerk Mrs Newby.

1. Introduction
2. Approve the Minutes of May 2022/May 2021. There were no minutes taken for 2022, the Clerk at the time, mentioned that it was not his duty to provide them. Minutes of May 2021 had been approved in May 2022.
3. Brief Report on the Council's activities over the last year [Chairman] Please see Appendix 1
4. Reports from the District and County Councillors. District Councillor Hadingham's report can be found <https://bmsdchosting.net/End-of-Term-Report/Mid-Suffolk-District-Council-2019-2022/> No report from County Councillor Mr Gould.
5. Reports from Weybread organisations. Please see Appendix 2
6. Parishioners concerns – an opportunity to have your say about village affairs.

A member of the public raised concerns about the flooding issues in the past and present. He lives in Riverside Cottage. The were trenches dug away to allow flow of the water to disperse. In December 2020 he had to get highways, fire brigade and the police to try and stop the house flooding. He was in the same position as many of the residents in the village at that time. This is on our main agenda for every meeting.

He is concerned over the number of potholes down his road and that Highways fill with a temporary fix of tarmac. The portholes are getting bigger. This is not a satisfactory repair. The whole road needs to be resurfaced. District Councillor Hadingham stated that these should be report. It is a minor road and a 'no through' road. It will probably be added to the waiting list

There is a lack of high-speed broadband. He has been waiting for 5 years now for his broadband to be upgraded. There is nothing the Parish Council can do for this.

7. Close.

There were no more issues to be discussed and the meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed.....Date.....

Appendix 1

Annual Parish Meeting – Reports

Chairman’s Report

I would like to start by thanking my fellow Councillors for their support throughout the past year and for trusting me to lead as Chairman again in 2022 to 23. Thank you also to Lavinia Hadingham, our District Councillor and Peter Gould, our County Councillor for all their support – it is greatly appreciated.

We began our year without a Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer as Al’s last meeting was the APCM in May 2022. After going through the proper recruitment processes, we offered the position to Mrs Tina Newby who has a lot of previous experience with Parish Councils. Tina started on August 8th with her first meeting in September. Thank you, Tina, for accepting our position and may you be with us for many years to come.

I believe that we have had quite a busy year. Although most of the planning happened in the previous year, we held a wonderful celebration of our Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June with a hog roast, beer tent etc... Over 200 people attended, and the atmosphere was fantastic. We planted an Oak tree to commemorate the Queen – twice, because the first one didn’t make it and had a plaque made.

We have carried out a lot of work and lobbying over the flooding and speeding issues within our Parish and tried to support residents who found themselves victims of road traffic incidents. One house in particular which suffered a second incident in the same week as the repairs from another incident were completed.

Ced has carried out a lot of work on behalf of the Council, in organising the refurbishment of our village sign. Our sign was first erected in 1978 in commemoration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s Silver Jubilee. An additional plaque was added to commemorate the planting of the oak tree for Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee. The post had rotted after 46 years, and the brick plinth needed renewing. The sign itself was repainted by a local artist, Mrs Frances Britten and re-erected and dedicated to King Charles III in commemoration of his Coronation on May 6th. A matching Plaque was made to mark this occasion. This was followed by an opportunity for Parishioners to watch the Coronation on the big screen in the Village Hall.

Thank you again for trusting me in this role.

Graham Gibbs

Appendix 2

Annual Parish Meeting - Reports

Weybread Recreational Charity

Charity number – 304836

The annual return was submitted on the 20th January 2023 for the financial period – 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022 and as the total annual income was £42 for that year and the total annual expenditure was £1,092, being below the £10,000 rules, annual accounts were not submitted.

During the last financial year, 2022/23, we have received £137.50 in interest and spent £273 on a Bingo machine and £818.95 on the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, giving us a total of £83,556.45 in the bank.

With the possible impact of a sizable development on the Cranswick/Crown site, it was felt prudent to hold on to this money to assess what will be needed at the time.

