

FELTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

**The Annual Parish Meeting of Felthorpe was held on 4 April 2023 at
8.00pm at the Pavilion**

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Ben Bates (Chairman)
John Bebbington

Diane
Andrew Cooper
Paula Duncan

Also Present:

Sonya Blythe (Parish Clerk)
5x members of public

Tony Adams (County Councillor)

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 May 2022.

BB welcomed attendees to the meeting.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed.

2. To receive the Parish Council annual report from the Chairman

The Chairman made a report on parish council activities across the previous year, attached as appendix A.

JB raised a query on tarmacking the area opposite the Church, which Councillors felt had been agreed at the recent site meeting with TA and the Highways Officer. This would provide a pull-in area for hearses and wedding guests. TA advised that he did not recall this, but he would raise with the Highways Officer.

3. To hear and discuss matters raised by members of the public

No matters raised.

4. To receive a report from Felthorpe Cricket Club

The annual report was circulated and is reported at appendix B.

5. To receive a report from the Recreation Ground Committee

The annual report was circulated and is reported at appendix C.

Thanks were passed to the Committee for their hard work.

Sonya Blythe
Clerk to the Council
Felthorpe Parish Council
PO Box 1392
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6. To receive an annual report from St Margaret's PCC

The annual report was circulated and is reported at appendix D.

7. To receive a report from the Fuel Allotment Charity

The annual report was circulated and is reported at appendix E.

Meeting closed at 20:40

Appendix A

Report from the Chairman of the Council

Maintenance

Village sign has been refurbished at a cost of £764. Reinstallation is pending a decision on whether to replace the existing post and repair the brickwork or retaining the existing structure.

The bus shelter eaves have been repointed.

An agreement was reached with TD Cleaning to keep all village gateways and road signs clean.

Four benches have been ordered to replace the existing. Installation is planned for April 20-21, 2023.

Two additional dog bins have been purchased for installation on Mill Lane and Church Lane at the same time as the benches.

Contract for grass cutting and general maintenance has been extended for a further year.

Highways

A Maintenance Agreement has been agreed with Highways for the Parish Council to maintain verges, ensure visibility of signage, and clearing footpath obstructions.

Additional funding of £1000 was added to the grass cutting funding. Asphaltting of parking and access adjacent to the church has been completed with thanks to Councillor Tony Adams for pursuing this matter.

A 2022/23 bid to the Parish Partnership Scheme to resurface the pavement along Taverham Road was rejected. However, NCC have committed to include this work in their 2023/24 work schedule. No submissions were made for 2023/24 Parish Partnership Scheme.

Norwich Western Link

I have attended 4 meetings of the NWL Local Liaison Group which is made up of representatives from 15 local Parish Councils. The public consultation had over 2000 responses, mostly concerned with traffic mitigation. Findings have yet to be released to the Liaison Group.

Martin Wilby retired due to ill health, Graham Plant taken over as cabinet member for highways, transport and infrastructure. More recently standing in for Andrew Proctor as leader of the council.

NCC is still awaiting confirmation from Central Government with regard to funding.

Norfolk NCC has deferred the decision to submit the planning application for undisclosed reasons. It is imperative that Felthorpe PC keep apprised of the Planning Application to ensure that the promised traffic mitigation measures for Felthorpe are included. There have been instances in other parishes where mitigation measures have been watered down. Construction due to start late 2024.

A47 Dualling

Development consent orders (DCO) has been issued for the North Tuddenham to Easton dualling, Blofield to North Burlingham dualling and Thickethorne Junction Improvement. These however have been challenged and are subject to judicial review in May 2023.

Construction of the North Tuddenham to Easton dualling has been delayed by a year. with startup now scheduled for September 2025.

Village Traffic

Crime (Year to January 2023)

Finance

2022-23 Expenditures were £10,622 offset by an income of £16,591 (Precept £12,483 + Grass Cutting £3,500 + VAT Reclaim £590 + Interest)
Net balance at end of 2022/23 Financial Year is £23,306 (£17,337 brought forward from 2021/22).

Felthorpe PC agreed to maintain the precept for 2023/24 at 2022/23 levels. Moved from Barclays to Unity Trust Bank with payments now being conducted online.

NCC/Broadland

FPC responded to the NWL consultation.

FPC responded to NCC Devolution consultation.

Acknowledgements

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I wish to thank our County Councillor Tony Adams and District Councillors Lisa Starling and Dave Thomas for their support to making Felthorpe a better place for everyone.

