

WACTON ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

1st MAY 2024 Minutes

at 5.30pm

7 Members of the public attended.
3 Parish Councillors
County Councillor Alison Thomas
District Councillor Kim Carsok

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone to keep their report to 5 minutes please.

2. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting

Proposed Pete Fraser Seconded Kat Ireson

3. To allow non-electors to speak at the meeting.

No comments

4. To receive any apologies

Felicity Perry gave her apologies all agreed to accept.
John Johnson gave his apologies all agreed to accept.

5. To receive reports from: -

- Norfolk County Council – Alison Thomas

Alison commented that this is her last annual meeting of the parish after 18 years as serving our area and hopes to keep in touch when she moves to a new area if standing at the next elections.

Alison gave the following figures for all to digest around Norfolk.

90,018 thousand parishioners

£1.8 billion spend on social care per day and this is still not enough

36,000 miles of roads

490 miles of coast line with a campaign still ongoing to stop erosion and help those communities.

Bacton Gas terminal supply over a third of all gas supplies in the UK

47 Libraries

750 fire station

42 fire stations that are run by volunteers as retained fire fighters.

The long Stratton Bypass is awaiting the funding sign off and construction should start soon with many of the side roads not available to traffic during the construction process

although there may be access via Hall Road once the new bridge is installed.

There will be 600 homes to the west built and 1200 to the east but only a maximum of 250 can be built whilst the bypass is under construction.

Finally there will an election May 2025 when the county will vote for a directly elected leader as well as local elections.

Alison was thanked for her wonderful service to the village over the past 8 years and sorely missed.

- South Norfolk Council – Kim Carsok

District councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report.

South Norfolk Council is proud to have been able to continue enhancing the services provided, while maintaining some of the lowest levels of Council tax in Norfolk.

The Council's 2024/25 budget was set in February with a modest annual increase agreed at £5 for a band D property. This helps to cover inflationary pressures like the increase in National Living Wage.

Alongside the £64 million revenue budget for this year we also approved a capital programme totalling £97 million over the next five years. This includes projects such as:

- Wymondham Public Realm, high street regeneration
- Expansion of the waste and recycling depot to accommodate food waste collections
- Regeneration of Diss South Mere area on old John Grose site
- Contribution towards building the Long Stratton Bypass
- Building two new GP Surgeries in Hethersett and Diss
- Purchase of housing for temporary accommodation, supporting people in crisis
- Extra support for the planning enforcement team for two years

A few bits of recent news:

Community awards: deadline for nominations by 22 May - please nominate volunteers and charitable organisations!

On 19 March a new Changing Places Toilet was opened at Whitlingham Country Park. The new facility will allow people with severe disabilities to enjoy the park. South Norfolk Council contributed £40,000 towards the project.

We are now offering more group fitness classes spaces at our leisure centres. We've also launched a new youth membership and an active senior's membership.

Our Help Hub, community connectors, social prescribers and District Direct team continue to help people who need holistic support with a huge range of issues. The Help Hub is handling about 500 queries per week and District Direct has just dealt with the 5,000th referral.

In our AGM next week we will be voting on a new leader of the council due to John Fuller's elevation to the House of Lords

My door is always open so please call or email me if you'd like to chat about anything South Norfolk Council can help with.

- Wacton Parish Council

Projects ongoing as detailed below.

Book exchange work continuing forward with the roof going on soon as it has been delayed due to damp around the back and should be completed soon.

The Orchard is coming on and there may need to be toppers but on the new fence.

The damaged play equipment will hopefully be replaced once new funding has been found.

The work in the copse continues.

- Wacton Community Woodland

Work ongoing and the new growth is sprouting out of the trees and the area is looking good with this progression of the new work.

Construction of a shelter for children to enjoy.

- All Saints Church

All Saints Church gave the report detailed on appendix 1.

Comments were asked that the bench against the church could be moved to allow access to the bench. It is hoped this will be done soon.

- Wacton Village Hall

Report attached as appendix 2.

- Social Club

The social club is still holding bingo 1st Friday in the month have really taken off with over 60 people attending the events.

The event on the third Friday in the month had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

However, the social club plan to do a food night on the third Saturday and are looking at doing a Sunday roast every other Sunday going forwards.

The social club are also thinking of not holding the children's Christmas party due to the children getting older and instead of this doing a pensioners or older persons meal.

The funds in the social club account currently sit at around £3.8 thousand so are very

healthy.

- Wacton Coffee Mornings

The coffee meetings are in their 15th year and have between 15-20 people attend and all the volunteers are thanked for their help. The profits from the coffee morning are good and still allow the team to donate £100 to a local charity. It is hoped these mornings will continue.

- Speed watch Group.

No report from Speed watch group

6. Any further reports

None

7. Any other business

Events could be out on the Wacton Facebook Page to assist.

Last day of the hounds and hunt master as the groom and people looking after the hounds has both left.

The church restoration is important and there is the misconception the church belongs to the church of England not the village. So, all events are needed to be supported and the ancient building needs to be assisted in any way moving forward. The church is a grade 1 listed building on the heritage England's listed building register. It is hoped the legislation for Parish Councils to help churches in the future.