The purpose of this charity is to support Recreational projects within the Parish of Weybread for the benefit of the people of Weybread and help to encourage community cohesion.

Graham Gibbs

Footpaths Weybread

Following on from the Discover Suffolk Fingerpost Project last year, our footpaths now have new signs where the posts were damaged or non-existent and broken fences and bridges have been repaired.

Any problems can be reported via the Suffolk County Council website for this purpose. Any issues seem to have been dealt with reasonably quickly.

One report I had in recently was regarding the bridleway that runs along by Covert Chase house. Foliage needed to be cut back along the height and width of the path. This was reported onto the website and followed up with a phone call to the Rights of Way Access team.

(It was pointed out at the meeting that this particular bridleway is not in the parish.)

Annie Pickess

May 2023

Weybread Village Hall

Chairmans End of Year Report For 2022/2023

The AGM was held on 12th May 2022 followed by a committee meeting where the following people were elected as Members of the Committee:

- Peter Kot-Chair
- Alison Jordan-Vice Chair
- Gill Whatling-Treasurer
- Natasha Stead-Secretary
- Paul Fisher-Bar Manager
- Wayne O'Mara-Buildings Manager
- Gina Ward-Bookings Secretary
- Gail Fisher-Trustee
- Glenda Taylot-Trustee
- Steve Baker-Trustee

Scarlett Fisher agreed to managing our social media and will be in attendance at meeting to update the committee on this area.

Helen Kemp decided not to stand for re-election and thanks were given for her time and commitment to the Hall and Village. Glenda Taylor and Steve Baker subsequently resigned and thanks was also given.

Peter laid out his vision for the Hall and hoped over time the Hall could be open 2-3 times a week with regular events taking place, with the understanding this could take several years to build the interest and reputation. Although Covid is on the decline, there is still a lasting concern amongst the public to go to meeting places and mix with others and this could affect our plans.

IT & Social Media etc:

With the allocation of a postcode for the Hall, we have installed broadband and acquired a sumup payment system so we are now able to take card payments at the bar.

It was decided against developing a website as there is already a Weybread Village site in operation. Instead we opened our own Facebook site which advertised all our events and activities. The hall now has its own email address villagehallweybread@gmail.com and a mailing list is being compiled so individuals can be kept informed of all upcoming events.

Refurbishment:

100 soft stackable chairs were located and purchased with the original plastic chairs being sold through facebook. This has made a big improvement to the look of the hall and the comfort of our visitors.

The refurbishment of the hall will continue with Finances being ringfenced for the refurbishment of the kitchen area. Two funds have been applied for. The first is the Adnams fund, who have funded us previously, and the second is the small Lottery Fund. At the time of writing, no decision has been made by the two trusts. The local Art Group who use the hall every Friday are in the process of arranging an art weekend with funds raised being donated to our kitchen fund.

Donations:

A thank you to the Parish council for their kind donation of £500 for the continued running of the hall. Also, a thank you to Midwich who kindly donated a large TV and stand for the use of the hall and community.

Finance:

Although there have been some major outlay this year, the finances have remained stable. This is mainly due to the increase of events that have been organized on an almost monthly bases.

It was decided to purchase a defibrillator for the use of the village and one was purchased through the charity London Hearts. Once this has been registered it will be available 24/4.

It was decided to increase the cost of hiring the hall slightly to help with the cost of living crisis. The rise brings us in-line with other local halls who have the same facilities. Concessions are still available for Weybread residents who wish to hire the hall.

Events:

Many events have been arranged throughout the year. It was originally decided to hold a social night twice a month but this has been changed back to the original last Friday of the month only due to the lack of response from the community and the amount of work this was causing the small number of committee members. Other events have included Open Mic nights, musical events, quiz nights and a comedy night. These events have proved very popular and will therefore continue on a monthly bases. It is hoped that, through these events, the community will see the benefit of having a local hall and support the social nights going forward. The cost of drinks at the bar is one area that surprises a lot of new visitors. We strive to keep the prices as low as possible so an evening out at the hall will not be too costly. With no other venue within the village, the hall is an important focal point for our community and we hope to see it being used more in the future. A recent addition to the hall is a self employed bar person who is available to run the bar at many of our events and social evenings.

