



# Marsham Parish Council

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023 AT 7PM IN MARSHAM PARISH CHURCH

### PRESENT

Mr C Hensby – Chairman

Mrs P Baker

Mr M Childerhouse

Mr P Gladden

Mr C Rouse

Mr D Grapes

Mr B Baker

### 1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

### 2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were **agreed** by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman reported on the activities of the Parish Council over the last year. Noting the hopes that post pandemic things have returned to near normal. Thanks were given to the Church for allowing meetings to take place whilst we have been unable to use the Village Hall with a note that he hopes the 50 year tradition of using the Village Hall will be resumed again soon. The SAM2 sign results were noted with input from the local Beat officer that no troubles found. Thanks were given to the BDC and NCC Cllr. Riley for his hard work in securing the funds for the installation of a 20mph school zone Wig Wags (flashing lights) and White Gates in to the village, all of which should continue to work to reduce speed. The first phase of streetlight upgrades have been completed ensuring key assets are looked after whilst ensuring a cost effective future for lighting provision in the village. An appeal for volunteers to help keep our Amenity spaces clean, particularly the Play area. Should anyone be willing, please do contact the Clerk in the first instance. After much thought and planning, works to the village sign are underway and we look forward to a black Peewit being restored before the summer is over. A warm welcome to incoming Councillors and existing Councillors who will be giving up their time for the village over the coming four years. A sincere thanks and goodbye was bestowed to those Councillors who have stood down after some decades in post, the Chairman wished them well in their retirement from post.

#### **4. TO RECEIVE THE CLERKS REPORT**

The year has shown Accounting Income greater than that of outgoings, the majority of which to be attributed to a back log of VAT claimed back and the back payment of the missing grass cutting contribution from Highways.

Future expenditure of the planned and budgeted for changes and upgrades to the street lighting over the next two years will balance the income and outgoings back out without having impact on precept for the village. The training for new councillors for 2023/24 has not been budgeted for, however there should be plenty in reserves to accommodate this. Going forward there will be a requirement to add members to the bank mandate.

The Play Area will be a large focus for research by the Clerk this coming year, with the Council's agreement to renew play equipment, good pricing, and access to grants will be key to enabling this amenity space to be upgraded within the current funds.

#### **5. TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS**

##### **a) VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

The village Hall AGM minutes were noted and the subsequent Q&A responses were discussed. The Committee's request for new representation from the Parish Council was granted and Craig Rouse has volunteered for this post.

##### **b) MARSHAM HEATH TRUSTEES**

The Council were updated on the fuel allotment aspect of the charity being particularly successful this year, with further details provided around the land being managed by the NWT. The Committee to meet again soon and discuss future plans for the land, previous trials such as keeping sheep and horses on the Heath have proven challenging following mis-use of gates and fences by members of the public. The Heath Trustees look forward to welcoming the Norfolk Orienteering Group this year and noted it's thanks for the permission being sought for the use of the land in this formal way and welcomes similar events in the future, whilst respecting the valuable and important limitations of the area being within an SSSI.

#### **6. BOB PARKE – THE MARSHAM SHOW 2022**

The success of the show had previously been discussed and thanks was shared for the incredible work undertaken by Mr Parke to make these events happen.

#### **7. POLICE REPORT**

No report received.

#### **8. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SECTION**

There were no questions asked not covered elsewhere.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:24pm and carried on to the main Parish Council Meeting.