



**Minutes of the Great Notley Annual Parish Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the Community Centre Great Notley**

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Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Ricci (Acting Chair) Butland, Crawford, Pritchard, Sheppard and the Clerk

3 members of the public were present

In the absence of the Chairman, it was **agreed** that the Vice Chairman is acting Chair for the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Councillors Cunningham and Griffin, a representative from the WI and from the vicar from the Church in Great Notley.

**2. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were **agreed** by Councillors as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair.

**3. To receive reports from Parish organisations and groups.**

A representative from the Scouts confirmed that all 6 sections have been busy this year and have helped at NGCA and Parish Council events. Over 70 young people participated in a camping trip. The Scouts are seeking more adult leaders and indeed more young people to join as there was a downturn due to lockdown. They are considering setting up a 'Squirrels' group for ages 4-5 years. They are looking to replace a number of tents that are worn out.

A representative from the Notley Green Community Association (NGCA) reported that the Ducklings pre-school affiliated to NGCA has received an 'outstanding' OFSTED grading. NGCA offers a free weekly hire to a toddler group which is very popular. They have hired out to 70 special occasion parties during the year and to regular groups from children's groups to table tennis, badminton and carpet bowls plus Scouts and the WI. He thanked the Parish Council for grant funding towards the fete which raised over £8,000 for local charities. NGCA has also hosted refreshments after the Parish Council Remembrance service, a Pantomime which was free of charge to attend and took over the hosting of the Carols around the Christmas tree event. The fete will again be hosted this year. The bookings are not yet back to pre-covid levels and a review of charges will be undertaken as the organisation is only just breaking even and reserves have been reduced as a result of the upgrade to the heating system and there is a need to renovate the flooring.

A representative from WINGS WI reported that this year the group has heard from a variety of speakers and hosted a stall at the fete. They received a National Lottery grant enabling them to expand their craft activities. They have also been away on trips including trips to the theatre and also laid a wreath at the Remembrance event. They assisted at the Carols around the Christmas tree event and are planning to decorate the village sign to commemorate the Coronation in May.

The Clerk read out a report from the Church in Great Notley which advised of the success of the foodbank which is hosted at the Church on a Tuesday and summarised the activities hosted including coffee mornings, a baby and toddler group, a lunch club for the elderly, a Dad's and children breakfast club and a youth group which is looking for more volunteers. A solo parent support group has also been set up. They also host a pre-school, pilates, a theatre group, a grief support group and parties. This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the setting up of the church which was first hosted in a portacabin then in the Community centre before the building of the Church was completed in 2010 and celebrations are planned this year including a family fun day on 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The Acting Chair thanked the voluntary groups and the Church for their efforts in the community.

#### **4. The Parish Council Chairman's report for the year**

The report can be viewed on the Parish Council website and in the Great Notley Times magazine which is being distributed this week.

#### **5. District Councillor report**

Councillor Ricci reported on the practical and financial support provided by the District Council as the area came out of lockdown restrictions last year including grants to organisations and businesses. The District Councillors have assisted with many issues including parking, planning and providing a grant for tree planting in the Parish and it has been a pleasure to serve the electorate.

#### **6. County Councillor report**

Councillor Butland confirmed that his full annual report can be read in the Great Notley Times and confirmed that he has specifically assisted within this Parish on issues surrounding racing cars on the bypass where dispersal orders have been put into effect and with pothole schemes where the majority of potholes reported have now been repaired although some more issues have arisen and will be reported.

#### **7. Any other matters raised by residents**

A resident asked about the status of the Police investigation into the swan that had been killed at Panner's Pond and it was confirmed that this is still under investigation by the Police and updated will be posted on the Facebook page once more information has been supplied by the Police.

Meeting concluded at 7.56pm