

Minutes of the Sporle with Palgrave Annual Parish Meeting

Held at the Community Centre, Sporle
On Thursday 11th April 2024 at 6.30pm.

Present: J Bevan, M Cousins, H Dye, K McLeod (chair), P Smith, H Taylor, L Taylor
Clerked: Mrs Sarah Hunt, Parish Council Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence.
County Councillor W Nunn, District Cllr P Wilkinson.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 13th April 2023 were AGREED and signed by the Chair.
3. Report from the Parochial Church Council. Attached.
4. Report by Chairman of the Parish Council. Attached.
5. Report by Councillor Peter Wilkinson BDC. Previously circulated.
6. Report by Councillor William Nunn Norfolk Co. Co. Previously circulated.
7. Report from Sporle Community Association. None received.
8. Report from the Monday Café. Attached.
9. Report from Sporle Pavillion, Playing Field and Children's Playpark.
Attached.
10. Report from Sporle Football Club. Attached
11. Report from Sporle Gardening and Flower Group. Attached.
12. Report from Sporle Stitch & Sew Group. Attached.
13. Report from Holesworthy Charity. Attached.
14. Report from Sporle Town Farm Trust. Attached.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Item 3.

In June 2023 we saw Rev. Janet Allan, our Vicar retire but we have been blessed with Canon Stuart Naim guiding and supporting us through the maze of do's and don'ts. We have had funerals, baptisms and weddings this past year which demonstrates what an integral part of the village the church is and of course dog walkers and visitors continue to enjoy the peace of the churchyard.

Services have been maintained throughout the winter and the Parochial Church Council thank Sporle Town Farm Trust for their help with the heating. Occasionally we have a visiting organist but mainly manage the music with CD's and the 'Vogel Ensemble'.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Denise Corsini under whose guidance all the PCC have been able to undertake training and pass modules for the safeguarding of young children and vulnerable adults.

Our church keyholders list has been updated and is on the notice board by the church gate.

We continue to enjoy strong links with our village school, the Sporle Church of England Primary Academy. It's a joy to have them use the church, they are so well behaved and the children treat everything with great respect, a credit to the staff.

The PCC has monthly meetings and our treasurer, Gino Corsini balances the books. Our thanks to our PCC Minutes Secretary, Joyce Colclough.

The biggest headache was the October direct lightning strike on the tower which blew brickwork off the tower, burnt out the WiSpire equipment on the roof and burnt all the electrical wiring and sockets. We are still recovering from this and, of course, no insurers cover 100%.

Remedial work to the church building gutters and down pipes, plus a couple of roof leaks have been repaired. We would like to thank John Corley and Gino for their stalwart work getting the church boiler unit refilled with water, a party trick with hoses I understand! Sadly, the new seat installed in the churchyard in 2022 was stolen and found thrown in a ditch. This was a memorial to two much loved people. It has been repaired and will be refixed. The installation of a gate between the Playingfield and Churchyard is progressing. Currently we have the Youth Probation Service clearing brambles etc. in the churchyard.

During 2023 we have had events to share the village church with everyone. Plant Swap, Extravaganza, Lazy Sunday Afternoon and Harvest Supper with Sporle Sing, Pet's Service and Norfolk Reeds Concert.

We have a number of events planned for 2024, some regular favourites but also a few new initiatives. We aim to work closely with Sporle Community Centre to make these events an opportunity to eat and drink afterwards. The church will publish these events locally including in the Sporle Magazine.

Sporle Parochial Church Council would like to thank everyone who has supported the Church during the year and hope you will continue.

Item 4.

The Chair of the Council welcomed the new Councillors and expressed his wish that they find membership of the Council interesting work. The Council is a committed team pushing the village forwards.

The Village Sign renovation is complete and it is back in situ. There is now a maintenance contract in place.

As streetlights are replaced they will now be replaced with solar lighting – the new light is proving very suitable.

The Community Payback team has been in the village extensively and undertaken many works undertaking almost a 1,000 hours of unpaid work on various projects. The improvements in the Parish are very visible. The Youth Team are not yet in attendance, but the Council has offered to work with them.

The Neighbourhood Plan has started during the year and is doing very well, a steering group has been formed – the work to date has been grant funded.

There has been a new driveway to the Community Centre and Churchyard installed which was also grant funded.

