

WOOD DALLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, held on Tuesday 9th May 2023, at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall, Wood Dalling.

Present: Jono Wilton (JW), Kerry Oldfield (KO), Alex Clark-Rudd (ACR), Rory Harrold (RH) and Melanie Eversfield (Clerk).

23/29. To elect a Chair for the ensuing year – Jonathan Wilton was elected Chair for the ensuing year.

23/30. To elect a Vice-Chair for the ensuing year – Kerry Oldfield was elected Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

23/31. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence - JW welcomed everyone. Cllrs Jeff Topp & John Rawlinson gave their apologies.

23/32. To confirm that all councillors have signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Confirmed.

23/33. Declarations of Interest – None

23/34. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2023 - The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

23/35. Matters arising from the meeting – None

23/36. To consider applications for co-option – Rory Harrold was duly co-opted onto the council.

23/37. To receive annual report from the Chair of the Parish Council – Wood Dalling Parish Council: Chairman's Notes for the period 3 May 2022 to 4 May 2023 Wood Dalling celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Friday 3rd June, with free food, a funfair, commemorative Jubilee mugs and a jazz band, funded jointly at an overall cost of £6,707.95 by the Parish Council and the Village Hall and organized by a committee of volunteers from all across the village led with customary enthusiasm and vigour by Kerry Oldfield.

At the risk of making these notes read like an electoral roll, and with humble apologies if I have inadvertently missed anyone off, our thanks are due in particular to Richard Harrold and his Village Hall Committee for throwing their weight unreservedly behind our efforts and for picking up 50% of the costs, to Gerri and David Williams, who volunteered to remove the many sacks of litter and leftovers so that by the Saturday evening the Village Hall and grounds had been restored to their customary cleanliness, to Gerri again for arranging the purchase of a new marquee for the village, and for storing it in one of David's sheds, to Grania Ward Brown for organizing the Norfolk Dixieland Jazz Band, to Jackie Harrold for arranging from Graves the hog-roast and salads, to Sarah de Chair for Dann's Ice Cream and Carey's Coffee and Cakes for those who were still hungry after the hog roast, to Amanda Rodwell for the Swing Boats, Bouncy Castle and popular Test your Strength sledgehammer and bell device, to Joy Mears for the display of historic photographs of Wood Dalling people and places, to Kerry for sourcing the souvenir china Jubilee Mugs, to Howard Shaw for producing the Invitations, to Clive Mcquire for policing the car-park traffic, and to all those both on the committees and pitching in as volunteers for decorating the village hall, putting up (and then taking down) the marquee and tents, including Carl Durban, Joe Claydon, Chris Leverett, Fergus Partridge and in particular Ben Lulham, and generally contributing to making Wood Dalling's celebration of this unique event such a success.

The Platinum Jubilee sadly gained in poignancy as only a few months later on September 8th the Queen died at her home in Balmoral, aged 96.

The Parish Council continued with its regular work of ensuring that the village's grass is kept neat and under control, overseen by Jeff Topp, and that litter is picked up from our extensive network of roads and lanes, organized by John Rawlinson and carried out, again, by a team of volunteers.

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Jeff Topp also edits and produces the Parish Magazine, funded by the Parish Council, which ensures that there is a forum for parishioners to be advised of news and events, while Rory Harrold, on behalf of the Parish Council as landlords, ensures that the Townhouse is properly maintained and insured and kept in good repair.

The Parish Council also continues to engage with the County and District Councils as appropriate, through our County and District Councillor, Greg Peck, in the never-ending battle to fill in pot-holes and maintain road signs across the Parish and also, through the good offices of Jonathan Rodwell and Jeff Topp, in maintaining and locating the automated speedawareness sign on the Reepham-Briston road once a month.

The Parish Council continues to support the local parish councils' efforts to ensure that if wind farm cabling is to be laid across local lanes and fields, as seems inevitable until an offshore ring main can be approved, it will be done with consideration for local residents. Finally we would note that after many years serving as Deputy Chairman on Wood Dalling Parish Council, Jonathan Rodwell will be retiring from the Council on 2nd May, and we thank him for all those years as a proactive Councillor and energetic village resident.

23/38. Members of the public register a desire to speak - None.

23/39. Committee reports and recommendations:

Village Hall – No report received.