Thank you for attending and meeting finished around 6.20pm

**ALL SAINTS' WACTON
ANNUAL REPORT
1 MAY 2024**

The church remains on Historic England's At Risk Register. Work continues on launching a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The PCC has engaged Saul Penfold, a professional in grant applications to assist with the submission. Over 60 people attended the initial Village Consultation in November 2023 and the PCC is extremely grateful to those who have offered to assist with the funding application and associated activities. It is hoped that the initial Expression of Interest will be submitted in the next few weeks.

Ruth Blackman has taken over as Church Architect and Stuart Armitage remains as Structural Engineer. This team, along with Saul Penfold, have great experience with lottery funding bids and have been overseeing Forncett St Peter's successful project. Emily Strike and Helen Smith have been organising All Saints' lottery bid and would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement.

Wacton has joined the Pilgrim Benefice, which consists of Aslacton, Bunwell, Carleton Rode, Great Moulton and Tibenham. Although St Mary's and St Michael's Long Stratton are currently part of the benefice, a new Rector has been appointed for the Long Stratton churches and they will leave the Pilgrim Benefice when the new Rector takes up her post. Wacton still offers two services a month, thanks to our rector, John Madinda. The PCC would also like to thank Angie Baldwin for all her work and support – Angie has had to step back recently in order to care for her father and is much missed.

Dakota Sillett has been cutting the churchyard on a regular basis and the PCC is very grateful to Robert Maidstone and Maurice Read who have given many hours of their time doing various other jobs in the churchyard. The PCC would also like to thank the Parish Council for its valuable contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard. John Fendick and Maurice have recently repaired the church noticeboard, which was damaged in the strong winds and the PCC is very grateful.

The finances of the church remain in a parlous situation. Whilst we are extremely appreciative of all the support we get, our income remains meagre and our expenses, eg insurance and electricity, continue to rise. The monthly coffee mornings are an essential fund-raising activity and the PCC would like to thank everyone who helps and attends.

Finally, the PCC is currently short on numbers and would very much welcome anyone who wished to join.

James Warren
Treasurer, All Saints PCC
1st May 2024

Wacton Village Hall Trustee Report

2023/2024

Following the resignation of the previous trustees including Secretary and Treasurer this put the future of the village in question as there was very few volunteers to come forward. But following a public meeting and some persuading from the present chairman we manage to form a new committee of Trustees as follows:

John Johnson (Chairman)

Michael Riordan (Secretary)

Anna Poulton (Treasurer)

Maz Richardson (Booking Clerk)

Elizabeth Hawes (Fire Warden)

Steve Kennett

Elaine Ambrose

Following on from these appointments the future of the Village Hall is looking good.

The aim this year is to do some external repairs and decoration, replace the light to the car park area and ask for some volunteers from the village to help once the weather settles down. There is also a plan to extend the service cupboard by decreasing the large void space in the ladies toilet.

We have provided a lockable cupboard in the kitchen area for the coffee morning club and we are doing the same for the WI.

As you are already aware we have had an issue with the heating system at the end of last year which has now been repaired by replacing and upgrading the pipe work.

The Social club have funded and supplied the TV and the village hall has paid for the TV licence.

The Wi-Fi has been upgraded in partnership with the Parish Council.

Bookings seem to be doing well with regular hirers along with some new regular hire bookings for 2024 with some positive feedback, casual bookings also seem to be on the increase.

Wacton Village Hall is in a good financial position going into the new financial year however there is a deficit in 2023/2024 mainly due to major repairs to the heating system, the deficit finished at £8.4k.

The bank balances are healthy and with increased bookings we expect to see an improvement to the numbers going into the new financial year.

We are looking to host some fund raising event to help keep our hire fees down

The Village Hall Trustees will be holding an AGM meeting early June.

Below is a summary of the end of year draft financial position of Wacton Village Hall.

23/24 Accounts**Actual Income and Expenditure**

Income		
Hall Hire	-£	4,447.00
WSC (not used)	£	-
Transfer from Deposit	-£	8,300.00
Misc Income	-£	241.05
Grant Income	£	-
Total Income	-£	4,688.05
Expenditure		
Maintenance	£	6,546.98
Utilities	£	1,624.21
Insurance	£	1,320.02
Cleaning	£	2,004.14
Rates	£	104.63
Misc Expenditure	£	944.41
Grant Expenditure	£	600.00
Total Expenditure	£	13,144.39
Deficit Surplus	£	8,456.34
Capital Expenditure	£	-
Transfer to Deposit	£	-

Reserves

Deposit Account 2513		
Opening Balance	£	48,389.17
transfers	-£	8,300.00
Interest Received	£	623.37
Closing Balance	£	40,712.54
	£	-
	£	-
Total Reserves	£	40,712.54

Financial Statement		
Balances Brought Forward from 2022/2023	£	50,358.17
Plus Income	£	4,688.05
Interest Received	£	623.37
Minus Expenditure	£	13,144.39
Balances Carried Forward to	£	42,525.20
As Represented By:		
A/C 2505	£	1,812.66
A/C 2513	£	40,712.54
Total At Bank	£	42,525.20

Bank Accounts		
<u>Current Account</u>	Opening Balance	£ 1,969.00
	income	£ 4,688.05
	expenditure	£ 13,144.39
	transfers	£ -
	Closing Balance	-£ 6,487.34
<u>Deposit Account</u>	Opening Balance	£ 48,389.17
	transfers in	£ -
	transfers out	£ -
	interest received	£ 623.37
		£ 49,012.54
Total		£ 42,525.20