

**Minutes of Chelmondiston's Annual Parish/ Village meeting
held on Tuesday 30th May 2023
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: There were 26 residents present including 8 Parish Councillors, the Suffolk County Councillor was also present.

Welcome: Councillor Rosie Kirkup opened the meeting at 7.30pm, welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced herself as the new Chairman of the new committee voted in at the election of the 4th May 2023. The Chairman then explained that the meeting would be in a slightly different order to the distributed Agenda with all Reports, including Local groups being read before a tea break to allow discussions and the study of the Minutes of the meeting of the 4th May 2022, thus allowing a meaningful approval vote to take place when the meeting reconvened. The Chairman thanked Cllr Melville for agreeing to take minutes for this meeting.

Apologies: Councillors Keeble and Ward, Sam Nunn (Playing Fields) , the Revd Canon Liesbeth Oosterhof
Jill Davis Parish Clerk and RFO (Responsible Finance Officer) sent apologies and asked that it be minuted that she was not present because of the change of date of this meeting.

Reports:-

a) Chairman's Report

The Chairman explained that as a new Councillor she had no direct knowledge of the proceedings of the Parish Council over the last year and had therefore not been able to prepare a detailed Report. The difficulty was further compounded by the resignation of the previous Chairman Councillor David Cordle at the first meeting of the Council on the 16th May and the Clerk/ RFO's resignation on the 21st May. The RFO had reported that the Annual Accounts for 2022-2023 were not available for this Village meeting.

With regard to Councillor David Cordle's resignation, the Chairman confirmed she had spoken to David Cordle and stressed that the Council wished to arrange a Presentation in the near future to award his extraordinary long service to the village (43yrs).

The Chairman informed the meeting that she had already had meetings or arranged meetings with the recycling volunteers, the Village Hall Committee and the Playing Field Committee to ensure that the relationships between these important groups and the Parish Council remain smooth and cordial.

Finally the Chairman spoke briefly on the communication between the Parish Council and the residents of the Parish which she hoped to see improved and confirmed this would be discussed later if there was time.

b) Suffolk County Councillor's Report.

Simon Harley presented his annual Parish report which is attached to these minutes.

c) Village Hall Committee Report

Pat Lakey presented the Village Hall Report which included the annual accounts for the year to March 2023, notes on the accounts and notes on the activities at the Hall. These are attached to these Minutes. This is a success story with activities and income recovering from Covid.

d) W.I. Report

Pat Lakey presented a positive report from the WI which is attached to these Minutes.

e) Over 60's Club, now called Chelmondiston Social club.

Michelle Rutherford presented this Report which is attached which shows the Club is struggling but still meeting regularly.

f) Pin Mill Sailing Club Report

The Commodore, Sara Hopkinson, presented the attached Report showing the Club is making a reasonable recovery from Covid and noting that the Club has many local members, many of whom are non-sailing social members and now the Club has some connection with the Chelmondiston Primary School.

g) Horticultural Society

Simon Leatherdale spoke for the Society and said that it now has more members than before Covid but always welcomes more, The Society meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

h) Playing Field Committee

Sophie Baylor, the Treasurer, spoke for the Committee and said she had not been asked to bring a Report or Accounts but considered everything was well and new equipment had been installed.

As this was the end of the Reports the Meeting had a recess for tea, coffee biscuits and talks and checking the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Village Meeting.

When the Meeting resumed the Minutes of the Meeting of the 4th May 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman. At the request of a resident the 7 remaining Parish Councillors stood and identified themselves.

Item (5) of the original Agenda - Traffic Calming Issues

a) Village Gates

SCCllr Simon Harley considered that these white fences are more aesthetic than traffic slowing and due to all the legal and specialist contractor costs they can be as much as £10,000. The subject was not pursued.

b) Speed Indicator Device: SCCllr Simon Harley thought these cost in the region of £1500 to install and it was agreed they do slow a lot of the traffic. These would be owned by the village and the Chairman agreed that the Council would investigate positioning and installation of this equipment and would schedule purchase of SID to be discussed at a full Parish Council meeting.

c) Automatic Number Plate Recognition: SCCllr Simon Harley advised that Suffolk Highways has several sets of this equipment for loan/hire to Parishes on a short-term basis. He agreed to give us the necessary contact details to allow the Council to pursue this option as an interim measure while we consider purchasing our own SID.

d) Pin Mill-Quiet Lane: SCCllr Simon Harley considered that this was another method of putting a 20mph speed limit on the Pin Mill Road that already has a 20mph speed limit which is ignored by many drivers. Then ensued a discussion with Residents and it became clear that whilst speeding is a problem the greater concern is the parking all down the lane at busy times, even though there are double yellow lines over much of the length of the road.

It was agreed that the Public should have reasonable access to Pin Mill amenities and businesses and that there is inadequate parking at Pin Mill. The Chairman agreed to take investigation of the costs of repainting the double yellow lines and reviewing public parking facilities at Pin Mill back to the Parish Council.

Item (5) of the original Agenda – Resiting/ Refurbishment of the Village Sign

SCCllr Simon Harley was certain that the new site for the Village Sign had been agreed and was awaiting approval from Babergh District Council and/or Suffolk County Council. No-one else at the meeting had any knowledge of the situation, neither the 8 Parish Councillors nor any of the Residents. The Chairman said that she would ask the Clerk for her understanding of the current situation and ensure that this subject would be an Agenda Item at the June Council meeting.

Any Other Business

a) Pin Mill Common Trees

There was a discussion led by Councillor Lyrick about the potential offer of more trees which could be planted on Pin Mill Common (legally a Village Green). Commodore Sara Hopkinson pointed out that historically this open space was used for the laying out of barge sails and remains useful in this regard for all boats, and that the only trees seen on old photographs were a line of Poplars and Willows along the Eastern Grindle. It was agreed that the three existing trees will need replacing in due course; one appears dead and another looks as if it is dying.

b) Communications

The subject of communications between Parishioners and a more active Parish Council was raised again. There was a strong body of opinion that the Council should be much more active on Social Media and the Chairman agreed that this would be a great step forward and asked for volunteers to assist in setting this in motion.

There was also a strong opinion in the meeting that Social Media alone would leave a sizable minority of Parishioners without access to Council communications. It was suggested that “In Touch” magazine, which is delivered monthly to most doors, could be used for a brief article from the Council. The Chairman agreed to look into this suggestion.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.00 p.m.

**Minutes taken by Councillor Melville
Compiled 1st June 2023**

品
字
全
本