

ERPINGHAM with CALTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Martin K Campbell, Well Cottage, High Street, Southrepps, Norwich NR11 8AH
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Erpingham with Calthorpe held on Monday 7th March 2016 in the Village Hall, Erpingham

Present: Mr D Clayton, Mr W Goreham, Mrs C King, Mr N Smith (Chairman),
Mr A Witham; in attendance Cllr J Timewell (NCC) and 13 members of the public.

1. Chairman Norman Smith welcomed those present, apologies being received from Mr R Goodliffe, Mr P Watson, Simon East, matt Quinn and PCSO A Spinks.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on March 9th 2015 were taken as read.
3. Chairman's Report – Norman Smith reflected on a good year when the village saw its excellent amenities being well used by the community.

4. Other reports

4.1 Norfolk Police - in a written report PCSO Alex Spinks advised that there were nine crimes over the last year – a reduction.

4.2 Erpingham Village Hall

Chairman Tony More reported on good year – facilities used, improvements made. We have enjoyed continued success of established VH based activities such as coffee club and carpet bowls, a high level of regular and one-off bookings and an improved offer in that, thanks to the positive response from most of our neighbours, we can now stay open late at night for special events such as wedding receptions. It was pleasing that the village hall was put to use as a venue for some of last year's very enjoyable Agincourt celebrations. The VHMC have organised four successful events which were very enjoyable and raised significant funds towards the maintenance of the hall. It is worth stressing that we are a charity and the cost of maintaining our facilities is met by letting fees and volunteer fund raising and donations. Partnerships with the PC, the MUGA group, the Bowls club, the soccer club and other user groups have been positive and friendly. It has been pleasing to welcome a new community group, the Erpingham Leisure Hub as a regular user of the hall and their representative to the village hall management committee. Particular thanks to the PC for their donation of £1000 to help us out over last year's unexpected water leak expenses.

Playground: Many thanks to the teams of inspectors who check and tidy the playground every week throughout the year to help keep the playground safe for our children and grand children. Volunteer help has tidied the playground, clearing out the weeds, re-spreading the bark safety covering and repairing the broken see-saw. The Building: We've held three work parties to tidy the village hall externally and make minor repairs and we have re-surfaced the car park (particular thanks to Alan Witham who arranged for the new surfacing material to be spread and rolled) . Thanks to the initiative of Tony Peacock and some funding from the coffee club we have been able to install an electric cinema screen which has already been put to good use. Thank you to the cleaning teams all year round keeping us tidy and warm. It is very pleasing to welcome two new teams this year; it is good that new village residents are joining in; and to the Committee for their

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hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to developing the village hall at the heart of our community. All our fund raisers in particular carpet bowls club run by Marsinah and 200 club run by Jan Jeavons and her band of collectors. Looking ahead - we want to broaden still further the range of users for our facilities and to that end have launched a new website. We hope to remain a social focus for the community, for established residents and newcomers too of all ages, welcoming to people and new ideas.

4.3 Erpingham Football Club (Matt Quinn)

Erpingham United Football Club continue to field two teams in the North East Norfolk League. This is quite an achievement as we have seen 18 village teams fold over the last number of years. I personally have invested a lot of time and effort into ensuring that the teams continue, including marking out the pitch, recycling the old drinks bottles, trying to ensure the pitch side is left tidy after matches and taking dirty kit to and from the laundrette.

The club has signed on over 60 players this season, some who we have only seen for one game and not again. The core of players come from the Aylsham, North Walsham and Cromer areas. The 1st team captain lives in Erpingham and we have recently seen a number of players join the club from AFC Coltishall, following their recent demise. In fact the new first team manager is Matthew Mynett, who has previously played for AFC Coltishall, Erpingham and Aldborough. The one main draw back this season has been the change to the grass cutting contractors - unfortunately, due to the warm Autumn/early Winter the grass continued to grow. We last managed to play a home match on the 19th December, at which time the grass at the top corner of the pitch was getting close to ankle length. By the time we got into January the wet weather meant the contractors were unable to get onto the pitch, hence the slightly strange appearance of the pitch since then. The club have been fortunate in that we have been able to play our games at Aylsham Rec, but this will be at an additional cost of £20 per match. As I write these notes I'm not sure if the grass has been cut, but if not we will have to re-schedule the coming weekends game to Aylsham Rec - which bring the total up to 6 matches, so £120 extra that the club have to pay out.

The Clerk of the Parish Council kindly tried to assist with the contractors during January, but when they were unable to cut the pitch - because the mower was sinking into the ground - I've heard no further update. It may be a case of waiting for drier weather. The club is still investigating the building of a lean to extension at the end of the current changing rooms, to provide additional changing room and an extra toilet that will be accessible from the outside. This is subject to fund raising, or being able to persuade any builders in the team to provide their time and services free of charge.

The teams have not been the most successful on the pitch so far this season, but we provide players with the chance to play and ensure the village name continues to be associated with local football. We have received sponsorship from the Erpingham Arms this season and continue to use it as our post match venue, when we are able to play in the village. In summing up I am proud to say that I have been with Erpingham United for 8 seasons now and continue to get enjoyment out of knowing that I am helping ensure the facilities are maintained and people are able to participate in the sport I love at a location I have become very fond of.

