

Minutes of the Sporle with Palgrave Annual Parish Meeting
held

at the Community Centre, Sporle
On Thursday 13th April 2023.

Present: Gordon Burows (Chair) Janis Bevan.
Clerk: Sarah Hunt

1. Apologies for absence.
None.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 12th May 2022 were Signed as a true and correct record by the Chair.
3. Report from the Parochial Church Council – Attached at Appendix A.
4. Report by Chairman of the Parish Council – Attached at Appendix B.
5. Report from Sporle Community Association – Attached at Appendix C.
6. Report from Sporle Pavillion, Playing Field and Children's Playpark – Attached at Appendix D.
7. Report from Sporle Gardening and Flower Group – Attached at Appendix E.
8. Report from Sporle Stitch & Sew Group – Attached at Appendix F

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Appendix A

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SPORLE – REPORT TO SPORLE PARISH COUNCIL for Y/E April 2023

It's been a strange but busy year as we all try to recover from the ramifications of Covid.

Our Vicar Janet continues to serve us. Our Assistant Curate Tori, is moving to Mattishall for her final year.

We have monthly PCC meetings. Gino Corsini has been appointed as our Treasurer. After four years of trying, we have achieved the near impossible by getting a smart meter installed in the church, so we can all see with horror how the electricity meter wracks up the mileage.

It costs in excess of £30 per day to keep the church ticking over with costs of insurance, parish share, security cameras, heating oil and electricity. There is in addition the grass cutting. Now that we are hopefully out of the pandemic, all parishes need to revert to the full contribution needed by the Diocese to cover costs, including our Vicar's salary. Although that amount has only slightly increased, it does mean the amount Sporle needs to find has increased substantially from pandemic levels. I appreciate that it is the same for everyone. If you haven't already done so, please join the 200 Club to help support our church, a wonderful building steeped in history.

We continue to serve the community; this year we had three baptisms and this coming year we have four weddings booked. We continue to forge greater links with our School whereby the children come into the church for end of terms services, Christmas, Easter, etc. Following a fall in the churchyard we have installed notices to use caution when grave visiting, relaxing in the churchyard or dog walking. A new seat has been donated and should be installed soon.

In August we had a Quinquennial Inspection and a number of challenges have been identified, which we are endeavouring to attend to. The remedial work to the gutters and groundwork has been addressed but we do have serious problems with possible movement of the south wall of the nave.

All the above has meant that we have had extra fund-raising events during this year.

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| April | Soup and rolls in the Community Centre. |
| May | Plant swap at the church with refreshments. |
| May | Joint Benefice Rogation Sunday service held in Sporle village instead of Town Farm, followed by refreshments. |
| May | School children's treasure hunt for Easter eggs in the churchyard. |
| July | Extravaganza in the Community Centre. |
| August | Joint Benefice Songs of Praise with Sporle Sing. |
| Sept. | Lazy Sunday Afternoon with refreshments. |
| Sept. | Harvest Supper in the Community Centre with Sporle Sing. |
| Oct. | Pets Service with 18 dogs, donkeys and alpacas. |
| Oct. | Norfolk Reeds Concert. |
| Nov | Royal British Legion service of Remembrance. |
| Dec. | Carol Service with Sporle Sing. |

The Parochial Church Council would like to thank everyone who has supported the church throughout the year.

June Palmer, Churchwarden.

Appendix B

Parish Council Chair Report 2022-3

The minutes for the years 2022-23 are available to all in various formats, I therefore will not restate the Councils work here.

I take this opportunity to proffer my unreserved gratitude and appreciation to the Councillors of *Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council*, all the many volunteers, Groups, Clubs and Parishioners who have and are still freely giving their time and support to neighbours, village charities and events.

Also, a big thank you to all who, over the years, have made my tenure on the Council interesting, enjoyable and fulfilling. I would like to express my gratitude to Elizabeth Durrant for her kind generous support and guidance during her period as Parish Clerk and would thank the previous three Clerks prior to Liz. In saying that, I wish the latest incumbent Sarah Hunt, has as good a relationship with the future Parish Chair and Councillors.

Gordon Burrows

Chair, Sporle with Palgrave PC

APPENDIX C.

SPORLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No: 1012860

Chair's Annual Report 2022/2023

We started the year with a freshly painted Village Hall but unfortunately, we were unable to re-surface the hall floor – hopefully this will be done in the summer this year. In March last year, the Nationwide informed Gordon that they were closing our account. As a result, we had 8 months of toing and froing and form filling trying to get another account set up with the only Bank that would take a charity account – Lloyds. A hall inspection took place with only a few hours' notice. Fortunately, the day before was one of Stephanie's cleaning days so all was well. The Inspector was not only interest in the condition of the hall and facilities but with the history of it as well. He was very complimentary with regard to the décor, the standard of cleanliness throughout and a very well equipped kitchen. We received 5 stars for hygiene, structure and confidence.

After the success of the Swaffham Shanty Crew at the Jubilee celebrations, they were booked for our Christmas celebrations. Tickets were sold at £4 each – selling 45 – and the Shanty Crew donated half of their fee to the hall as well. The annual kitchen clean was completed in October and many items not used were taken to the Charity shop or the tip! After this, John Corley redecorated the Kitchen.

The Monday Café is still only able to run every 2 weeks – we still need volunteer bakers and helpers. The Social Club has disbanded and along with a newly formed Bridge Club now use the newly opened Village Pub. We also have a new Secretary – a new comer to the village. Arrangements for the Coronation are well underway despite not receiving any funding from Breckland, but we did receive some funding from a private donation.

APPENDIX D

The Chair of the Charity Mrs Janis Bevan reported that the new play equipment had now been installed for a while and was looking great, although some finishing touches remain.

Plans for the pavilion extension are to be resubmitted with some slight changes to the use as the current plans. This is to increase potential usability and increase the number of people benefitting from the work to be undertaking. This will also enable funding to be attracted. The intention is now to have more recreational areas. There are also changes to the windows and doors to enable better spectator areas to watch sports events, improve access and utilise the building.

Once the plans are finalised and approved the groundworks stage will commence.

There has been increased activity on the field with the football club starting up again which is great for the village and offers a community focus.

The chair expressed her thanks to all those who had worked so hard to bring the projects to this stage.

APPENDIX E.

Annual report for Sporle Garden Group

The Garden Group has continued to maintain areas in Sporle that we have planted up previously. (Bunker's Hill bed, barrels outside the Methodist church, Community Centre and at Street end of Sydney Dye Court)

A bed was planted up in the centre of the new carpark by the pavilion with a variety of shrubs and smaller plants.

We also planted bulbs in the grass on the area opposite the Community Centre and sited a new planted up barrel, with another one expected soon.

Looking forward we are hoping to plant a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but are still waiting for permission from Highways and the Parish Council.

We will also plant a few shrubs alongside the back wall of the pavilion.

Open Garden visits are advertised in the Sporle Village magazine.

We still just have about 6 members but this is enough to continue our work.

Pam Rodie

May 2022

APPENDIX F

Stitch & Sew – Annual Report 2022 – 2023

The Group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons. At present we only have 7 members and have had to increase our subscriptions to help cover the hall rental.

In the summer at the Jubilee event, we ran a raffle with the Gardening Group to help with our funds.

During the year some members made poppies to add to the displays on the War Memorial and village sign. We also completed another wall hanging, "Teapots".

Members work on their own projects and at present are contributing to a village map, showing their houses and buildings.

Linda Burrows