

GISSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

On Tuesday 7th May 2024, 7.00pm

At Gissing Community Building

Councillors Present	Cllr Eddington (Chair), Cllr Leeder, Cllr Jordan, Cllr Calton, Cllr Bradley, Cllr James Easter
In Attendance	3 parishioners, Parish clerk L Fountain

1. Chairman's welcome

The Parish Council Continues to work hard to support the community of Gissing in various ways with local flooding and footpaths occupying much of the councils time this year. The council continues to liaise with the county and district councils regarding highways and other public services to ensure things run smoothly.

2. Apologies for absence

District Cllr Catherine Rowett

3. Summary of Parish events and Council's activities over the last 12 months

This time last year we were celebrating the King's Coronation and the unveiling of the village sign. A very successful event.

Steve Sell and Joe cromley have retired from the Parish council and we would like to thank them for their many years of excellent work with particular reference the to the Community Orchard and the new village sign. We were pleased to welcome Paul Leeder and Dawn Bradley to the council who have both settled in well.

We recruited a new Clerk Lisa Fountain and has been working hard to complete her training and get up to speed in a very short time. We would like to thank all councillors for their excellent work this year. We would like to thank Bernie for all the hours of extra work she put in without payment whilst acting as temporary clerk during which time she made several changes to improve the working of the council. Also, for the time she spent introducing Lisa to the council and helping her to learn the ropes.

The council has been working with The Rivers Trust and The River Waveney trust in a support role for their Natural flood Management scheme which has been carried out on the meadows of Miss Colchester and Malcolm Turton. The council would like to thank them both for allowing the pioneering scheme which has generated a lot of interest to go ahead. The scheme has been well tested with torrential rain falling within a week of completion and has proved to be very successful with flood water taking the predicted routes along the old route of the beck and overflowing across the meadow.

The Parish Council Has been working with the district council and parishioners to ensure that the diverting of Gissing Footpath 6 is successful. We are told that the new route has been approved by the County Council and is awaiting legal approval. The footpath in front of Gissing Community building has been extended passed the shed to the Millenium Wood and a permissive footpath extends across school meadow via the scaffold bridge.

Mike Sarson is working with Karen Birchall the council's solicitor to sell the old village hall by auction as soon as possible.

Thanks to all volunteers who have given their valuable time to help with various tasks such as the annual litter pick and erecting the new village sign.

Village has a new maintenance worker, David Wood, who has been busy working on the car park and orchard. Many thanks to Malcolm Bushel for his previous good work.

The Parish Council removed the car park payment burden for the Children's Centre and church.

4. Summary of current activities and plans for the future

No new major schemes are planned, but we will look at the village survey to inform any upcoming plans.

The new newsletter will be circulated soon.

There are plans for new benches on Malthouse Lane, continuing work with the SAMS machine and speed limits.

We hope to sort the Village Hall sale as soon as possible.

5. Any other business

- Heart of Gissing report:

Accounts show a small profit – bookings at community centre are up with new regular groups including ballet. There is also a new dance school – Burlesque.

Monthly film night, talks and Friday café. Need volunteers to run café and the main fundraising event of the year – classic car show and beer festival on 2nd June.

Building committee liaising with school to improve the toilets. Building 7 years old – trustees are mindful that standards need to be kept up.

No takers of bursary this year.

- Flooding Upper Street – wrote to Catherine Rowett to thank her for help. Problem has been alleviated, however Highways have already spent their allocated funds for this year and next.