

SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held Thursday 16th May 2024 in Amy Robsart Hall

PRESENT:

- Cllr D Niemann - Chair
- Cllr D Daly
- Cllr D Candy
- Cllr S Ojelade
- Cllr P Welland
- Cllr S Wood
- Clerk/RFO – Sarah Harvey
- County Councillor M Chenery of Horsbrugh
- Members of the Public - 9

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 Caz Appleby (Arts & Crafts) and Borough Councillor C Morley.
2. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** None.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 18th, 2023, 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 C Little (Chair) prepared a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, which was presented by Mr T Chaloner.

‘The report reminded those attending the AGM of the constitution.

- a) 5 elected members – currently, Chris Little, Sheila Riches, Gerry Taylor, Wendy Little + vacancy
- b) Up to 8 representative members -currently, Fay Woods (Book Club); Tim Chaloner (Bowls); Caz Appleby (Arts & Crafts); Martin Niemann (SLHG); Martin Bateman (Parish Council), St Mary’s Church (vacant – covered by GT)
- c) Up to 3 Co-opted members – currently, Anita Taylor, Gary Garford, Jim Carr
Currently, 12 in total – there is a wide range of people on the committee.

CAPITAL WORK COMPLETED AND PLANNED

The report outlined the work completed by previous committee members including major developments such as re-roofing and rewiring the hall and work to improve facilities continues
2023-4 has seen, the completion of the repair to the brick storage shed, improvements to the annexe – electrical work, carpeting and display to provide an attractive and functional space. With these improvements, the annexe has seen an increase in use without any promotion by the committee.
2024-5 plans include a bid for new heating to be installed in the annexe, a review of the hall’s provision including examining the kitchen, storage and toilet facilities with the help of an architect, an energy audit to enable us to respond appropriately in these high-cost energy times

ACTIVITIES

The report referred to the reports given by the group representatives (Arts & Crafts, Book Club, Bowls, Local History, and St Mary’s Church) and to those organised/supported by the committee (Coffee Morning, Cinema, Events inc. Pop up Pub, Lottery and Post Office).

All these activities require time and effort by their leaders and supporters. The report indicated that these were all worthwhile and well attended activities, However, there was an opportunity to do more - the hall still had spare capacity. The committee had lots of ideas and invited those present to let us have theirs.

The committee want to work with others, including the PC and Church, to develop the activities available at the hall.

OTHER WORK – and the Future

The report referred to the committee membership and the need to share the load if we are to be able to develop and provide a secure future for the hall. There is need for the team(committee) to have expertise, skills and enthusiasm and a degree of experience to facilitate this. The Chair drew attention to those attending of the wide range of skills and experience already on the team.

The new committee would be continuing to look at what it does and seeing if it could do things better. It needed a professional approach – a one team approach – a community approach liaising with PC, Church and others.

Already the committee has agreed a Strategic Plan – with a focus on the community. The plan outlines how we can move forward – how responsibilities can be shared, policies developed that meet current legislative needs and community expectations, maintenance planned rather than responding to emergencies, a capital programme to meet changing needs, and improved communications and marketing.

The committee will be building on what has gone before - ensuring that we continue to have a village hall that the community is proud of by the development in activities, community support and events. We hope to be working towards a vibrant community together.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2024-5

I am also able to report that the committee appointed myself as Chair; Caz Appleby as Vice-chair; Martin Nieman as Treasurer; Fay Woods as Secretary.'

4.2 Arts & Crafts: Julie Parker (Arts & Crafts Representative) presented a report in the absence of Caz Appleby.

'We currently have 32 members from a wide area across North West Norfolk. 18 members live in the Syderstone/Wicken Green/Blenheim Park vicinity, with the rest from further afield such as Swaffham, Fakenham, Helhoughton, Great Ryburgh, Brisley, Wells and Sculthorpe. Last year we celebrated the 90th birthday of our oldest member who is a regular attendee. All our group are women but that doesn't mean men are not welcome!

The range of arts and crafts people bring along is diverse and includes knitting, crochet, painting, decoupage, felting, embroidery, card making, mindful colouring and sewing. Recently we have introduced the concept of 'learning workshops' which are optional 'add-on' sessions which run alongside the usual group activities. These take place in the new village hall 'annexe' – an ideal separate area for people to concentrate on specific activities. The workshops provide an opportunity for members to learn new crafts, mainly from other members, who share their learning and expertise freely and at no cost. These sessions build not only new skills but new friendships and new confidence in both the learners and the skills-sharers. So far, we have run crochet, card-making and glass coaster-making workshops. We have a felt animals workshop planned for the new term.

