

ERPINGHAM with CALTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Martin K Campbell, Well Cottage, High Street, Southrepps, Norwich NR11 8AH
Telephone: 01263 834551 E-mail: nnparishes@tiscali.co.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Erpingham with Calthorpe held on Monday 13th March 2017 in the Village Hall, Erpingham

Present: Mr D Clayton, Mr R Goodliffe, Mr W Goreham, Mr N Smith (Chairman), Mr A Witham.
In attendance Cllr J Timewell (NCC), PCSO G Slade [p/time] and 19 members of the public.

1. Chairman Norman Smith welcomed those present, apologies being received from Mr G Cox and Mrs C King.

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on March 7th 2016 were taken as read.

3. Chairman's Report –

Norman Smith reflected on a difficult year when the Council liaised directly with Anglian Water to address as far as possible the poor drainage in the village, particularly School Road. It is hoped that improvement has been achieved by the extensive cleaning of the system. The chief development issue has been the application for development of two sites in Eagle Road. Whilst drainage again has been an issue the developers have satisfied the Planning Authority that drainage is adequate. The start dates for each site is not yet known but Mr Smith hoped that they would not coincide. He expressed his grateful thanks to all the members of the Parish Council for their support and commended the Clerk for his work during the year.

4. Other reports

4.1 Norfolk Police – PCSO Guy Slade, a PCSO since 2009, introduced himself and explained organisational changes at Norfolk Police. Crime figures would now be by NNDC ward rather than village. He alerted the public to the current spate of electric fence battery thefts and forged Scottish £20 notes.

4.2 Erpingham Village Hall – report presented to Village hall AGM

Tony Moore reported that the community has made good use of our village hall, playground and sports facilities during the past year and we have been able to make improvements. We have enjoyed continued success of established VH based activities such as coffee club and carpet bowls and a high level of regular and one-off bookings. The Village Hall Management Committee has organised four events, two of which were successful and helped raise money towards the maintenance of the hall. Unfortunately our dance show, organised in partnership with “Creative Arts East” was poorly supported and our planned 70's dance evening had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. We hope for some new ideas for fund raising and social activities in the coming year. Partnerships with the Parish Council, Erpingham School, the MUGA group, the bowls club, the soccer club, the Erpingham Leisure Hub and other user groups have been positive and friendly. 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 grandchildren. Volunteer help has tidied the playground, clearing out the weeds, re-spreading the bark safety-covering and repairing the fence. The Building: We have tidied the VH externally, painting the walls, constructing and installing four large planters and patching some holes in the car park. Repairs have been carried out

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as necessary including a new threshold to the main doors, replacement of all the failed double-glazed window units and repair of the dishwasher. At the time of writing we are awaiting the replacement of three of the Calor gas heaters which have been condemned as unsafe. The internal appearance of the hall has been enhanced by the installation of new curtains and the re-finishing of the hall floor. Thank you to all those work-party volunteers who have helped with the maintenance of the hall, the planting of the shrubs and the purchase and alteration of the curtains. The cleaning teams who month by month have kept us clean and tidy. I would in particular like to express my appreciation for the steady support we have received over many years from Phia Perris and her husband Dennis, who sadly passed away recently. All our fund raisers, in particular carpet bowls club run by Marsinah Melville, the 200 Club run by Jan Jeavons with her band of collectors and Tony and Jacky Peacock's coffee club. The members of the Management Committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to developing the village hall at the heart of our community. Please note that two of our committee have resigned during the year, leaving vacancies which we need to fill. Looking ahead: I believe that the Village Hall is and should continue to be, a significant social amenity for the community, for established residents and newcomers too of all ages, welcoming to people and new ideas. I am concerned that for many residents, the village hall and its associated facilities are taken for granted and assumed to be someone else's responsibility. It is important to appreciate that we are not paid for by "the council" or anyone else. To raise the funds, monitor and maintain the facilities, organise the many lettings to groups and individuals and plan a programme of events requires active and dedicated volunteers. This Village Hall belongs to this community and will only survive if enough members of this community value and support it.

4.3 Erpingham Football Club

Matthew Quinn reported that over the last year the football club have continued to participate in the North East Norfolk league, fielding two team each weekend. We have registered just under 60 players during the current season, some who have played one game when we are short and others who make up the backbone of the regulars week in week out. Results wise we have not been the most successful, the Reserves currently sitting bottom of Division Two and the 1st team second bottom in Division One. The main aim is to enable people who want to play football to have the opportunity, and I think we have achieved this. During the season we have opened links with the Walking football group – giving them a key to the changing room and allowing them to make use of our collapsible goals when required. We have not managed to progress the proposed addition of extra changing space and an additional toilet to the changing rooms as yet – mainly down to time constraints. Both the Village Hall Committee and Norman Smith from the Parish Council have been very supportive and have given suggestions of where to look for additional funding. One idea that has recently been suggested is instead of building an extension we could look to purchase a mobile/portable office, similar to a number of other clubs (Horning, Tunstead, Cromer, Hoveton) and locate this at the side of the existing changing room. It would not need to be a large mobile. This could then become the away changing room with the existing space being used purely for the home team. This is purely an idea at the moment and would need to be discussed with the relevant parties. With regards to the grass cutting we are very grateful to Martin Campbell for the assistance he has given when needing to chase up the contractors to cut the grass. We do at times look

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jealously at other venues, where the pitches are spiked and rolled as well as cut. This was something that Norse did do for us while they were the contractors, but maybe because at that stage the man responsible for doing it knew the father of one of our players. Finally we are looking to enter a team into the Norfolk County FA Veterans league next season, which will mean occasional matches on a Sunday afternoon. There has already been good interest from a number of ex-players who are keen to get a competitive game again. In this league Veteran is classed as Over-35. We would just like to thank Marion from Jemco for her continued support, her financial assistance at the start of the season was greatly appreciated in sorting out a jammed lock on the changing room door!

