

# ERPINGHAM with CALTHORPE PARISH

The Annual Parish Meeting for Erpingham with Calthorpe

Wednesday 11th May 2022 in the Spread Eagle, Erpingham

Present: Mr G Cox, Mr R Goodliffe (Chairman), Mr W Goreham, (Chairman), Mrs J Holmes, Mr A Witham, Mr D Witham and one member of the public.

1. Chairman Rob Goodliffe welcomed those present, apologies being received from Cllr J Toye (NNDC), M Quinn (Football Club)

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 28th 2021 were taken as read.

### 3. Chairman's Report -

Good evening and is good to see you all. Welcome to Erpingham with Calthorpe Annual Parish meeting, this provides all organisations and groups in the parish the opportunity to provide an update on their activities and share with everyone what they get up too! It's great to see you here this evening; we look forward to your updates and I ask everyone to share what you hear and encourage others to get involved. It has been a challenge in so many ways for us all over the last couple of years and I hope that although there continue to be all sorts of worldwide events that keep on impacting on everyone of us in one way or another, I hope we can look forward in a positive way. So what have the Parish Council been up to this past year....

First we have acted as 'banker' for the MUGA Committee for the new floodlights, I won't say anything else on this and will leave this to the MUGA Committee. Our primary focus has been to ensure the play area remains open for families. We took on the responsibilities from the Village Hall Committee as understandably it was becoming a challenge to continue to maintain the asset. It is testament to the extremely good job and quality of what was originally installed that rather than having to replace all the equipment, we have been able to refurbish the area so that it can be maintained for the future. This is better with regards to good use of funds, affordability and also in minimising carbon emissions – we all need to do our bit with regards to climate change. In this phase of the play area we raised over £12,000 to replace the fencing, lay a new path alongside the play area and most importantly, remove the decayed old woodchip, improve drainage and lay geotextile with recycled rubber chippings.... It is already so much better according to my children. To come is a litter bin (please use this or take your rubbish home), a picnic bench and two benches. One will be inscribed to celebrate Norman Smith, the other will have a locally inspired inscription – the challenge to you is to work out the connection with the village. I must take this opportunity to thank all those involved who helped with the play area, specifically, my fellow Parish Councillors, the Village Hall Committee for providing warm drinks, those who fuelled us with cake, all the families who helped, the fencing contractor, Hall Farm at Matlaske for allowing us to store the chipping on their land and the Witham's for the use and expertise of the machinery – without which I think we would still be there barrowing the chippings!!!! Finally the funders, which includes the village via the Parish Council, NNDC via a section 106 development agreement, The National Lottery and Normans daughter, Liz and Alby with Thwaite Parish council for a contributions towards Normans bench. So to the future... we already have some ideas and would welcome any comment, input or other ideas.

Picnic benches by the MUGA – a pond project – a surfaced path from the play area to Ives Way - phase 2 of the play area – a board walk to improve the connection from muddy part of the track at the end of lowlands to the Bure bridge. So please do help us!

Finally I would like to thank those who have attended Parish Council meetings, it makes a real difference and we can and do work together – for example with regards to the phone mast.... Next time maybe they will actually talk to the village first.

### 4. Other reports

4.1 Norfolk Police – no report

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## 4.2 Erpingham Village Hall

In August 2021 we saw the village hall officially open again after Covid-19 restrictions and this was celebrated with a free coffee morning, hog roast and evening disco which was well attended and a delight to see so many familiar faces and a sense of the village being re-united once again. Since then many of our regular hirers have returned and after another tough winter with a high number of covid cases from April 2022 we see the village Hall slowly starting to get back to the usual hive of activity with a variety of groups including: Zumba, Yoga, Art club and not forgetting the weekly coffee club. March 2022 sadly came with some goodbyes as some long-standing members resigned from the committee. Their hard work and dedication to running the village hall is certainly appreciated and all members should pride themselves leaving the hall in a good state of repair and a healthy bank balance. We have welcomed new members to the committee and look forward to seeing this valuable community asset continues to thrive. Thankfully due to various grants from the Local Authority we have been able to internally re-decorate the village hall, some long-overdue electrical work has been completed including a fire alarm and we are now in the process of obtaining quotes to re-decorate the outside and improve the disabled parking area. We look forward to more events in the coming year, including the Jubilee celebrations where the village hall will be the centre of the community providing refreshments to all.

