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MINUTES OF THE COLLINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at 7.30 pm on 11 APRIL 2019
in the YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, LOW STREET, COLLINGHAM

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Parish Councillors Jane Guest, Tim Musson and Ashley Wright from the Community Orchard

2. To receive the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 12 April 2018

Copies of the minutes were available and accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair

3. Chair's report on Parish events

Appendix 1

4. Draft governance statement & financial report for the year 2018/19

Appendix 2 and Appendix 3

5. Open forum for parishioners' comments and questions

- *No one wished to raise any comments or queries*

6. Representatives of voluntary groups within the Parish to report on their progress in the last year and plans for the future

Collingham & District Village Care – Jean Davies

I have now been a co-ordinator for 4 years, a driver for 2 years and am also Secretary of the Village Care committee.

Our dedicated team of drivers carry out approximately 4000 trips a year. They receive the Government allowance of 45p per mile and the gratitude of our passengers.

Three of our drivers have recently retired. However, we have recruited 6 new drivers over the past year. This sounds a lot. However, their availability varies and they drive between half a day and 3 or 4 days a week. I must stress that we will always need more drivers to ensure we can continue with the service.

Another piece of welcome news is that we have an additional volunteer co-ordinator, so 3 of us work on a rota basis.

For the third year running we will be offering afternoon teas at the Youth & Community Centre on the first Thursday of the month between 2.30 and 4.30 from May until September. All are welcome – donations only and free transport is offered to those unable to make their own way.

A story about one of our recent recruits: 18 months after a bereavement, she thought it was time to get out and meet people again, so after hearing about us at a local Parish meeting, she decided to try volunteer driving. Not only has this been of benefit to Village Care, but

her friends and neighbours have seen a noticeable difference, proving that volunteering is not only beneficial to the organisation but also to individual's well-being.

Collingham Community Orchard.

In October, we planted about 1000 bulbs of fritillaries, daffodils, crocus and chionodoxa, and they are all showing signs of pushing through this spring. Generally, the trees are in very good health and establishing themselves well. Early signs are of a heavy crop of blossom opening now and over the next few weeks.

Friends of the Trent Vale Trail

In December last year a submission was submitted for European LEADER funding for the first section from Collingham to Besthorpe. This grant has been awarded and construction is hoped to be started in the very near future. CF construction is the preferred contractor, project management will be provided by Sustrans and work should be completed by this time next year. A grant application has been submitted to NCC for LIS funding for the next section of the route (Besthorpe to Girton). Hopefully this funding will enable further funding to be obtained from other organisations. Many thanks to the Parish Council for the grant awarded as this has helped to secure the current funding and for all your support of our project.

Collingham Tennis Club

The new clubhouse has now been built and the Parish Council provided a grant for the purchase of new furniture for this. The clubhouse is now being very well used by members, parents of coaches and envious visiting teams.

Collingham hadn't won any trophies in the last 20 years, but last year won 3.

April 27th is the Grand Opening of the clubhouse together with a Great British Open Day. We're hoping for lots of visitors although there are other village events on the same day. It is hoped that villagers will visit all of the events being run on that day. Ex Davies Cup player, Danny Sapsford, will be coaching as well as Commonwealth gold medal winner, Jocelyn Rae. The 2 professionals will also take part in an exhibition match with 2 Club members.

Charity event Breakpoint19 is being held on the 16th June. This is in aid of PTSD sufferers who can be helped by playing tennis. Robyn Moore, a sufferer of PTSD herself, is hoping to play every day in June for at least 8 hours in order to raise awareness and funds. Nottinghamshire Mind and other disability support groups will be attending the closed session in the morning and from 2pm this will be an open event. The Club is very proud to have been selected to be one of the hosts of this charity event. All monies raised will go to Breakpoint19.

This year the club is trying to get more people involved in playing and are therefore aiming to extend the car park, hopefully with financial assistance from the Parish Council.

Other good news for the Tennis Club is that the Cricket Club is now mowing and rolling all the grassed areas which is a great help.

One of our most successful groups is Gentle Tennis on a Tuesday morning. Other people have mentioned that they would like a similar session in the evening, so we are starting a new pay as you go session called Tentative Tennis on the 29th April, which will then run every Monday evening from 7:30pm to 8.45pm.

The free to use mini courts continue to be well used by the community. The clubhouse and all facilities are available to hire with preferential rates for members and villagers.

Collingham Crawl and Canter

Collingham Crawl and Canter is a family fun day held at the Cricket Club. There is a 400m fun run for children and a timed 5k. All proceeds after costs go to benefit the charities and community groups that applied for monies. Last year these were; Collingham and District preschool, Collingham Cubs, Collingham Skate Park, Newark Patriotic fund and Collingham Tennis Club, and £200 each was awarded. This year there are 10 groups who have applied to be beneficiaries. Thank you very much to the Parish Council for the grant which has been awarded this year for a new advertising banner.