4.4 North Norfolk District Council – Cllr N Smith advised that when asked to indentify good leisure activity for recognition he was very pleased to be able to nominate the Erpingham Leisure Hub and W Goreham had been singled out for his contribution to its establishment. Both are finalists for NNDC awards. He went on to talk about the decrease in the number of NNDC councillors at the next election and the new planning procedures form April 1st 2017. There continues to be tension between housing developments encouraged by NNDC and their role as the Planning Authority which approves them. A member of the public asked about the continuation of ‘yellow’ notices which NNDC had not given new advice about.

4.5 Norfolk County Council – Cllr J Timewell talked about the change in governance and that the elections were in may 2017. Whilst the Council tax rise had been agreed the NCC had great difficulty in budgeting for Children’s and Adult services, both statutory, as demand cannot be predicted. Committee based structures may return to County Hall.

4.6 Erpingham WI – The WI continues to meet in the village hall on the fourth Wednesday (not June) with December as the annual dinner. Members again carried out a litter pick around the village; new members are always welcome and Claire Wilson has been elected President.

4.7 Erpingham and Calthorpe Parochial Church Council -

From the Revd. Canon Paul Thomas OBE who reported the Parish that the year past has been one full of activity and decision. Calthorpe Church has been leased to the Diocese under a scheme which relieves the local community from the responsibility of the physical upkeep of the building and of having to insure it, whilst placing an obligation upon the parish to hold seven services a year, be available for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, and to be open for Visitors. Nobody from Calthorpe has been a regular worshipper for many years and only by the congregation from Erpingham worshipping there on alternative Sundays was the church able to pay its way. That congregation will continue to support the ministry in Calthorpe by paying that Parish's Parish Share to the Diocese. At Erpingham we have seen major changes in the repair and development of the church and on Sunday March 5th the Lord Bishop of Norwich celebrated with the Parish the completion of works, which included the removal of plaster and re-plastering, redecoration (both carried out by the local community), the installation of a toilet, kitchenette, and additional storage (carried out by a local contractor and local craftsmen). A sound system has also been installed and pews removed in the South Aisle to allow better and wider use of the church by the community and the congregation. Services through the year have been well attended and some notable occasions have seen the church packed to the door, including a Confirmation Service with the Bishop of

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Norwich, an eventful Carols by Candlelight at Christmas, and, as has been already mentioned, the Service of Blessing and Celebration on March 5th. Future events are planned, including the usual Fête at the beginning of July, followed on the Sunday by a pet and animal Service in the Rectory grounds, the Trosh in September, and more exciting events approaching and at Christmas. One event, which is in Calthorpe Parish, is the Archdeacon's Charge, which this year is at Wolterton Hall on May 1st. It is a massive event involving helicopter rides, classic car show, many other attractions and refreshments (run by Erpingham Parish. It will be opened by members of the Royal Family. As always the Priest in Charge, Father Paul, wishes to thank all the Community, including this Parish Council, for their support and for their forbearance in putting up with him.

4.8 Erpingham V C Primary School – the meeting had a short presentation with photographs about the current role numbers, the association with Northrepps Primary School and the successful woodland project.

4.9 Erpingham Hub and MUGA

From W Goreham who said the 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. In working practices 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 for new activities. For financial support the Hub was initially supported by grants from: North Norfolk District Council Big Society Fund, Erpingham with Calthorpe Parish Council, Calthorpe Townland Trust and Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation but has since then remained financially viable through subscriptions and fund raising. On current Activities, Pilates (Monday mornings at 9:30am) is a method of controlled movements, which improve flexibility, build strength and develop endurance. The Erpingham group regularly attracts 16 participants per session, many of whom have stated how beneficial they find the exercises, particularly those who have taken up the activity on medical advice. The success of the group has resulted in a waiting/reserve list to fill any vacancies. The Walking Football group (Wednesday mornings at 10am) continues to grow, with 30 members registered, as the sport goes from strength to strength. The 'Erpingham Erps' are regular participants in local and regional tournaments in addition to playing friendly matches and also contributing to the development of the game by providing 'taster' sessions for local organisations (eg. Age UK Norwich and Community Action Norfolk). Feedback from players has revealed many benefits, including improved physical fitness and a sense of belonging. It is hoped that evening sessions will shortly be reintroduced following a recent pilot scheme. Rebound Training (Thursday evenings at 7:15pm) involves a series of exercises performed on small individual trampolines. The Erpingham group has reached the maximum number of regular participants (12) resulting in a waiting/reserve list to fill any vacancies. The sessions, in addition to being great fun, work the whole body including internal organs, muscles and skin. The Hub has everything necessary to play the 'non-ice' version of the popular sport New

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Age Kurling. In addition to facilitating occasional events, the Hub has loaned/hired equipment to local clubs, groups and individuals. The contact is: erpinghamleisurehub@gmail.com
The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) 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' financially 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 and 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).

The meeting closed at 20.10.

Signed Chairman

May 2017