

MESSINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Messingham Community Hub on Monday 24th April 2023 at 7pm.

PRESENT: Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr. N Poole
Clerk to the Parish Council – Tracey Black
14 members of the public (10 of whom are serving Parish Councillors).

1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from; A Russell (Messingham Girl Guides), S Usher (Messingham Martial Arts), A Tasker.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 23rd May 2022.

The draft minutes were circulated to those present and a copy had been placed on the website. The minutes were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters were raised from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

• **COUNCILLORS**

Cllr A Holmes, Cllr S Pollard and Cllr B Todd had all resigned from the Parish Council during the year. Cllr. B Todd had served on the Parish Council for 32 years. Cllr A Tasker had been co-opted onto the Parish Council in 2022.

• **IN BLOOM**

The Parish Council had sponsored both the 'Best Kept Front Garden' competition in the Village and the 'Best Kept Allotments' competition. Prizes of Garden centre vouchers had been presented to the winners at the annual Village Horticultural show held in September.

The Parish Council had been awarded two 'In Bloom' grants from NLC during the year, of £251 towards 2 new barrier planters and £381 to purchase 9 x 25kg nets of daffodil bulbs and a further barrier planter. The daffodils have been planted along the verge of the recreational field on Holme Lane.

• **GRASS CUTTING**

The cutting of the Highway verges in Messingham, the Public footpaths in both Messingham & Holme and the grass cutting in East Butterwick and Manton had continued to be managed by the Parish Council on the NLC devolved grass cutting scheme. Grants / reimbursements had been received from NLC for all of this work. The scheme allows the Parish Council to have control and gives flexibility to be able to cut according to seasonal growth.

• **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

There had been a good gathering for the service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday in 2022 and 28 wreaths were laid by Village organisations.

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The old halogen floodlights at the War Memorial have been replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting during the year.

An offer has been received to redesign the present poppy wreath frame to include a 2nd tier.

- ALLOTMENTS

57 allotment plots are rented out and there has been a steady uptake of the new plots that have been made available.

Vacant small holding land of 14 acres is available for rent. A Land Agent has been asked for options and advice.

- CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

There had been more than ever Christmas decorated homes and shops in Messingham and Holme.

Certificates and shields had been presented to the winners of the Best Residential, Best Commercial and Best Street display competitions.

A Special Recognition Award had also been presented in 2022 to Hayley Charlesworth who organised the successful Advent Window Trail which had revealed a new window display each evening around the village.

- NEW PATH ON KEALHOLME OPEN SPACE

A new path was installed in December 2022 on the open space land, providing a link from Allison Close to the rest of the path network. The new path will provide safer access for pedestrians and allow full access for those with mobility issues. The new path had been achieved with the help of a grant from NLC of £3,000.

- HORTICULTURAL SHOW

More classes had been re-introduced at the Horticultural Show in 2022 following Covid.

All proceeds raised from the Show of £227.87 had been donated to Lindsey Lodge Hospice.

- COMMUNITY HUB

Library facilities are available in the Community Hub for two sessions a week and are provided by volunteers. The library is managed by NLC library services.

There is a well-attended craft group on Wednesday afternoons.

Teas, coffees, cakes and biscuits provided by WI ladies are available during both sessions.

The Hub is available to hire for meetings; group activities; workshops; events etc.

- VOLUNTEERS

The Chairman reported that Messingham is lucky to have many groups and individuals who make a fantastic contribution in both time and effort litter picking around both Messingham & Holme.

In gratitude of all the good work of volunteers in our community, Messingham Parish Council invited the volunteer litter pickers and the Library volunteers to a 'Thank you' get together in December 2022.

- HOLME MEADOW RECREATION FIELD

Planning permission has been granted to Messingham Parish Council for a new building to replace the existing storage container on Holme Meadow recreation field, comprising Changing facilities / toilets including accessible toilet / storage.

The Parish Council is investigating the options for the tendering process and exploring funding.

- **ANNUAL PRECEPT**

2022/23 - The Precept for 2022/23 was £72,107 against a budget of £82,107 with the shortfall being met from Accumulated Reserves.

