

FELTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

**The Annual Parish Meeting of Felthorpe was held on 7 May 2024 at
8.00pm at the Pavilion**

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Andrew Cooper (in the Chair)
Paula Carter
Martin Dickinson

Andrea Elsdon
Wendy Saunders

Also Present:

Tony Adams (County Councillor)

3 members of public

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 April 2023.

AC 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.

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

Regarding speeding, a parishioner reported that more figures were required before it could be proved that there was an issue within the parish. These could be provided by regular speed monitoring within the parish.

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.

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

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

Meeting closed at 20:10

Appendix A

Chairman's report

Firstly, I welcome all to our annual meeting to whom I have the pleasure of offering this report.

I must say it has been a pleasure to act as chairman of the parish council, a position I took up last May having served on the council for some years prior. I realise that on taking over from our previous chairman I have big boots to fill and will continue to use my best endeavours to carry on the previous good work carried out on behalf of all parishioners.

It was a personal honour and privilege to represent the council at our local church, laying a wreath at the service of remembrance and delivering a reading at the Christmas carol service. Whilst I am not a regular visitor, I do recognise the value of the church to many in the parish and will continue to support them where possible.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for their time and efforts in serving the parish. It has been a pleasure to welcome new members this year, creating a possibly wider and more diverse group, offering a different perspective in many areas. At the same time, I must thank those who recently stood down for all their time and efforts over many years.

Thanks must also go to our clerk who carries out her role with commitment, professionalism, and due diligence, maintaining a firm hand on the rudder in all aspects of administration and finances.

On the matter of finances your council maintains a healthy position. During the year we provided grants to the local Felthorpe Cricket Club, St Margarets Church and to the Pavilion. We must also offer thanks to the pavilion committee for many things, but particularly for allowing use of their facilities enabling us to hold our meetings there.

Meeting are held the first Tuesday of the month with ten being held each year, the exceptions being August and January. Our meetings are held in public, so all are welcome to attend, with opportunity being offered to briefly address council if desired.

I have always believed that good communication is key in all aspects of life, so it was good to see the launch our parish council newsletter this year, much credit to the work of editor and creator Kevin Winkworth.

Throughout the year we have liaised with other parties involved in the western link road, and the affect this will have on our village, issues around traffic etc.

Councillors Martin and Wendy, along with Ben, our previous chairman, attending meetings, offering suggestions, and reporting back to council. We will continue to actively represent the best interests of the parish in this regard seeking to influence and affect thinking. Speeding and volume of traffic though the village remains an issue and we have actively called for reduced limits, repositioning boundaries, and other measures to aid with this. In a small way we hope to further affect the thinking of those traveling through the village as we have purchased “think twenty” stickers to be offered to residents who can add these to wheelie bins, allowing the message to be reinforced every time the bins are out for collection.

Following requests, we have also added further dog bins around the village offering more regular stations for depositing those little black bags.

Regarding keeping the village clean we organised a community litter pick, which is unfortunately required as the message of taking litter home doesn't seem to resonate with all. Thanks must go to all who volunteered or assisted on the day.

Throughout the year we have had various planning applications, none of which have been particularly contentious. All applications are considered and discussed prior to any actions.

I am pleased to advise parish crime reports are minimal.

We were pleased to have secured the funding, thanks to Tony Adams at Norfolk County Council, to enable the resurfacing of the pavement on Taverham Road, along with hedge cutting in the area. It is a shame that some few months later the same pavement has been somewhat spoiled with having a trench dug and refilled after the laying of the fibre broadband cabling. I often wonder whether lessons in communication between companies carrying out related or affecting works should be offered.

Thanks for his regular attendance and efforts on our behalf must go to Tony Adams, our Norfolk County Councilor, and to Nic and Lisa from Broadland District Council.

I would also thank Terry Dicker of TD Exterior cleaning for his work in keeping the village signs clean and moving the SAM cameras, and to Mr Sibley for his work in maintaining our villages grassed areas. These works all assist in keeping our village looking tidy and well-kept hopefully leading to a further pride being taken by all.

