

## **Minutes of Playford's Annual Parish Meeting held at Playford Parish Hall on Wednesday, 4th May 2022 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Mrs Joan Metcalfe - Chairman  
Mr Stephen Hicks - Vice-chairman  
Mr Ted Herrington – Councillor  
Mr Martin Hill – Councillor  
Ben Evans - Councillor  
Mr Colin Hedgley – District Councillor

**In attendance:**  
Mrs Marian Hedgley - Clerk

**Also present:**  
Mr Bill Johnston  
Mrs Veronica Bunbury  
Mrs Sally Herrington  
Mrs Sarah Potter  
Mr Ben Wale  
Rev Gary Jones

The meeting started at 6.30pm. Joan Metcalfe took the chair, proposed by Steve Hicks and seconded by Ted Herrington.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Mr Keith Carson- Councillor  
Mrs Elaine Bryce - County Councillor  
Mr Eric Metcalfe

### **2. To approve the Minutes from the Meeting held on 5th May 2021**

Ted Herrington proposed acceptance of the minutes and this was seconded by Ben Evans – these were duly signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **3. Matters arising from the Minutes:** None

### **4. Chairman's Report**

Joan's report was circulated in advance to all councillors .... in brief:

- Joan thanked Adrian Melrose for his services to the parish council following his resignation last year and welcomed Ben Evans who was co-opted onto the Parish Council in May 2021.
- She explained that Playford PC had raised the precept by £500 for the coming year mainly due to increased maintenance costs in the village.
- Two WW1 memorial oak trees had died consecutively - we now have a 3<sup>rd</sup> as a replacement and have initiated a rota for watering it regularly.
- The village green was cleaned up by a working party organised by Keith Carson in September and is greatly improved.
- The first SIDs device was installed outside Clematis Cottage in May 2021 and is alternately used there and outside the village hall – equipment is shared with Tuddenham and Little Bealings parishes.

Signed .....

- SC Norse continues to do a good job of cutting the grass and hedges.
- Last year we had 7 planning applications and supported 6 of them – however only 4 were given the go-ahead by East Suffolk planners.
- Usual problems with footpaths but we are at last making progress with the unregistered footpath from Church Road across to Butts Road.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is back on track, following a dispute with our previous consultant. We cancelled their contract and have now appointed Ian Poole of Places4People who is taking the Plan forward - it will be presented in a printed form very soon and sent round the village for a referendum and should be completed later this year.

For details of the above in full please see report appended to these minutes.

#### **5. County Councillors' report**

Co Cllr Elaine Bryce was unable to attend but sent her report which is appended to these minutes.

#### **6. District Councillor's report**

District Cllr Colin Hedgley presented his report which is appended to these minutes. He added:

- Zoom meetings for the District Council are no longer happening and must all be done face-to-face to include the public.
- £250K was given by East Suffolk Co. to the hardship fund over the duration of the pandemic to help constituents who needed it most.
- Speeding through villages is still a widespread problem but your parish SAVID rep is able to give you an update.

Cllr Tony Fryatt [tony.fryatt@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:tony.fryatt@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

Cllr Colin Hedgley [colin.hedgley@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:colin.hedgley@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

Joan thanked Colin for his report.

#### **7. Rev Gary Jones report**

Gary Jones gave a brief verbal report:

- Church is now open again and two 10am Sunday services are held every month and a midweek service every 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds of the month.
- There have been many challenges over the past two years due to Covid which has had an impact on everyone.
- Harvest Supper was held last October and was a “sell-out”.
- Passover meal was held recently in April, attended by 30 people.
- A Good Friday event in the village hall was well-attended - children were looked after by Ben Wale and escorted up to the Church for a short service afterwards.
- He is hoping to try different types of service during the coming year.
- Gary is available by phone or email if anyone needs him.

Signed .....

**8. Open Forum**

- A resident reported that some drainage ditches had been cleared by another resident who had paid for this work herself – clerk answered that this had been noted but was not aware it was on public land.
- It was reported that water flowing down Church Lane at the bottom is still causing a problem – this is thought to be possibly due to underground springs but the clerk will report it again to Highways.
- Enquiry made as to whether the PC is still intending to install signage on Church Lane? Co Cllr Elaine Bryce is to be consulted to address this when she returns.
- It was asked what was happening with the Mere. JM replied that it was owned by a consortium – it will be open on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June by ticket only. BE added it is owned by a non-profit company and that membership is still available.

**9. AOB – none**

The meeting closed at 7. 05pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

A full copy of these minutes and Chairman's and County and District Councillors' reports can be viewed on the website: [www.playford.org.uk](http://www.playford.org.uk)