

Burgh Castle Parish Council

Chairman: Brian Swan

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 at Burgh Castle Village Hall

Present: Parish Cllrs: B. Swan (Chairman), B. Grimmer (Vice Chair), P. Carter, M. Greenacre, B. Grimmer, J. Hogg, K. Ruddock (Clerk) and six members of the public including Borough Cllr Myers.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Griffiths and County Cllr Smith.

2. MINUTES FROM 2021 APM

To accept the minutes from the meeting held on the 5th May 2021 proposed Cllr Carter, seconded Cllr Greenacre. All in Favour.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been a strange year, we started with 'remote' meetings, moved back here to the hall in July and then cancelled the January meeting due to lack of business

There have been several planning applications during the year, some that we have objected to have been refused however in some cases the Borough Council have approved such applications something that we have to accept as they have rules to follow, the main points have been the Post Office site, where work has started, and which we have a revision for this evening and of course the 'Dovedale' site which is still undecided due to access concerns, we also still await news on the proposed extension in years for the mineral extractions at Welcome Pit, this still with the officers at Norfolk County Council, we had expected a verdict by now!.

An important issue has been the Norfolk Archaeological Trust deciding to charge for parking on the Roman Fort site, we did object and I did call a meeting of interested parties which was open and frank, unfortunately our main point to ask the Trust to run a trial charging Summer using 'a person with a satchel' was ruled out by the Trust as the fees charged would have had to be much higher due to the employee wages involved and could have had an effect on where people parked different to the metered system that would have followed. We now wait to see how things turn out.

I can only describe highway matters as a 'nightmare', every time we succeed in getting one job off a long list two more seem to go on, we have been waiting three years for a tidy up at Cherry Tree Corner and yes, we have reported the condition of the bend on High Road by Crows Farm amongst many other smaller items. We have a promise of funding from our County Councillor for a new bus shelter at the Kingfisher stop and have received grant funding for half of the cost to tidy the grass between the layby and village sign further along Butt Lane.

The church, again with County Councillor support have tidied up the church triangle and we as a council continue to maintain the burial ground and the churchyard as the latter is described as a 'closed churchyard' (as it is full) and therefore falls to the Parish Council to maintain. We have again supported this Village Hall when we could and would urge you to support it whenever possible.

It was good of Borough Councillor Adrian Thomson as mayor of the Borough to decide to visit all parishes and I think he was satisfied with his visit in April, thanks to everyone who attended, to the Queens Head and to Borough Councillor Myers for making this work so well.

Finally, I would like to thank a few people, County Councillor Carl Smith and Borough Councillor Adrian Myers for their continued help and assistance, Garden Guardian who we have just retained into a new contact for grass cutting, all fellow Parish Councillors and not forgetting Kate, our Parish Clerk who has kept everything running and in order for another year. We are now moving into our final, fourth year, of this term and in May 2023 we will have elections for both this Council and the Borough Council having had no elections fall due locally this year.

4. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FROM: Playing Field Management Committee

Cllr Greenacre reported the following 2021/22 balance sheet.

2020/21 Balance B/F	£ 278.43
Income	£ 0.00
Expenditure	£ 273.75
2021/22 Balance C/F	£ 4.68

Village Hall Trust

Cllr Greenacre gave the following including 2021/22 balance sheet.

2020/21 Balance B/F	£18,820.55
Income	£ 6,891.00
Expenditure	£ 5,489.74
2021/22 Balance C/F	£20,221.81

The village hall has had several necessary repairs carried out over the last 12 months hence the large maintenance bill. Guttering and fascias have been replaced, the shed has been repaired and is now watertight and can be used as storage. Front gravel has been excavated, damp course drainage reinstated, urinals removed as this was the cheapest option. The driveway at the entrance has been resurfaced and several pot holes repaired. A new cooker has been purchased for the kitchen and new air vents in the windows.

Thanks is given to Cllr Swan who kindly removed the broken heater from the hall and cleared the rubbish from the shed.

Regular village hall users are the Brownies, Football Club, the Parish Council and the main room houses the tearoom.

5. MERGER OF VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD – PROGRESS REPORT

Cllr Greenacre reported that the both the Village Hall and Playing field committees have combined and are working with Community Action Norfolk and Englands Solicitors to put both charities together to form one single charity.

There is a great amount of work to be done to get this right so it can then be handed over to future generations. Including the registration of land with the Land Registry which will take time and will be expensive.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- There was no report from the Community Council as there were no activities this year.
- The Chairman confirmed outline planning permission has been approved for 7 new dwellings on land behind Dovedale on Butt Lane. However the development still requires an acceptable entrance to the site, there are also three trees on site which have Tree Preservation Orders place on them.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 7.45pm