Collingham and District Preschool

Collingham and District Preschool are a registered charity and provide preschool education to children from age 2 years 6 months up until they start school the September term after they turn 4. Based in the Wesley rooms the preschool has been in existence 52 years this year. Our overall aim as a pre-school is to enhance the development and education of children below statutory school age within a parent and staff managed community-based group in close cooperation with parents. The committee of the preschool are elected each year and currently consist of 6 volunteers.

At our most recent Ofsted inspection in September 2018 we gained a 'Good' rating and both staff and committee received some great feedback, for example

"Well qualified staff engage enthusiastically with children. Staff provide a wide range of activities and resources which engage and interest children. Children are well prepared for their future and starting school."

We hold various fundraising events throughout the year ranging from a raffle of a Xmas hamper, Easter Egg Hunt, cake sales and our main event, which is the Spring Fair, held each year at the Memorial Hall, this year on Saturday 27th April. We have also been a chosen beneficiary of the Collingham Crawl and Canter the last four years. Fundraising is important and allows new toys, books and equipment to be purchased to benefit the children and also subsidises our annual trip to White Post Farm which is often many of the children's first time on a coach and is hugely enjoyed by all.

The staff of the preschool are dedicated to providing an educational environment in which the children can thrive and work tirelessly to make it the best possible. Every day there is a new craft activity the children can enjoy, they can always paint, play, read, go outside. Staff made pancakes on pancake day, children enjoyed Chinese food at Chinese New Year, and learnt how to perform a Xmas song at their Xmas sign-a-long in sign language. Staff put on a Xmas show for the children, we've had chicks hatch and had an autumn guided walk round the village, each week there is something new for the children to enjoy and learn.

Royal Oak

It is currently envisaged that this will now be open at the end of July. A recent meeting of 120 people has been held showing the building as it was and as it is now. This was mainly shareholders, but some additional shares have been purchased as a result. Funding has been obtained from shareholders, Lincolnshire Co-op, The Plunket Foundation and a submission has been submitted to NCC LIS. Facebook is being updated regularly and news on progress can be found there. This will be a community hub for everyone to enjoy

Churches Together Report 2019

Combined services have been taken throughout the year by Reverends Mandy Cartwright and Peter Bates we thank them for their service and Christian teaching.

The Advent Course led by Revd Bates in December in the Methodist Vestry was well supported and enjoyed.

United Communion and other Special Services

Bible Sunday in October was at the Methodist Church led by Peter Bates. He told us about the bibles he possessed and the significance they had made in his Christian life. The collection went to the Bible Society.

A special Remembrance Service was held on Sunday, 11th November at All Saints Church, this was a culmination of events promoted by the Parish Council to mark our Village tribute to commemorate the fallen and those that served in WW1. Revd Mandy Cartwright led the service attended by approximately 300 people, families and organisations. Most of the congregation processed to the War Memorial for 11 am where Mandy read the roll of honour, after which wreaths were laid. The Service continued in Church. Bell ringers led by Nigel Priestley, rang the bells after the Service. The collection of £781.41 went to the British Legion.

We joined our Methodist friends for a short Christmas Day service at 9.30 am. The Communion Service on December 30th was at All Saints Church. Covenant Sunday and Christian Unity Service on January 20th was at the Methodist. St. John the Baptist held the service on Mothering Sunday, March 31st where everyone was presented with a primula plant. Palm Sunday on April 14th started at All Saints and the able congregation processed to the Methodists church for readings of the Passion.

Christmas and Easter Leaflets

Have been kindly printed by Mr Peter Mason and distributed to every house in the village by volunteers.

Christian Aid Report

The House-to-House collection made £2,166.97 the highest total yet led by Mrs Jackie Yeomans, Marylyn Rayner and their team of willing helpers. The Christian Aid Service raised £172.21 The Service this year will be on 12 May 2019 in the Methodist Church at 10.45am

The Lent Lunches 2019 run from March 12th for six weeks.

The Lent Course led by Revd Hall was based on excerpts from the film Chocolat. Each session had a different focus on exploring God, the world and what it means to be human. In spite of it being difficult for anyone who hadn't seen the film when shown shortly before, it was a good group however some people wanted a more traditional format. It was agreed that different people look for different things and it is always worth trying something new.

Churches Together Representatives

Chairman Owen Yeomans; Secretary Barbara Gough;

Anglican Church representatives - Revd Mandy Cartwright, Mrs M Collins, Mrs H Narracott, Mrs M Rayner.

Methodist Church representatives - Revd Peter Bates, Revd G Hall, Mrs M Mason, Mr N Fairfax, Mrs J Yeomans

Messy Church is held as an outreach activity every 2nd Wednesday of the month

Councillor Dobson

Would like to thank all the volunteers in the Parish, which is amazing and has been since she came to the village – it is a privilege and pleasure to be part of this community.

7. Reports on current developments

Nothing to report on current developments.

8. Close of the Annual Parish Meeting

Thank you for attending

The meeting closed at 8:16 pm

8 members of the public present and 7 parish councillors

No members of the press present