The village gates are being installed at no cost to the Parish – Norfolk County Council's 50/50 funding application was successful and the balance is being funded by County Councillor William Nunn from his allowance.

Item 8.

Monday Café report 2023/4 for PC AGM

The Monday café continues to be popular running fortnightly.

The cost for drinks and cake was put up to £2.50 recently and no one had any issues with this as far as I know and people were happy to pay this.

The Christmas Fling was well attended and enjoyed by all.

We did try putting games out, scrabble, draughts etc to see if this would maybe appeal to different people but they weren't used.

More bakers and Tea rota servers are still needed as it is sometimes difficult to have enough if some are indisposed. Some ingredients have been donated and are given to bakers as needs arise.

Monday Café Team

Item 9.

The Trustees had spent considerable time working on understanding the governance of the charity to ensure moving forward it was being managed in alignment with the Charity documents.

Following advice from Community Action Norfolk and discussion with the Charity Commission it has been ascertained that there are two charities;

‘Sporle Village Fund’ used to be ‘Children’s Recreation Field’, current Trustees registered as John Rodwell and Howard Taylor – should be Sporle Parish Council (document dated 1969 refers) and owns the Recreation Field.

‘Pavilion, Playingfield and Children’s Playground’ used to be ‘Pavilion’, current Trustees Sporle Parish Council – was set up to build the pavilion, has no responsibility or ownership for the rest of the field.

The Clerk is working with the Charity Commission to regularise this – Sporle Village Fund is to be put back into the Trusteeship of the Parish Council, revert to the original name and manage the entire field.

The Pavilion charity can be closed with the Charity Commission agreement.

The Clerk is working to get online access to both charities to enable end of year returns to be completed.

The Pavilion, Playingfield and Children’s Playground accounts for the year ending March 2023 are currently with the Auditor awaiting return.

Item 10.

In only our second season back as a club we have become stronger and stronger as time has gone on. This season we signed some new players which has made our team even better. This season is still ongoing but with only 3 league games left we are right in contention for promotion, which would then be back-to-back promotions since we reformed as a club.

This season we have made it to the league Cup final where we will play our local rivals Swaffham Town A at the FDC in Bowthorpe Norwich on the 18th May, 1pm kick off. Not only that but we also managed to achieve reaching the quarter finals of the county Cup where we unfortunately lost to yet again our local rivals Swaffham (revenge is needed) :)

We still have 3 league games left to hopefully gain promotion and we are still in yet another cup where we have the chance of making it into another quarter final.

Kevin Burton and Steven Bailey are doing a great job and have created a great team spirit! The team has become such a strong unit and are now becoming a tough side to beat!

It is also much more inviting for away teams to travel to us now, due to the playing area being looked after and the up keep of the surroundings looking good too :)

Item 11.

Gardening Group report 2023/4 for PC AGM

We have been maintaining the beds and barrels around the village. Weeding and replanting as necessary.

We planted over a hundred more daffodil bulbs along the dyke in the Autumn and with help from the PC and Payback team erected a Christmas tree on the green.

This was decorated with spare baubles and battery operated lights which were very successful. The PC kindly donated funds for the lights and these have been kept to use again. The tree did not have roots so will soon be removed. The PC did supply us with a small rooted tree which we planted but unfortunately it doesn't look as if it has taken. We hope to try again with a rooted one when we have funds from the Open Gardens event.

This will take place in June and the Community Centre and Church are also taking part to raise funds. The football club may run some activities for children on the field.

We are hoping to sort out the area by the Community Centre door soon, replacing the weed membrane and bark.

Thank you again for support over the past year.

Sporle Gardening Group.

Item 12.

Annual Report for Stitch and Sew Group 2024

We continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 2.00. At present we have 7 members. One lady had to leave due to health reasons and one new member joined us.

The map of the village is progressing well. Two of our members create the Post Box toppers which change according to the season or occasion. These are admired and enjoyed by villagers.

The squares for the 'All Things Norfolk' wall hanging are going well and 12 have been made or are in the process of being worked on. No new members came forward from the appeal in the Magazine but two people are making one at home.

Items 12 and 13.

Usually known as the Sporle School Land Trust.

One application was received, this year.

Due to the lateness of the award, and with the unanimous agreement of the trustees, it was decided to make a two-year award, which was well received.

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