

AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ON MONDAY 17th APRIL 2023 AT 7PM

Held at the Cedar Centre, Castor

Present were **Councillors** Dr M Ellershaw, Mr R Moon, Mrs A Perkins, Mrs J Pickett (Chairman), Mr M Stalley and **Clerk** Miss J Rice

Members of the public: One

Apologies were received from Cllr Langston-Jones and Cllr M Samways (and J Hodder)

1) Minutes of the last meeting, to be signed as a true record.

The minutes of last year's meeting were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

2) To receive and note the Ward Councillor's report.

There was no specific report submitted.

3) To receive and note the Chairman's annual report, including an end of year finance report.

The Chairman had circulated her report and it was received and noted and is below.

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting 2023. I began my report last year saying that it was good to be back in the Chapel after not being able to meet in person for so long –unfortunately that was short lived as we soon learned that the chapel was to be put up for sale and we have not been able to meet there since October. Its future is still uncertain, we held 2 meetings for residents to have an opportunity to voice their opinions for its future but at present it is still empty.

The project to improve the natural habitat at the recreation ground is progressing well, due to a lot of hard work and dedication of a small band of helpers led by Martin Stalley. The oak tree planted for the Queen's Jubilee and the over 50 small trees planted by the children are doing well having been kept well-watered during the year. The wildflowers and bulbs adding colour. We have added an owl box in one of the trees and extra picnic tables and seating.

There have been many meetings of the working group that is looking at improving the play equipment and we have been awarded a grant to help with the cost so we hope to start the work quite soon.

The working group for land management been busy looking at our land to see that we are doing the best we can for the land and for the benefit of the village.

The planned work of remarking and reducing speed including a new MVAS to make the roads safer for all has at last been completed. The road surface is not good in some areas, we do report the worst potholes but they are a problem.

The council is in talks with PCC and others in an effort to re-establish a bus service but progress is slow.

These projects could not happen without a lot of extra work from councillors and help from volunteers and I thank them all and our clerk for all their work.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

We have supported local groups with small grants when needed and also contributed to the celebrations for the queen's jubilee We were sad at the death of the queen but are now looking forward towards to the coronation of the new king. By Joan Pickett 17/4/23. The finance report was circulated and headlines read out as follows;

4. To receive and note other Parish Council working groups' reports, including the Nature Recovery Group and the Parish Land Management Group (including Recreation Ground).

Cllr Stalley updated on the Nature Recovery Group activities and that more bulbs and trees will be planted soon but it is a quiet time of year. He explained the water harvester project which it was agreed is quite a large amount of work but hopefully worthwhile. Cllr Perkins explained a joint initiative that has been put forward on a supported purchase of more bulbs and residents getting involved by planting in front gardens and verges.

The resident commented that all looks good at the recreation ground and asked about the planning application on the Woodlands site in Castor. It was explained that this was to be discussed in the normal monthly meeting after this meeting.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____