Newsletter – The Wood Dalling Newsletter continues to be published six times a year, usually being delivered to residents towards the end of January, March, May, July, September and November. 125 copies are produced – any surplus left in the church for occasional visitors. At a total cost of £68.00 for the 125 8 page (A5) editions (just over 50 pence a copy) I feel this is still extremely good value for money and I am grateful to Cheverton printers in Cromer for their support, punctuality and good communication. I am grateful too for the support of the Parish Council which supports the enterprise financially. The present format has developed in the ten years of my editorship and I am very keen to hear of any additional ideas for inclusion. It is the main vehicle for the publication of the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings now that the notice board outside Heydon House at Norton Corner and the notice board by the church do not appear to be used. In addition I include the minutes of the Village Hall Committee meetings where appropriate, the Church notes for the Churchwarden, Jonathan Rodwell and a farming report from Peter Perry-Warnes. To these contributors I am grateful for their support. In addition any current news is included (such as local farm tours, the annual litter pick, wind farm activities, archaeological finds, historical notes and so forth).

A key part of the success of the newsletter is the contribution made by the distributors who tirelessly deliver anything from 3 to 23 newsletters through people's post-boxes. These stalwarts are: Jono and Alice Wilton, Rose and Roger Williams, Helen and Alvin Dixon, Gerri Williams, Kay and John Rawlinson, Eileen and Tony Karger and Jonathan and Amanda Rodwell. I am also grateful to my wife Debby who helps with formatting the newsletter and helps deliver newsletters to the deliverers as well as occasionally picking the newsletters up from the printers in Cromer. Thank you all.

Church – The Annual Parishioners Meeting (formerly the “Vestry Meeting”) was held in the church after the service on 16th April attended by 7 parishioners. The only agenda item was the election of the churchwarden for the coming year. Mr. Rodwell was elected as churchwarden, but he did indicate that this would be the last year that he would stand for election.

The annual Parochial Church meeting was held in Reepham 6th Form College on 26th April. The annual accounts were approved and Mr. Rodwell was elected as lay vice chair, secretary and treasurer.

Our normal pattern of church services – Holy Communion at 9.00 am on the third Sunday of each month will continue from now until October.

County & District Councillor – No report was received.

23/40. Highways/potholes/hedge cutting/verge cutting – It was noted that a litter pick had taken place and was successful. JW had reported a number of potholes online to NCC.

23/41. An update on the Town House, and to agree any payments necessary – It was noted that the boiler service is due for renewal. There is an issue with the back door to the property. RH to deal with this.

23/42. To update on windfarm projects, if any – Nothing to report.

23/43. Planning, if any – Nothing to report.

23/44. Finance and Payments

- (i) The accounts for year ending 2022/2023 as at 31st March 2023 were received and agreed.
- (ii) To confirm that Wood Dalling Parish Council can declare itself exempt from External Audit – Confirmed.
- (iii) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/2023 – Agreed
- (iv) To approve the Annual Accounting Statement for 2022/2023 – Agreed.
- (v) To consider renewal of membership to Norfolk Association of Local Councils at a cost of £181.35 – Agreed.
- (vi) Payments were approved and cheques were signed for:-
 - M Eversfield – Salary for April - £160.65
 - Cheverton Printers – Newsletter - £68.00
 - J Wilton – Ink Cartridges - £46.00
 - M Packman – Grass - £335.00

23/45. Matters for further discussion – It was noted that there had been a recent noise complaint. KO had dealt with this, and apologies were made. It was noted that there are two separate website, the Parish Council official website and WoodDalling.com, this needed to be corrected.

Noticeboards: It was mentioned that due to high winds the noticeboard at the Church had blown over and therefore needed repairs. It was agreed to seek three quotes from carpenters.

Village Sign: It has completely rotted off at the base and currently resides temporally in the church. It was agreed to seek quotes to re-erect. A suggestion was made by Kerry to request a quote from Elite Equipment.

23/46. Correspondence – None.

23/47. To resolve to pass a formal resolution (under the Public Bodies and Admissions to meetings Act 1960) to exclude the press and the public for the remaining agenda items - Agreed

23/48. To receive resignation of the Clerk and agree next steps – Resignation agreed. Clerk will work to 31st July 2023. Recruitment process to begin.

23/49. To close the Meeting - The next meeting will be on 4th July 2023, 7:30pm, in the Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Approved as a correct record

Date