And finally, thank Sonya for all her work in keeping all the Parish Council Policies, our finances, and us, the councillors, in order

Appendix B

Cricket Club Annual Report

Felthorpe Cricket Club had a reasonably successful season last year in contention for the league title until August when holidays and availability hit us, eventually finishing 4th in division 1 West.

The second team improved on last season, despite ending bottom of division 4 central, we recorded our first wins for 2 years.

Across both sides we regularly had 5 players under 17 years old, probably a first for the club.

We'd like to thank the Parish Council for the purchase and (this season), donation of the roller, an item no cricket club can do without.

As a club, like so many teams we are noticing not only the difficulties related to increasing costs (owning our ground can be a double edged sword as we have to fund everything), but also related to finding volunteers to help keep us running.

However we are looking forward to this season and we think have already recruited several new players.

Appendix C

Annual Report from the Recreation Ground & Pavilion.

Following on from last years report,

Recycling - The bottle banks are still well supported, but because of increases in collection fees the revenue is less but still worth carrying on with

A playground inspection has been booked, we have sourced a piece of wood for the see-saw, we need to seek more advice on the repairs also we are looking into getting the surfaces and play equipment cleaned.

Mr. Sibley is still maintaining the grounds and has inspected the trees and cut back some hedges he does an excellent job for us. The daffodils are looking lovely again.

All regular clubs have now restarted permanently now, ie, pilates,zumba, rock box, bingo and we will be having a boys football team again.

The soup lunches are well attended and the last one of the season will be a Coronation Ploughmans and Cream Tea.

Fundraising events arranged are a Music Quiz and a dog walk morning with refreshments at the end.

Looking forward we will be doing maintenance when required, sometimes it takes a bit longer as we are a very small committee now.

Appendix D

A Report from St. Margaret's Church, Felthorpe

2022 started with Covid restrictions still in place, but at least we could have Sunday services throughout the year. St. Margaret's remained open every day throughout the year.

It has been a joy to share significant events this year in people's lives with a baptism (1) of a young child from a family who live in Felthorpe. Unfortunately, there have been no weddings. We have been able to support relatives by having funeral services (3 at St Faith's Crem) for loved ones with no restrictions, 2 of whom were for long standing residents of the village. Of course, there was the joy of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which we celebrated with a special service at All Saints, Horsford (Felthorpe is part of the large Horsford Benefice) and then, just 3 months later, a special service to give thanks for her life, again at All Saints. It was good to have representatives from Felthorpe Councillors there including the Chair of Felthorpe Parish Council. Ben also came along to our annual Act of Remembrance and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council for those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice in War.

Income to St Margaret's has remained constant. With a regular congregation of 7, most of whom commit to planned giving, it is a struggle to keep the church viable financially. The accounts haven't yet been finalised for 2022 but there is a deficit expected. The Church Council are considering the options and will consult with the parishioners of Felthorpe asking them what they would like to happen concerning the Parish Church. At this point there are no changes to the rhythm of a weekly services. However, the PCC recognise operating at a deficit is not sustainable and this may change in the future.

The churchyard remains open to everyone; thank you again to the Parish Council not only for the grant towards the grass cutting but being in dialogue with myself and the PCC on the future sustainable maintenance of the churchyard. The PCC appointed a contractor for 2023 to maintain the churchyard to ensure it is accessible to most people and to be a safe environment.

The Diocese is currently undergoing a church buildings review. Norfolk has the highest number of medieval churches, such as St Margaret's, and it is of course listed grade 2 *. The Review is looking at future use and sustainability, particularly where there is a small congregation. St Margaret's is vulnerable. We await their report later this year.

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There have been some positives! Plans became reality with the removal of both side aisles of pews to try to make it a building accessible for community groups and events. Chairs and small tables haven't yet been purchased as the PCC recognised it is important to understand the space available. I hope this gives an opportunity for the church building to be open and viable in the short term and beyond.

I, with the PCC, continue to ensure the church building is used for regular, weekly worship as well as being a place of quiet and reflection for those seeking peace and quiet. Thank you for your contribution towards this.

Revd Margaret McPhee, Rector, April 2023

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Appendix E

Fuel Allotment Charity

To confirm the distributions for 2022 year and allied data for presentation to the parish council next week.

We have 5 trustees who live locally.

11 parishioners received a grant in May 2022 of £80.00

13 parishioners received a winter grant in December of £40.00 making a total giving of £1320.00 for the year. The trust endeavours to make parishioners aware that we are active.

R.B, Rowlands
Chairman to Trustees
March 2023