

ERPINGHAM with CALTHORPE PARISH

The Annual Parish Meeting for Erpingham with Calthorpe

Wednesday 13th March 2024 in the Village Hall, 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 eight members of the public.

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

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 8th 2023 were taken as read.

3. Chairman's Report -

This is the part of the parish meeting where as the current Parish Chair, I will try to provide an overview of the Parish Council activities over this past year. It won't cover everything, but highlights key points, and, if there are any significant omissions, apologies! So in the year 2023-24 Erpingham with Calthorpe Parish Council have operated and delivered many of the normal things many parish councils do, and also, as usual a few additional things, so to start... quite a few mundane activities..... the things that get done, are not exciting, but aren't necessarily noticed until they stop, things like grass cutting, emptying of litter and dog bins those sort of things - sometimes these also don't go as scheduled even when they should. Then there are other things, for example, our councillor Glen regularly takes the time to check the play area. On this note, we are aware, even after the significant investment made of the last few years there is a continuing need to make repairs. Some are now being prioritised for action to ensure we can keep the play area open.

As a parish council we have continued our ongoing saga with regards to the highways chicanes on Eagle Road that have never operated satisfactorily, on this we await further decision and hopefully actions from Norfolk County Council Highways. Our Councillor, Bill, has continued to arrange the SAM sign, this is the vehicle speed sign you will see in different parts of the parish from time to time, hopefully letting you know you are driving at an appropriate speed. With a continued transport theme, our Councillor Stephen, has been key to pressing forward with arrangements for a new cycle rack near the bus stop on the A140, providing better transport connectivity but also opportunities for lower carbon travel. Interestingly again this is not simple, some of our parish boundaries are surprising, particularly near the A140. We discovered that a neighbouring Parish Council had been arranging the maintenance of the bus stop area, a responsibility we are taking forward as it is in our parish.

The Parish Council has considered a number of planning applications and where appropriate submitted comment to the planning department at North Norfolk District Council. This Parish Council does not make decision on applications but is consulted, but it should be noted our responses are not a key aspect for the determination of an application. For completeness, the main outstanding planning application that we are aware of in our parish is the telecommunications mast, which we provided comment on in the year 2022-23.

We continue to seek to see improvements to the path between the playing field to Eagle Road and have been following up for further information from the Countryside and Parks

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team at NNDC. This has not been as quick as we would have liked and inevitably there will be a need to identify the funding to make this improvement happen.

This year with parish elections we had Councillors standing down, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their time and input that they put into the Parish. Following advertisement we have welcomed three new Councillors to the Council and they are very welcome. We are fortunate to have a full contingent on our Parish Council, which I understand can be a challenge in many villages. I would be surprised if you had not noticed that currently we are a male dominated council, this is solely due to who has stepped forward at the present time. With future vacancies we would very much welcome a wider representation! But I also know that many parishioners are also involved in other local voluntary organisations and time is very precious. But, for any aspiring Councillors, be under no illusion it can be a thankless task at times, we have very few powers, but, we can and do support other voluntary groups who support our parishioners and make the parish a better place. As a Council we can encourage and in some cases take forward actions to make improvements. I would also like to highlight, that Parish Councillors are volunteers and are not, as some may presume, paid. We all put in our time for different reasons, but generally it is because we wish to seek to help the parish as a whole in supporting wellbeing and the environment we live in. As such I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Councillors, and all the other parishioners who put in their time, skills and often their own resources to all the community organisations in our parish and in the local area. Although, I am sure that they don't seek or need these thanks from the Parish Council, it is important to recognise all these positive and constructive efforts. Talking about wider community groups, this year the Parish Council have supported six organisations locally. If you are a constituted local organisation and do need small levels of financial assistance, please do get in contact via the Parish Clerk. Finally I would like to thank our Clerk for his ongoing organisation, oversight and diligence towards our Parish Council.

4. Other reports

- 4.1 Norfolk Police – no report
- 4.2 Erpingham Village Hall – agm in April
- 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 – no report
- 4.7.1 Friends of Calthorpe Churchyard

Bill Goreham reports - 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 perimeter bank. They also manage the designated wild areas in partnership with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Churchyard Conservation Scheme.

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Although not routinely involved with the fabric of the church, the Friends played a significant role in securing separate funding for repairs to an internal wall. 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 drop in 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. As a result of generous donations of pre-loved toys the Friends 'pop-up' Toy Stall will feature at community events during the forthcoming summer.

4.8 Erpingham V C Primary School - no report

4.9 Erpingham Leisure Hub

Bill Goreham reports - 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 leisure activities across the whole community. When external funding ended in October 2015, the group elected to continue as an independent, volunteer-run initiative. Erpingham Leisure Hub exists to support organised community sporting and recreational groups with publicity and marketing, and has the capacity to assist any individual or group wishing to deliver a new activity within the parish. This is in addition to providing a number of core activities - Carpet Bowls and Short Mat Bowls (both available September to April), twice-weekly Walking Football, three Walking Groups and (when requested) New Age Kurling. Each activity is self-funded, with proceeds pooled into an overall Hub fund, which enables the various groups to be sustainable. The Hub has supported the following community projects in addition to providing bakes for Coffee and Cake events on an almost-weekly basis: Keeping in Touch (Community Newsletter) £50, Erpingham Village Hall 200 Club £12, Erpingham MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) £120, and Scarrowbeck Youth Choir £200. 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

4.10 Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

Bill Goreham reports - 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 2023/24 casual use has continued to grow, alongside a high volume of bookings for planned sessions. 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, National Farmers Union and Erpingham Leisure Hub, Community Fundraising activities (e.g. Paper bank). 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 the facility. Further information contact: erpinghammuga@yahoo.co.uk

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4.10 Other village organisations

The Erpingham Women's Group introduced themselves.

St Mary's bellringers had rung the bells for significant events, eg weddings.

5. Open meeting –

No further business.

The meeting closed at 19.25

Signed (Chairman) Date: May 2024