## 4.3 Erpingham Football Club

This last season Erpingham United Football Club have again run three teams. The First and Reserves taking part in the North East Norfolk League on a Saturday afternoon with the Veterans team playing on a Sunday afternoon in the Norfolk FA Veterans League. All three teams had mixed results on the field, but as a club we were able to complete all our fixtures while other teams in the leagues have once again folded or called games off. The main intent and belief within the club is to enable people who want to play football to have an opportunity, regardless of talent or fitness. It is more of a social pass time for us, obtaining an occasional win here and there. The First team had a win and a draw, the Reserves no wins or draws while the Veterans secured two wins and a draw. This year, to help improve the quality of the playing surface at Erpingham, the Football club arranged and paid for additional grass cutting by Kevin Richardson. 9 extra cuts were carried out between July and November 2021. The plan is still to get some additional work carried out on the pitch, the goalmouths were looked at by Keith Edwards at the start of the season – hopefully he will be available to carry out some additional work! Due to League restrictions the Veterans still need to play their competitive league and cup matches at Aylsham Recreation Ground, due to lack of showers at Erpingham, but both Saturday teams are based at the Village Hall. In closing I need to mention Stephen Hagon, who completed his 1000<sup>th</sup> appearance in the North East Norfolk League, during this season. Hopefully we will be here in years ahead to enable someone else to come close to this mark!

## 4.4 North Norfolk District Council

The May update appears on the Parish Council notice board.

### 4.5 Norfolk County Council – no report

### 4.6 Erpingham WI – no report

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## 4.7 Erpingham PCC

As with all other organisations, Covid interrupted our worship and activities. The Archdeacon led some services over zoom and I was interviewed on zoom. By the time I took up my post in July we were worshipping in church again but much of what we did outside services had been suspended.

By the autumn we were able to hold two well attended concerts in church and hold a Harvest service and supper in church which was well attended and much enjoyed. Holy week and Easter were marked with evening compline services and special services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve and Easter Day. We have returned to all our school activities. A small team shares the Open the Book presentations each week. This is a 10 minute acting out of bible stories, with the children dressing up and taking part. It is much enjoyed by all. Twice a term the whole school comes to church for Messy church - a song and a short act of worship followed by crafts on the theme for each year group, with much colouring, cutting and sticking. I lead assemblies once a fortnight working with the themes the school chooses for each term. The church was full of families again for the Christmas Nativity service and once again a real baby took the part of Jesus.

Calthorpe and Ingworth churches have become part of the Diocesan Churches Trust, still used for Christenings, funerals and marriages and a few other acts of worship through the year but are insured and maintained by the Diocese. Alby and Thwaite are still used regularly with Alby holding the most weddings because of its closeness to the Reading Room Venue. The parish of Hanworth with Gunton was added to the benefice during the year.

I have spent much of my time trying to get to know the parishes and have visited both church goers and non churchgoers and tried to be part of as much of village life as I can. The ukulele group meets to practise in Erpingham church. Church members are very involved in village life, helping with the coffee mornings and belonging to village clubs. We hope the ringers will ring for the Jubilee celebrations in June. We are preparing for a visit to Iona for a week, a group of 9 people, some from these parishes and some from my previous parishes will be going.

We are grateful to all those who help to clean and decorate the churches as well as those who help to maintain the churches and churchyards.

