

BRUNDISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Thursday 26th May 2022, 7.00pm – Brundish Village Hall

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr C Evans-Hendrick, Cllr Di Di Longe and Cllr J Flatman.
Members of Public in attendance: Three

2. To accept the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 19.5.2021.

3. To receive Annual Reports from:

3.1 The County Councillor – Cllr M Hicks

Cllr M Hicks had informed the Clerk of possible delay due to his attendance at a County Council meeting.

Note: Annual Report - forwarded to Brundish PC for their review.

3.2 The District Councillor – Cllr J Flatman

Cllr J Flatman - sent her apologies.

Note: Annual Report – forwarded to Brundish PC for their review.

3.3 The Village Hall – in the absence of Mr Chris Griggs (VH Chairman)...

Cllrs Neil Parsons & Carl King reported that since the funding received during the Covid period, no real plans for further funding.

Emma Henchoz has stopped doing Hall Bookings – now booked through Neil Parsons.

Hall has had replacement windows recently.

Cleared the IT Suite of furniture – officially called the ‘Halliday Room’ (in memory of David Halliday).

Running monthly Pub Nights, which continue to be successful and other ‘Hall usage’ ideas are being planned.

Future...

Plans to replace some areas of the Kitchen: new Cooker, Microwave, Industrial Dishwasher – general discussion on which White Goods need replacing.

Suggestion: Rangemaster (Commercial) Cooker. May apply for a Grant.

Parking is being addressed – currently one parking space outside Hall for Disabled use.

A new shed for storage.

Perhaps a small Library/book shelves.

The Hall has a new Cleaner.

3.4 The Education Trust – Mr Gerald Western attended the meeting to give an update/Report on The Education Trust. During the past two Covid years, no applications had been received. However, Karen Miller - Head: Stradbroke High School, has indicated that there may be applications soon.

The Trust was set up in 1964 when 17-Schools throughout Suffolk were part of the Trust which was to benefit children in the Parish of Secondary education.

In 2011 the Education Authority removed the Charitable status from the Trust.

October 2019 formed a new organisation: Brundish Education Trust – kept everything in-hand for ourselves. Education Foundation, resolved.

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During 2020 tried to (unsuccessfully) open up a new Bank Account with HSBC – so asked Barclays Bank.

However during this Cover period, meetings didn't happen/none via Zoom and Barclays stated they were not taking on any new Charity Accounts.

General discussion: re looking into changing Bank Accounts?

Current financial situation:

£4,540.00 in Current Account

Capital sum of £17,000 – earns approx. £600 per year

The Trust offers funding for Extra Curricular Activities to Secondary students.

General discussion/questions raised on How the Trust Works? and Who? receives the funding.

Current Members of the Trust are:

Gerald Western, Claire Evens-Hendrick, Anthony Bryant and David Mulrenan.

Further discussion re recruiting New Members onto the Trust - George Austin stated his interest/wanted to learn more about the Trust.

Chairman Anthony Bryant thanked Gerald Western for his Report.

3.5 The Parish Council Chairman

Notwithstanding the Covid restrictions, 2021/2022 has turned out to be a very successful year for the village. With the help of the Village Hall committee the Parish Council have been able to pay off the Publics Works loan some two and half years early. The parish is now free of any annual debt.

The Village green - under the supervision of Councillors Neil Parsons and Carl King, has had a much-needed makeover and has now become a usable space for the benefit of the village. Hopefully in the future we may be able to afford new swings etc.

I am delighted that Amanda Austin has agreed to become the new paid Parish Clerk, as she is a resident of this parish and involved in other local activities, she will be a wonderful asset to the Parish Council and the village as a whole.

There are a number of on-going concerns, particularly footpaths, unfortunately little action has been taken by the County Council in spite of numerous requests to open closed footpaths. I feel that the village as a whole must become more proactive in persuading Highways to treat this matter more seriously.

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Looking to the future, I would urge the Parish Council to start taking a serious watching brief on St Lawrence's Church. The affairs of the Parish Council and the Church have rightly been treated completely separate from each other; the church building has been part of the fabric of this village for nigh on 1000 years, has survived the Reformation and English civil war, but with a retracting Church of England there is a strong possibility, with fewer people attending church, it will eventually become redundant and ignoring any local protest, sold to the highest bidder! The Parish Council may well have to become actively involved to prevent this happening to St Lawrence.

Cllr Anthony Bryant reiterated 'for the record'... Brundish Parish Council may have to take further steps to ensure the safe guarding of our Historic St. Lawrence church. As said, our village church is 1,000 years old and Brundish Villagers need to be made and kept aware of its historical importance, encourage regular attendance at Parish Church Services and other events that help finance the upkeep of this grand, historical building.

3.6 Local Organisations

Alison King, Secretary of **Wilby & Brundish WI** spoke on their behalf. Please note: we haven't had a name change to Wilby & Brundish, but to let you know that members attend from both villages under the official name of: **Wilby WI**.

Our WI meet the third Thursday in every month and have a regular 25-members in attendance with membership of 30.

We have held very interesting monthly meetings with varied, interesting Speakers – only last month our Speaker spoke of her travels to Turkey and consequently now lives in Turkey during the winter and returns to Suffolk during the summer.

We have our Annual Trip booked in June to Peter Beales Roses, Attelborough and a forthcoming talk re The Bevin Boys is scheduled for later in the year.

Wilby WI are hosting an Afternoon Tea event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – many Bakes of Cakes & Savouries will be on offer! – and many members are also involved with 'The Big Lunch' / Picnic on the Green event too.

Our Book Club hire/use Brundish Village Hall for their monthly meeting.

Chairman Anthony Bryant thanked Alison King for her Report.

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Meeting closed at 7.45pm.