Finally, I must personally thank all for their support throughout the last year.
-Andrew Cooper – Chairman Felthorpe Parish Council.

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Appendix B

Cricket Club Annual Report

As a brief overview we thank the parish council for the grant last year which has helped the club. We are fielding 2 sides in the Norfolk Cricket League again this year and have entered the Wensum Cup along with arranging more friendly games on Sundays and midweek

Appendix C

Annual Report from the Recreation Ground & Pavilion.

Last year has been a difficult year with two of our Committee Members resigning at the 2024 AGM. So we are going to find ourselves with only 6 Committee Members which would leave us short of a quorum which mean that no voting on decisions can be made.

So we decided to hand out flyers to villagers to see if we could encourage new members, so far we have had nine enquiries and 5 new Committee Members so our situation is now looking more promising.

We also received a £1,000.00 grant from the Parish Council which was gratefully received and has gone towards our very costly Annual Insurance bill.

Moving on we now need to do some serious fundraising, we have so far planned a Quiz & Chilli evening, a car boot (indoor & outdoor) and also an Xmas Fayre which we tried last year and was very succesful.

Also the Pavilion has been open for 30 years this year so we are holding a celabration hopefully to encourage families to come along, there will be a live band, food, drink, and tombola etc.

We hope through lots of advertising these events we might be able to raise much needed funds cover the rising costs of keeping the hall open.

One of our new committee members also suggested having some kind of food at christmas for people who are on their own at that time of year, perhaps we could get some local businesses to contribute for this also.

Doug Barney - Chairman

Appendix D

A Report from St. Margaret's Church, Felthorpe

The church and churchyard remains open to everyone in the Parish of Felthorpe, and beyond. We've noticed through evidence of Visitor book signing and use of the refreshments that there has been an increase in numbers visiting the church.

One of our priorities is to provide Welcome and Hospitality, whether there in person or not; we hope to develop this in 2024 with more visual displays of the life of Felthorpe church and it's part in the wider Benefice of Horsford.

The churchyard remains open to everyone; thank you again to the Parish Council not only for the grant towards the grass cutting and churchyard maintenance. The PCC's appointed contractor for 2023 and 2024 has provided a sensitive and accessible place with mowed paths to walk around as well as a full cut 3 times a year to maintain the safety yet respecting our aim to have a more eco churchyard approach.

The Parish achieved the Bronze Eco Church Award from A Rocha, a charity which encourages churches and congregations to understand more about sustainability and environmental concerns. We are at the beginning of this journey which will remain part of the Church Council priorities.

The Diocese has completed the church buildings review "Lifelines for Historic Churches and their Communities". Norfolk has the highest number of medieval churches, such as St Margaret's, and it is of course listed grade 2 *. The Review is to go to Diocesan Synod later in 2024 and from that we will know the potential future use and sustainability, particularly where there is a small congregation. St Margaret's is vulnerable with 7 in the congregation, a low usage in terms of life event celebrations such as baptisms (2 in 2023) and weddings (none in 2023). Funerals are also low in number with none taking place in the church building but 2 for local residents taking place at St Faith's Crematorium.

It is good to have representatives from Felthorpe Parish Council attend our special services. Remembrance and the Carol Service are 2 such events. With positive feedback received from those who attended from the village, both of these marked a decision to shift from exclusively traditional language services. In 2024 the services still remain largely traditional (Book of Common Prayer) 3 times per month but with a modern language service once a month. 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

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been finalised for 2023 but the draft accounts indicate a deficit of £1,400, down from a deficit of £1,900 in 2022. With the congregation giving reaming static, the PCC are looking at options through the use of a questionnaire around the village in 2024, of how people might get more engaged with their local church and potentially their finance support for it to remain viable.

Positive news is the almost completion of the wider space in the church. available. There feeling of space has been created and the imagination of what might has been started to try to bring this into wider community use.

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 2024

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Appendix E

Fuel Allotment Charity

The figures for 2324 are 15 recipients @ £45 per person.

It was highlighted that funds were available if parishioners needed them for any items.