

SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held Thursday 18th May 2023 in Amy Robsart Hall

PRESENT: Cllr D Niemann - Chair
Cllr D Daly
Cllr D Candy
Cllr P Welland
Clerk/RFO – Sarah Harvey
Members of the Public - 5

The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor D Niemann.

1. The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and apologies were noted from Linda Pearse (Arts & Crafts), County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh and Borough Councillor C Morley. Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr M Bateman.
2. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** None.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 19th, 2022, copies of which had been circulated were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **To receive reports from Parish organisations**
 - 4.1 **Amy Robsart Village Hall:** Mr N Riches (Chair) presented a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee.

'This report marks the 50th Anniversary of the Amy Robsart Village Hall's confirmation as a registered charity in June 1972.

Our year started off with planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in conjunction with the Parish Council and Syderstone Parochial Church Council.

A grant application was made to Jack's Lane Windfarm Community Fund administered by Norfolk Community Foundation, for picnic tables to be sited in the car park as part of the creation of a community space. This application was successful, but not in time for the Jubilee celebrations.

The preparation for the jubilee celebrations involved all the community organizations in the village as well as many volunteers and an offer of a loan of equipment from Wicken Green Community Centre. It was very rewarding to see the whole village coming together to celebrate the Queen's record - breaking achievement. The barbeque and pop - up pub which were organized as part of the celebrations were very well received by all attendees, so much so that another pop - up pub and barbeque was arranged by popular request a short time afterwards.

The commercial dishwasher partly funded by KLWNBC has been well received by the users and has supported the voluntary group who now run the coffee morning on behalf of the hall, especially as attendance is now approaching pre- pandemic levels.

Unfortunately, we have lost Pilates, Yoga and Keep Fit this year, but gained the Local History Group, which appears to be very popular and utilizes the village archives.

Short mat bowls, book club, village screen cinema, and the art and craft group continue to be popular and well supported and the satellite post office and solar panels continue to provide valuable income, which is just as well as the recent dramatic increase in energy costs will require us to review our hire charges. As a result of careful financial management, the hall finances are in good shape and will need to be to survive the current financial situation.

The refurbishment of the brick shed funded by a grant from the Jack's Lane Windfarm Community fund is approaching completion.

At this time, we are awaiting a decision on a grant application for commemorative planters for the community space made to support the King's Coronation celebrations, at which it is planned to have live streaming of the Coronation and celebratory concert in conjunction with the ever - popular barbeque and pop - up pub.

I would like to thank all grant providers, Norfolk Community Foundation, Parish Council members, Village Hall Committee members, Creative Arts East and all individual villagers who have supported the hall this past year, as without them and all previous custodians, the hall as a community asset would not have successfully existed for 50 years.

Mr N Riches also thanked the Parish Council

4.2 Arts & Crafts: Linda Pearse (Arts & Crafts Representative) provided a report in her absence to be read on her behalf.

'Our Summer Term of 2022 began on Wednesday 18 May with attendance still somewhat reflecting the effect of the recent Covid Pandemic. 9 sessions with an average attendance of 13/session

The Autumn Term began on 14 September with a very successful afternoon tea party, postponed from July. The party was held in the Hall's outside area, using the new picnic-style tables and accompanying parasols, which were much appreciated and admired. On 30 November a festive pottery painting session took place in the Hall with participating members producing a beautiful variety of items including plates, bowls and Christmas tree ornaments. The Term ended on 7 December with members enjoying a festive afternoon tea break of fizz, nibbles and mince pies. 11 sessions with an average attendance of 19/session

The Spring Term began on 11 January and proved to be an outstanding success. Each member of an increasing Group contributed, in a warm and friendly atmosphere, to the wide variety of skills and projects undertaken. The Term ended on 29 March with an Easter Hot-cross bun and chocolate tea break accompanied by a display of members' recent projects. 10 sessions with an average attendance of 21/session

Our coming Summer Term will begin on 26 April for 10 sessions.

Finally, on behalf of The Arts and Crafts Group members, our grateful thanks to all the Village Hall Committee for their ongoing dedication and hard work which enables this Group to continue to thrive.'

4.3. Community Speed Watch: Cllr P Welland reported that after several attempts to recruit new members, they had struggled to find volunteers to help with the Speed Watch. It was noted that it was necessary to undertake at least 12 sessions each year, otherwise the necessary equipment had to be relinquished. Cllr P Welland noted that there had also been some difficulty coordinating sessions, given the availability of volunteers. Cllr D Niemann thanked Cllr P Welland for all of his time in organizing each of the sessions.

4.4. Other Reports

FRISC: Mr M Niemann presented a report on behalf of the Committee. Mr M Niemann reported that although opportunities for fundraising had been limited due to Covid the committee had held the Christmas Tree lights switch on event, continued to pay for the emptying of two dog waste via the Parish Council and had arranged a barbeque for the King's Coronation celebratory event. It was noted that further events were planned for 2023.

Local History Group: Michael Parker (Chair) provided a report in his absence, which was read on his behalf by committee member, Mr M Niemann (Treasurer).

'The Syderstone Local History Group was created following the archives put together over the years by Sheila Riches. A number of us were so impressed by these that we suggested to Sheila

that we form a group to collect, record, save and pass on the history of Syderstone and the people who have lived here.

We held an initial meeting in February to see how much interest there was in the idea.

This meeting went well, and we decided to set up a formal local history group. Since then, we have had three monthly evening meetings which have been very well attended, with the last one being a talk by Tom White on the history of the Old Rectory.

The Group now has 18 members, but we have been getting about 30 attendees at our meetings. To help manage the group we have formed a committee, which includes Martin Niemann as Treasurer, Julie Parker as Secretary and myself as Chairman.

We have also identified an opportunity to hold a monthly open archive session. This is to give people the chance to look at the records, photos and stories that Sheila has assembled, or to work on their own history projects, or to simply meet for a chat to talk with other people about the village and the people in it in years gone by.

To finish we would like to thank the Village Hall committee for the use of the hall and helping with the setting up of chairs and tables.

5. Parishioners Questions: None.

With no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10 pm.

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Chairman