

BLEASBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 26th April 2023

7.30 pm in Bleasby Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Michael Coombs, Chair of Bleasby Parish Council, and 11 residents

Cllr Coombs opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Andersen, McCormack and Saddington

2. To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 31 May 2022.

These were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. To Discuss any Matters Arising from those Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Parish Council Accounts

These are currently being audited. The financial position of the Parish Council is healthy, and the Council will be proceeding with plans to improve the amenities of the parish.

5. Parish Council Chair's Report

Cllr Coombs reported that it had been a very busy year due to the impact of 2 years of Covid. He praised the community spirit has helped organise both the Jubilee celebrations and the current preparations for the Coronation. He noted that the parish council has worked closely with both St Mary's Church and with Bleasby school to provide events and activities for the village. He praised the efforts of the WI and the Grasshoppers in both providing events and maintaining the Bleasby green spaces. Cllr Coombs highlighted that the parish council has planted numerous trees and also worked hard to improve the infrastructure of Bleasby providing notice boards, seating and planters within the village. He thanked Councillor Saddington and Councillor Blaney for all their support and noted that Cllr Blaney would be much missed.

Councillor Coombs express sadness at the loss of Elaine France and Derek Whitman who both made such substantial contributions to the village. He also welcomed the new parish clerk Denise Bryant and thanked Lynda Ogilvie for her efforts as a temporary clerk for almost two years. Lastly he offered special thanks to the many volunteers in the parish who always contributed. It is very much appreciated.

Full report attached.

6. Village Hall Management Committee Report

Lynda Ogilvie, Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee presented this report. She stated that, due to Covid, there was not a great deal to report. Funds are healthy

and there is a great team to ensure hall is well maintained. Lynda wised to express her gratitude to the supportive members of the committee.

Full report attached.

7. Bleasby School Report

Russyn Cast, Head Teacher, presented the report. She stated that there are currently 147 children on roll with an anticipated 135 coming into the school next year the school had an Ofsted inspection and was found to have retained the good grading. The school had held several Community Events over the last year and has also been devising a new curriculum framework. The school benefitted from much-appreciated volunteers and would like to encourage more volunteers in the future. There have been various developments to the school site which included a new trim trail and tree works and the car park was to be resurfaced during the summer term holidays. She reported that parking continues to be problematic and that the school was encouraging a walk to school initiative.

Full report attached.

8. Bleasby Play Group Report

Report presented by Jo Dunseath. The play group reported an average of 10 children attending each week which was enough to make the group viable. She highlighted that it is a great way for children to meet each other before going to school together. The children had had a trip to Bleasby School Apple Class which was very successful. The Playgroup wished to thank the Village Hall Committee for their support.

Full Report attached.

9. Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report

Diana Temperley presented the PCC Report. Diana stated that reduced resources had resulted in the number of services being restricted but that there were online services and people are encouraged to travel to other churches wherever possible. Diana wished to thank the people of the parish for their generosity and also their time in volunteering to keep the church and churchyard well cared for and enabling visitors to enjoy the church. Diana reported the church had been used successfully for many events throughout the year including a service to commemorate the centenary of the WI. Links with Bleasby School are very strong and Reverend Phil White has been active in promoting the important connection. Diana wished to thank him for all his efforts within the Benefice and stated how much he will be missed.

Full report attached.

10. Green Spaces Report

Cllr Jo Dunseath presented this report. Cllr Dunseath reported that the Grasshoppers group work in line with the Green Spaces Management plan, approved by the Parish Council in July 2022. They have an annual planner detailing monthly activities and community events. They would be very keen for additional volunteers to join the Grasshoppers group. Grasshoppers also wish to say thank you to the PC for their support and to all the fellow Grasshoppers for not only volunteering but also for the companionship.

Full report attached.

11. Flood Action Group Report

Presented by Peter Cast. Peter noted that there had been no flooding events over the last 12 months, but he did stress that that this this did not mean we should become complacent. He reported that there had been warnings of flash floods owing to the dry summer and that BFAG members monitored water levels, checked for blockages, and prepared equipment. Peter expressed sadness at the passing of Flood Coordinator, Elaine France, and stated that she would be very much missed.

Full report attached.

12. District Council Report

Councillor Roger Blaney presented this report and stated that this was his 32nd Bleasby Annual Parish Meeting. He had attended 32 of the 34 annual parish meetings that had been held and had also attended over 300 parish meetings since becoming the District Councillor for Trent Ward in 1986. This was to be his last Bleasby Annual Parish Meeting. He had enjoyed his time as District Councillor and will miss all the Bleasby Parish meetings. Cllr Coombs presented a gift to say thank you for all his efforts.

13. County Council Report

Cllr Saddington sent this report which was read by the clerk. Cllr Saddington stated that she was soon to hand over the chairmanship of Newark and Sherwood District Council. She recounted numerous events she had been privileged to participate in over the last year. She noted the number of potholes in Bleasby and that the crossing barriers had failed again. She had requested an interactive sign for Goverton. She thanked Bleasby Parish Council for all their efforts and wished Cllr Blaney well in his retirement.

Full report attached.

14. Local History Report

Barbara Cast, President of the Bleasby Local History Society, sent her report which Peter Cast presented. Barbara noted that the Society had just had its 42nd birthday and some of its founder members were still in membership. She noted that over the years it has become a thriving society necessitating a larger committee. The Society has regular lectures which are varied and high quality. They aim to be involved in village events and activities and provide information on the parish history. They welcome new members and also visitors are welcome to attend their lectures.

Full report attached.

15. Station Adoption Scheme

Jennifer Sterland presented this report. Jennifer noted maintenance works that had gone on throughout the previous year and various improvements that had been undertaken and were planned in the future. She thanked Tracey Fryer and Philip Andrew who have both recently resigned from the group after having helped set it up.

Full report attached.

16. Events Group Report

Cllr Coombs presented this report. Councillor Coombs noted that numerous events had been successfully held over the last year which, despite the weather, proved to be an important catalyst for reinvigorating community spirit within the parish post COVID. Councillor Coombs express the hope the King's Coronation event would prove to be just as successful and urged volunteers to sign up to help.

Full report attached.

17. Bleasby WI

Theresa Swift presented this report. She noted that Bleasby WI had just celebrated its 100-year anniversary. Theresa gave a synopsis of the history, the goals and the aims of the WI. Bleasby WI support numerous causes locally such as 'Women affected by Violence'. The WI also assists with church cleaning and providing lifts for the elderly. The WI is always very supportive of local events.

18. Any Other Business

Peter Cast wanted to thank the PC for everything they do. He extended a warm welcome to the clerk and expressed thanks to Lynda Ogilvie for her time as locum clerk.

Diane Temperley praised the planters in Orchard Close and troughs throughout the village.

Jennifer Sterland expressed gratitude for the new avenue of trees that has been planted and noted that each one commemorates 10 years of the Queens reign.

Appreciation of the Bleasby News: - advertisers content-providers and distributors, was expressed by everyone in the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 21.10pm.