

Burgh Castle Parish Council

Chairman: Brian Swan

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 remotely using Zoom

Present: Parish: Cllrs B. Swan (Chairman), P. Carter, M. Greenacre, B. Grimmer, J. Hogg, W. Griffiths, K. Ruddock (Clerk) and 3 members of the public including Borough Cllr Myers
The meeting commenced at 7.37pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from County Cllr Smith, Borough Cllr Cameron and Maureen Grey.

2. MINUTES FROM 2019 APM

To accept the minutes from the meeting held on the 13th May 2019 Proposed Cllr Griffiths, Seconded Cllr Hogg. All In Favour

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Burgh Castle Parish Council Chairman's APM Report May 2021

With last years APM being cancelled due to Covid 19 this is my first Annual Report since taking over as Chairman two years ago.

Starting with some sadness I must report the death of Trevor Greenacre on April 24th after a long and very brave fight against cancer, Trevor served for many years on our Council and was Chairman until two years ago, our thoughts are with Margaret and the family at this sad time. (*We will now have a short period of reflection*) We also had the loss of former Vice chair, Eric Foster in October 2019 after 17 years on the Council, serving member Peter Nichols in November last year and also in the last few weeks, David Smith at the age of 92, David had served 34 years on the Parish Council. Our thoughts are with all their families everyone else who has lost a loved one or friend over this difficult time.

Moving on, to better news, in planning there have been many applications, we have had successes in seeing some that we considered unsuitable getting refused both locally and at appeal and also after over 18 months of toing and froing the plans for the Dovedale site went through for just 7 properties when at one stage it looked as if 30 was a serious possibility.

I think we have a good relationship with the Breydon Waters holiday site although little or no contact with Cherry Tree and we are facing more holiday homes on the Burgh Castle Marina site due to earlier planning applications now that the site is in the same ownership as Kingfisher and Waveney Valley.

We did get Stepshort resurfaced after a long wait although minor highways works seem to be taking ages and a lot of chasing before the jobs are processed but we will fight on and now seem to be getting some successes.

The loss of the Post Office last December was a big blow to the village, I doubt if we will ever get the facility back, however thanks to Josie and her staff for service over many years, this was one where I think Covid was the final straw.

Norfolk Archaeological Trust have faced cases of unsocial behaviour at the Roman Fort site with some very serious incidents recently, one involving damage to the actual fabric of the ruins. The Parish Council does not support the Trusts proposal to bring in parking charges, we do realise that they need funds but fear for disruption that will be caused if the local roads are used for parking rather than their car parks.

We have continued to maintain the Burial ground with sadly a large number of interments in the last year and also with regret our Parish Church has been forced to close both for casual visitors and services, another victim of Covid which has also affected the availability of the Village hall. Finally in what has been a strange period, the last years meetings have all been held like today, remotely by Zoom, I would like to thank all other Councillors, our County Councillor, Carl and two Borough Councillors, Adrian and Tracy for their support, not forgetting Kate, our Parish Clerk who has again kept us up to date and on the straight and narrow path forward. I would also like to thank everyone who has helped in any way, however small with the Covid battle in the last 18 months.

We can look forward to a return to meetings in the hall (socially distanced) from next month as at the moment the Government have not given permission for any further remote meetings after this week so Thank you everyone and welcome to 2021/22.

4. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FROM:

Playing Field Management Committee:

Cllr Greenacre presented the 2020/21 report.

The playing field has not been used for football matches for over two years. The F A rules and regulations mean that the facilities at the village hall no longer meet the minimum requirements for changing rooms.

At present a youth team are training on the field and have hired the village hall car park for access. The balance of £278.43 is not sufficient to pay the annual insurance premium in 2022.

Village Hall Trust:

Cllr Greenacre presented the 2020/21 report.

There has been very little income for the last year. However the treasurer did apply for the GYBC maintenance grant for 2020 and was successful in getting £10,000. Fund raising from 2019 allowed the trust to install electricity on the field, which will be a great asset when events can start again. The balance of the account stands at £18,701.55

5. TO PASS A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE MERGER OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES OF THE PLAYING FIELD & VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Greenacre reported due to the Playing Field Committee now having no income there is no money being generated to pay continuing costs such as the annual insurance policy. Therefore Cllr Greenacre Proposed to amalgamate the two Committees to form Burgh Castle Playing field and Village Hall Committee which would consist of 7 committee members rather than the current 24 committee members required between both current committees. Seconded Cllr Swan. All In Favour. Cllr Greenacre confirmed advice has been taken from the committees solicitors and the Charity Commission are in agreement for the two committees to merge.

6. COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cllr Greenacre reported no events have taken place during the last year, therefore there is nothing to report.

6. ELECTION OF PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

It was agreed that the existing committee members need to undertake the merger of the two committees, therefore no action to be taken at this time.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 7.55pm.