

# ERPINGHAM with CALTHORPE PARISH

The Annual Parish Meeting for Erpingham with Calthorpe

Wednesday 8th March 2023 in the Spread Eagle, Erpingham

Present: Mr G Cox, Mr R Goodliffe (Chairman), Mr W Goreham, Ms B Goodrum, Mr S Seagrave, Mr A Witham, Mr D Witham; and two members of the public.

1. Chairman Rob Goodliffe welcomed those present, apologies being received from Cllr S Penfold (NCC), Cllr J Toye (NNDC) and Stephen Green.

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 11th 2022 were taken as read.

### 3. Chairman's Report -

Good evening and thank you for attending the Erpingham with Calthorpe Parish meeting. Well its been another busy year for the Parish Council and in this report I will canter through some highlights. The village, led by the Village Hall committee celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee, the Parish Council contributed to the costs for the events and were delighted with the involvement of the village; thank you to the village hall committee for putting these events on. There have also been further grants provided to other community groups who provide local benefit, all amounting to a £750 of grants. As a Parish Council we have responded to seven planning application consultations throughout the year. We have purchased and now installed picnic benches at the MUGA and also the play area and finally installed two park benches, one in celebration of Norman Smith which is in the play area, the other related to Sir Thomas Erpingham, located at the Agincourt Tree. Thank you, Alan for arranging installation, particularly after your challenging year. Further repairs and funds were committed to the maintenance of the play area which continues to look much improved following the previous years investments. Working with the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council have been discussing how we may best work together to manage the land surrounding the village hall for the benefit of the Parish. This is progressing well and subject to final agreements, the Parish will take on further grounds maintenance activities so that the Village Hall committee can focus on the hall. There have been continuing discussions with highways regards the longterm issues with the traffic calming measures which were installed on Eagle Road. Many aspects have been discussed but no clear option has been taken forward to date. Bill has again this year managed the SAM sign, moving it around the village to help to remind us all to watch our speed. With regards to the cost of living crisis, the Parish Council lead on the distribution of £4,600 to 46 households who met the criteria for the Norfolk Community Foundation/NCC Household Support Scheme. We have also held the parish precept for the forthcoming year due to the cost of living crisis. Finally I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors, old, new and previous who have put their time and energy into the Parish Council activities. Also, thanks to all the parishioners who help out, run clubs and organisations, the commitment to these and the benefits should not be underestimated. There are also other small and large things individuals do in the village, again these all add up and make this a great place to live, thank you, and let's look forward to the year ahead.

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## 4. Other reports

- 4.1 Norfolk Police – no report
- 4.2 Erpingham Village Hall – no report
- 4.3 Erpingham Football Club – no report
- 4.4 North Norfolk District Council no report
- 4.5 Norfolk County Council – no report
- 4.6 Erpingham WI – no report
- 4.7 Erpingham PCC

Heather Butcher reported continuing our strong links with the school. Once a week The Open the Book Team go to school to present a dramatisation of a bible story. The children dress up and take part and this is very popular. We hope they learn something of their literary heritage and that it helps them to grow emotionally and spiritually. Messy Church - twice a term the whole school comes to church for a presentation of a particular aspect of the Christian Faith after which they have age specific craft activities. Parents and grandparents sometimes attend and this again is popular with the children. Tea, squash and biscuits follow. During the year we set up Prayer Spaces which each class took a turn in visiting. The aim is to help them wonder and reflect, to think about hurt and forgiveness and loss and comfort. The school presented their nativity service in church this year which enabled a large audience of their families to attend. Two church members are School Governors. This year we set up a Grant Fund with donations from the church, parishioners and parish organisations. We have been able to make grants of £50 for three successive months followed by £100 for three successive months, towards fuel and the cost of living. From correspondence received it is clear that this has been much appreciated. We have tried to do more to connect with the community so... there were concerts with hymns to celebrate the Jubilee and mark the death of the Queen. A traditional Remembrance service with no communion was held which attracted more villagers. Carols in the pub was a happy event supported by the Ukulele group. The plough service attracted over 60 people and a lot of tractors of various vintages and was a happy event. The Harvest Service and following supper continues to be a very popular event. The church nativity this year involved some adults in the performance who were very majestic kings! We are glad that the Ukulele Group now uses the church for rehearsals twice per week. The challenge ahead of us is to repair the windows which are destroying the fabric of the walls through rust. The cost is likely to be around £200,000.

### 4.7.1 Friends of Calthorpe Churchyard

This small group of volunteers was 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. The Friends also recently constructed a new 'soak-away' drainage system replacing one which had become defective. 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.

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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

#### 4.9 Erpingham Leisure 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) and twice-weekly Walking Football. New Age Kurling equipment is available for hire on request. Although the primary focus of our walking football groups is to provide and enjoy opportunities for physical and social participation, the competitive edge gets the better of us sometimes and we participate in tournaments. The highlight of the year was our Over 70s team winning a tournament contested by clubs from across East Anglia alongside an indomitable team from Gibraltar. This impressive victory necessitated expansion of the village Trophy Cabinet, courtesy of the ever-skilful David Clayton, to whom we are indebted! 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. Initially supported by grants from various local organisations, the Hub has become self-supporting through subscriptions and fundraising initiatives. For further information contact: [erpinghamleisurehub@gmail.com](mailto:erpinghamleisurehub@gmail.com)

#### 4.10 Multi-Use Games Area (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. In 2022/23 casual use has continued to grow, alongside a high volume of bookings for planned sessions. 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)

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Liaison and marketing aimed at potential additional sponsors is ongoing. 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 4.10 Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) the facility. For further information contact: [erpinghammuga@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:erpinghammuga@yahoo.co.uk)

#### 4.10 Other village organisations

(Erpingham Dig) – whilst there was no dig this year remaining funds would be used for an Agincourt tree, information sign and seat.

(St Mary's Bellringers) – bell ringing has restarted on the third Monday of the month.

5. Open meeting – there was a short discussion about the forthcoming Coronation.

The meeting closed at 19.30

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date: ..... May 2023