Whilst we are first and foremost an arts and crafts group, for many of our members this group is much more than that. Yes, it's where we do our creative stuff but it also where we meet old friends, make new ones and learn new skills. It's also a safe place to share our stories and the important things that are going on in our lives.

The numbers

Members pay a termly fee which works out at £1.50 per session. The group is self-financing with adequate funds for celebratory sessions with seasonal refreshments in the summer and at Christmas. Our average weekly attendance is 22 people.

Leadership

The leadership of the group changed on 31 December 2023 when Linda Pearse stepped down after ten years of both leading the group and representing it on the village hall management committee. In recognition of her years of dedication and commitment, the group awarded her free lifetime membership, so she can drop in whenever she decides to, in the years ahead.

The group is now led by Caz Appleby and a team comprised of Hilary Nelson, Jan Simkin, Jane Lemel and Julie Parker. Caz represents the group on the ARVH management committee.'

4.3. Community Speed Watch: Cllr P Welland reported that in total there were currently ten volunteers who gave up their time to take part in the community speed watch scheme and this was working very well. The regularity of speed watch sessions was dependent on the weather and availability of the volunteers, as a minimum of three volunteers were required at any one time. It was noted that it was necessary to

undertake at least 12 sessions each year, otherwise the necessary equipment had to be relinquished. It was noted that at least 70% of vehicles found to be speeding would receive a letter directly from Norfolk Police.

Cllr P Welland reported that a new location had been approved by Norfolk County Council for the SAM2 sign along Tattersett Road and the current location along Ashside would be moved to the opposite side of the road in order to aid access to the post. It was noted that a further set of white village gateways would be put in place at the entry/exit point to the village on Tattersett Road.

4.4 Local History Group: Michael Parker (Chair) presented a report on behalf of the Local History Group.

'The Syderstone Local History Group was set up in March 2023. The objective of the Group is to collect, preserve, discuss and share matters relating to the history of Syderstone village and surrounding areas, and to the people who lived there.

The Group has recently completed a very successful first year of activities.

These include:

- A series of interesting and enjoyable monthly meetings, with presentations from both Group members and from external speakers. These meetings have generally been very well attended.
- A village walk to look at some of the listed buildings and historical locations in the village.
- Attendance in 2023 at the Docking Historical Fair and the Sedgeford Archaeological Dig open day.
- Several Open Archive sessions allowing people to look at the collection of maps, written records, and photographs,
- Two Natural History meetings looking at Syderstone Common and the Geese of Norfolk.

Looking forward to future activities we are delighted to advise that work on our Oral History project has now started. The "Syderstone Voices" project is a chance for local people to record and share their own stories of life in and around Syderstone. This project can begin due to the great generosity of Sheila and Norman Riches who have purchased a professional quality sound recorder for the Group.

In addition, the Group has recently purchased a set of display boards. These will be used to help share some of the material in our archives.

The Group would now like to purchase a laptop computer, equipped with with Microsoft PowerPoint and two x 1 TB external hard drives. The laptop is for processing and displaying photographs, presentations and sound recordings. The hard drives are for storing photographs, scanned copies of documents and sound recordings. One will be used for working copies and one will be used as a back up copy.

Any assistance the Parish Council can provide for these will be very much welcome.'

- 4.5 FRISC:** Mr M Niemann presented a report on behalf of the Committee. Mr M Niemann reported that FRISC had started a number of years ago in order to raise funds for village events for the benefit of the local community. During the Covid pandemic it was noted that most of the activities supported by the Committee had ceased. With the continued success of the Pop-Up Pub along with other events, it was noted that FRISC would no longer cease to exist but would continue to provide support under a different guise. Mr M Niemann advised that the Christmas Tree event, Carol Service and the sponsorship of the emptying of the two dog waste bins would continue to be supported.

4.6 Other Reports

Mr G Taylor reported that St Mary's Church had acquired a new noticeboard which provided parishioners the details of church services along with other information. It was also noted that the main gates leading to the Church had been repainted.

5. Parishioners Questions: None.

With no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.20 pm.

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Chair