The year started well with a joint Jubilee event with the Parish Council, held at the Paddocks where the hall provided all drinks free to the community. It was estimated

over 200 people attended the event and a great day was had by all. Thank you to those who helped on the day.

An open gardens and art exhibition was also arranged by the parish Council in partnership with the hall which was also a great success and raised a good amount of finance for both parties. It was this finance raised that was used to purchase the Defibrillator for our village.

It was decided this year to not hold a Christmas party but to hold a New Years Eve party instead. This was well attended and the feedback very good. A huge thank you needs to be given to Bob Hammond who provided the musical entertainment right through the evening and into the next year.

We have three regular bookings for the hall. The Art group meet weekly on a Friday morning with the coffee morning and ladies club meeting once a month. It is hoped we can identify other groups in the future who are looking for space to meet.

The constitution:

It was decided to review and update the constitution as it was written back in the 1970's and had become out of date. Unfortunately we were unable to complete this task due to the lack of legal knowledge within the committee and to gain legal advice would be too costly at this time. The review will be postponed until such time we can afford some legal input.

Lastly I would like to say a big heartfelt thank you to all the committee members who work so hard to maintain the hall and make all the events a great success. All are volunteers from the village who give their time freely and tirelessly. Without them, the hall would not be able to run or stay open, and this gem in the village would be lost.

Thank you all,

Peter Kot
Chair.

WEYBREAD LADIES SOCIAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH MEETING 2023

Weybread Ladies Social Club meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Village Hall from 7.30pm to around 9pm. After being forced to take a break from April 2020 due to the pandemic we relaunched in February 2022 with the AGM. It was good to catch up with each other after such a long break. Jackie Stewart remains Chair/Joint Secretary with Sue Hardy as Treasurer/Joint Secretary. As we reported to the 2022 Parish Meeting we struggled with numbers for the first few months but in the autumn and, since the AGM in February this year, we have seen an influx of new members.

We are putting more effort into publicising our meetings locally and this has paid off with increased numbers joining. It seems that some ladies are reluctant to come along thinking we are very stuffy with lots of rules and regulations but once they come and experience one of our meetings they realise how much fun we have and come back for more. Our meetings continue to be very varied with speakers in 2022 ranging from talks about the history of Needham, about Onward Enterprises and from a local farmer of Dexter cattle to craft and social evenings.

We have a full programme ahead of us for the remainder of 2023. Already this year we have had a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind and met ambassador dog Vinny and trainee puppy Ronda, a very competitive Bingo evening using the electronic Bingo machine kindly purchased by the Parish Council from the Recreation Fund which has proved very popular and a social evening out at the Soul Café in Harleston when the Village Hall was in use for the local elections. We are looking forward to welcoming the Director and Producer of the Thursford Christmas Spectacular, John Cushing, to our June meeting and have opened it up to the wider public. This meeting will start at 7.00pm. Tickets are £5.00 which will include homemade refreshments made by the talented cooks among our members.

We always welcome new members. Come for a taster session and hopefully you will want to join our friendly group.

Jackie Stewart and Sue Hardy

WEYBREAD CHARITIES

REPORT FOR WEYBREAD PARISH APM

We are a small charity and there are 4 of us on the committee and we meet 3 times a year.

Rev Susan Loxton Sandra Middleton Janet Blair Jo Smith

This year we have given a total of 8 gifts which include 2 student grants, get well gifts, bereavements and a new baby.

Our bank balances are in a healthy position and with our income from the land at Mendham we are still not spending over what we receive in.

If anyone knows of someone we can help albeit a student grant, help with finances (especially during this cost-of-living crisis), or maybe you know of a new baby or someone who has just come out of hospital or a bereavement then please get in touch with anyone of us

Also Rev Susan can be contacted for the Foodbank