### 4.7.1 Calthorpe Churchyard

The Friends of Calthorpe Churchyard is a small group of volunteers formed in October 2018 in response to growing concerns over the unkempt appearance of the churchyard immediately following handover of the church to the Diocese of Norwich Churches Trust. When it became clear that the Trust has limited capacity to provide any support to the churchyard other than a single grass cut per year, the Friends group was formed with a view to undertaking the basic maintenance needed to ensure that the area should be well presented. Ongoing guidance and moral support is provided by both the Diocese and Norfolk Wildlife Trust. The Friends undertake regular grass-cutting and strimming within the churchyard, in addition to maintaining the ground gutters and perimeter banking. They also manage the designated wild areas in partnership with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Churchyard Conservation Scheme. Costs associated with the purchase and maintenance of equipment (including consumables such as fuel ) have been met by individual donations, alongside generous, substantial grants from Erpingham with Calthorpe Parish Council and Calthorpe Townlands Trust. Residents and visitors alike are encouraged to visit and make use of the Community Book Swap, now rehomed inside Calthorpe Church. Bookshelves - sourced, installed and kept tidy by members of the Friends group -are always stocked with books, jigsaws and DVDs for all ages and interests.

## 4.8 Erpingham V C Primary School - no report

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## 4.9 Erpingham Hub

Erpingham Leisure Hub was established in May 2015 through the Sport England Clubs and Hubs initiative with North Norfolk District Council, promoting engagement in sport and physical activities across the whole community. When external funding ended in October 2015, the group elected to continue with its existing activity portfolio as an independent, volunteer-run initiative, canvassing and supporting set-up of additional activities whenever there is sufficient demand. Erpingham Leisure Hub exists to support organised community sport groups with publicity and marketing, and has the capacity to assist any individual or group wishing to deliver a new sport offering within the parish. This is in addition to providing a number of existing popular core activities - Carpet Bowls and Short Mat Bowls (both available September to April), Pilates and Walking Football. New Age Kurling equipment is available for hire on request. Junior Basketball sessions on the MUGA were sourced and facilitated for the 2021 school Summer Holidays in response to requests from local families, and proved a particular success. As a direct result of this initiative, sessions are now available throughout the year at a nearby indoor venue, and many of our participants continue to learn and compete in a dedicated Basketball England setting. The Hub has backed other community projects during the last year, sponsoring the Multi-Use Games Area and contributing to production costs of Keeping In Touch, the Scarrowbeck benefice newsletter in which its activities are widely advertised. Although the Hub is largely self-supporting, procurement of specialist equipment necessitates bids for additional funding, and the Hub has recently benefitted from a generous Victory Housing Fund grant through Norfolk Community Foundation, for the purchase of aluminium folding football goals. For further information contact: [erpinghamleisurehub@gmail.com](mailto:erpinghamleisurehub@gmail.com)

## 4.10 Erpingham MUGA

The award-winning facility, opened in September 2013, continues to be well used by community members of all ages for organised activity sessions and also as a place where families and individuals can play together and nurture a love of sport. Casual use has continued to grow, alongside a high volume of bookings for planned sessions. A new storage shed, primarily for the tennis equipment, has been provided and constructed on site by the MUGA Management Committee. The original floodlights were replaced in April 2022 with more energy-efficient LED units, thanks to a generous grant from the Norfolk Community Foundation Greening Our Communities Fund, supported by Erpingham with Calthorpe Parish Council. The new system has multiple environmental benefits, using technology which was not available when the MUGA was constructed. The MUGA is always free to use, with a nominal fee requested for access to additional facilities: floodlighting (£5 per hour) and the tennis net (£10 per year). The facility continues to be self-sufficient, costs being covered through: Personal donations - Sponsorship (grateful thanks this year to Withams Agricultural Contractors - DofyGate and Erpingham Leisure Hub) - Community Fundraising activities (e.g. Paper bank). Management (both routine and strategic) is provided by a small committee which, in addition to ensuring long-term viability of the MUGA, also undertakes regular inspections and routine maintenance of the facility. For further information contact: [erpinghammuga@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:erpinghammuga@yahoo.co.uk)

## 5. Open meeting – no business

The meeting closed at 19.20

Signed .....(Chairman)

Date: ..... July 2022