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4.4 North Norfolk District Council - Cllr NS explained how devolution of powers was taking much of the Council's time and energy. The Council had been awarded 'Investors in People'.

4.5 Norfolk County Council – Cllr JT expanded on devolution and its benefits, including an elected Mayor. He referred to budget issues, Council Tax and local business rates.

4.6 Erpingham WI – from Christine Jope - the Erpingham with Calthorpe WI used the Village Hall in 2015 for meetings on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month for nine months. We also had our annual Christmas dinner in December. As part of the celebrations to mark the 600th anniversary of Agincourt the WI organised an Open Gardens event in the village and we served refreshments at the Village Hall throughout the day. Members and non-members also produced a tapestry depicting Erpingham characters and events involved in the Battle of Agincourt which was then presented to the Church. In the Spring some of our members took part in a Litter Pick around the village which we hope to repeat this year. Our membership has increased during 2015 and we now have 31 members.

4.7 Erpingham PCC – no report

4.8 Erpingham V C Primary School -

Erpingham Primary School has again enjoyed a successful year. The school has strong health and there has been a further increase in the number of children attending the school. We have 58 children on roll [up from 35 in 2013/14] and the school is at full capacity. The increase in numbers has significance in several areas:

- We now have three teaching classes – YR/1, Y2/3 and Y4/5/6. This enables us to have lower than the national average number of children in each class and supports raised standards
- We have strengthened our sustainability plan
- We are at full capacity which makes the school 'better value for money'
- More children from within the local catchment area now attend the school
- The school's infrastructure needs to catch up with the increased number of children on roll. We need better parking facilities, additional teaching space, additional toilets and additional administration space. If the Parish Council is able to support in any way with overcoming these challenges it would be very much appreciated by the school
- We have a temporary staffroom facility. The Portakabin staff room that we have leased must be replaced in 2019/20

We work very closely with Northrepps Primary School. Our Partnership is moving towards a planned formal federation in April 2016. The proposed federation will substantiate additional learning and social development opportunities for children, career development for staff and crucially, high quality leadership for our schools now and into the future.

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We are a centre for excellence in outdoor learning with a particular specialism in Forest Schools our reputation has grown far and wide. We have excellent opportunities for parents and children with pre-school age children to visit our school on a regular basis through Stay and Play [Tuesday afternoon] and Forest Friends [Wednesday and Thursday morning]. We continue to enjoy an excellent relationship with our Church and we are grateful to Father Paul Thomas, Helen Burrell and the 'Messy Church' team for their work on the behalf. We are extremely grateful for the excellent MUGA and Adventure Play facilities at the Village Hall. We use the MUGA on a regular basis. It would be a positive advantage to our school if we were able to store Physical Education and Games equipment at the Village Hall. Our school play which takes place at the Village Hall continues to be the highlight of our school year being extremely well attended. Our current Head Teacher will retire at the end of this academic year. The Governing Body and Head Teacher have focused much time and attention to ensuring that there is a smooth transition to the next stage of the school's development and future. The potential federation with Northrepps is a vitally important element. I would like to personally thank John Longhurst [Chair of Governors] for his tireless support for the school.

4.9 Erpingham Leisure Hub

Erpingham Leisure Hub was established in May 2015 as a direct result of the North Norfolk District Council / Sport England Sports Clubs and Hubs initiative. The Hub became fully independent in October 2015 and is run by local volunteers. The aim is to promote and support engagement in sporting and physical activities by all members of the community. The project has so far seen the introduction of successful Pilates and Walking Football groups, but is keen to start new activities for all age groups. In addition to participant fees for activities, the Hub has been supported by grants from:

- North Norfolk District Council Big Society Fund
- Erpingham with Calthorpe Parish Council
- Calthorpe Townland Trust
- Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation

Each group is self-maintained in terms of arranging sessions and collecting fees. The Hub, however, can fund the purchase of equipment, support publicity campaigns and provide general support and assistance. Current Activities are Pilates in Erpingham Village Hall on Monday mornings, sessions starting at 9:30am and Walking Football at Erpingham Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Wednesday mornings at 10 am. For the future the Hub recently provided an introduction to New-Age Kurling the results of which are being evaluated. There has also been initial interest in Walking Hockey, Yoga and Tennis.

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4.10 MUGA - The Facility has been in place since September 2013 during which it has continued to be used by Erpingham School, local sports groups and members of the community whether as part of organised sport events or simply a place for a 'kick about'! Although there are no fees to use the MUGA, the facility is 'self-sufficient' through:

- Sponsorship from JEMCO signs of Calthorpe
- Personal donations
- Regular inspections by members of the management committee
- Routine maintenance by members of the management committee
- Fund raising activities (eg. Rural Run)

There are, however, small charges for the use of the floodlights (£5 per hour) and the tennis net (£10 per year).

5. Open meeting – the meeting heard about the successful commemoration of The Battle of Agincourt last year in which a large number of villagers had participated; the working group had now planted 600 trees in and around the village which all felt was a great achievement.

With no further business the meeting closed at 20.40

Signed..... (Chairman) DateMay 2016