Donations to local organisations totalled £9,772.50.

The Chairman's Allowance made a donation to the Royal British Legion of £200.

Grants were awarded to Messingham Parish Council from NLC during the year of;

- HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Grant - £157.87 for Jubilee merchandise.
- Spring in Bloom Grant - £251 towards 2 new barrier planters costing £338.90 + VAT.
- Community Grant - £3,000 towards installation of a new path on Kealhome Open Space land costing £6,460 + VAT.
- In Bloom Grant - £381.03 for a new barrier planter and daffodil bulbs.
- HM King Charles III Coronation Grant - £178 for the purchase of mugs to present to all newborns of the Parish in 2023.

2023/24 - The Precept for 2023/24 is £91,485 against a budget of £71,000 with the shortfall to be met from Accumulated Reserves.

There will be no increase in the Parish Council element of Council Tax for 2023/24.

Grants to local organisations for 2023/24 will amount to £7,645.

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023.

A financial statement showing Receipts & Payments and the Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 had been circulated prior to commencement of the meeting to all those present.

There were no questions raised.

7. VILLAGE ORGANISATION REPORTS

MESSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Mr & Mrs Kirk gave a report on the activities that take place in the Methodist Church building. The building is used most evenings by the uniformed organisations. Other regular events have slowly returned to near normality following Covid such as the monthly Tuesday Friendship Club, Wednesday Lite Bite and the regular coffee mornings. These sessions provide opportunities to meet and socialise in a warm and friendly environment.

The building is fully maintained and available for the use of the community.

MESSINGHAM HORSE & FOAL SHOW

Sally-Anne Cowling (MHFS Chair) thanked the Parish Council for the grant given in 2022 towards the cost of providing activities and facilities for children at Messingham Show.

The 2023 Show will be held on Saturday 10th June 2023 from 10am to 9pm. Own food and drink will be allowed on the showground in 2023.

The Show had suffered a big financial loss in 2022 as a result of the low attendance due to the wet weather on the day of the show.

MESSINGHAM JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Sean Maloney (MJFC Secretary) gave a report on the current strength of the football club. The club has 170 – 180 players with 13 teams in the local league. The club also provides introduction sessions for youngsters; an all-girls U7's team and 2 adult teams.

Thanks were given to the Parish Council for the grant provided in 2022 towards a set of wheeled goals. The portable goals have meant that the club has flexibility to move the layout of the pitches and therefore able to protect the wear of the grass.

The pitch on Northfield Road has been reseeded with a grant from the Football Association.

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MESSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Chris Scott (Village Hall Chairman) reported a successful year for the Village Hall. The Parish Council was thanked for the grant in 2022 towards replacing the lighting with more efficient LED lighting. A new boiler had been installed.

A proposal to build an extension on the east side of the building for a storage facility is being considered.

MESSINGHAM MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

Penny Skelton (MMPFA Treasurer) reported that work had focussed on the condition of the grass and advice had been received from the Football Association. The Parish Council was thanked for the grant which was used towards this specialist advice and also the hire of machinery to control the chafer bug issue on the field.

MESSINGHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE

Jill Fenwick (WI Chairman) reported a successful year for the WI which has 40 members. Events during the previous year included fundraising at Messingham Show; Harvest supper; monthly meetings with speakers/food and participation in the National WI annual resolution 'Clean rivers for people and wildlife'.

8. ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM PARISHIONERS

- i) Rabbits - The matter of the number of rabbits on the playing field on Northfield Road was raised and the damage they cause to the field and football pitches. It was noted that there had been a slight improvement following the recent steps collectively taken to reduce the impact.
- ii) Saplings planted on Holme Meadow field – concerns were raised regarding the lack of growth of the new saplings planted in 2022. The Chairman reported that some of the saplings had been lost during the hot dry summer in 2022, however the Woodland Trust had provided 150-200 replacements which had been planted in the Autumn.
It was noted that approximately 40 fruits trees have now been planted in the new Community Orchard at the Allotment site.

9. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and remarked how encouraging it was to have a good representation from many village organisations.

The meeting closed at 19:35.