

## HOLWELL PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

IN THE BOWLS CLUB AT 7.15 P.M.

#### **Present:**

Ms Yvonne Hart (Chairperson)

Mr Colin Everett

Mr Ken Jordan

Mrs Ann Warner (Clerk)

District Councillor Mr Sam North

Mrs Philippa Wood

Mr Michael Kelly

Mr Ray Blake (Ickleford Parish Council)

#### **1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Roy Izzard, Cricket Club, Rob Day, Cricket Club grounds man, Paul Males, Hitchin Hawks Football Club, John Burden, HACT committee and PCSO Heather Burrows.

#### **2. Chairperson's Report:**

Ms Hart gave a warm welcome to those attending the meeting and began her report by announcing that this was her second term as a Councillor and her eighth year as Chairperson. Ms Hart thanked Mr Colin Everett for standing once again as a Parish Councillor for Holwell, acknowledging his commitment to the village and appreciating his knowledge and experience. Thanks also go to our new Councillor Mr Ken Jordan who has kindly agreed to take on the role of managing the website which is greatly appreciated. The clerk Mrs Ann Warner was also thanked for her commitment to the village working tirelessly for Holwell going above and beyond her allocated role. Sadly this year Mr Michael Bowen resigned due to ill health (serving 8 years) and Mrs Rosemary Gainsford (serving over 14 years) and Mrs Keeley Sparrow (4 years) have decided to step down.

There are now two vacancies for Parish Councillors which will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Mr Michael Kelly has again done a great job of cutting and maintaining the recreation ground and children's play area. Sadly Mr Jeff Thompson, who had been working alongside Mr Kelly, passed away this year.

Ms Hart gave a full report on the work carried out throughout the year and issues raised during the year. A full report is attached.

Ms Hart handed over to the clerk to invite reports from the various clubs in the village.

## **Report on St Peter's Church-read by Mrs Philippa Wood:**

It has been a time of new ideas, with the start of a monthly Family Communion service on the second Sunday of the month and change of format to the Remembrance Sunday service, commencing with a civil ceremony in the churchyard around the Commonwealth War Grave followed by the church service inside. To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War, the church bell was rung for 15 minutes that evening and candles were lit inside St Peter's to remember those men whose names are on our Church Roll of Honour.

Attendance at the regular Sunday Service has remained stable during the past year, with an average attendance of seven. It is normal for two people, sometimes three to come to Morning Prayer, which is held each Monday. The festivals and other special services average is fifteen.

A monthly Café for All, with games and refreshments, has been started in the village hall, usually on the third Friday. Whilst there are not many people coming to it yet, it is hoped that it will attract people of all ages to meet as a community in this village, which has little in the way of community activities and in which people may otherwise be isolated or lonely.

After several months of waiting, the repairs to St Peter's Church Clock were finished and we are pleased to say that the correct time is told and the strike is heard again, to the pleasure of many people who missed hearing the bell both through the day and the night. We gave thanks to Mr Martin Thurlow for all his help with the clock repair and his continued support in winding the clock each week to keep it in good time.

The children's area is regularly used, both during and outside of services, which is very pleasing. It grew quite a selection of soft animal toys following our entry in the Scarecrow Competition, as the animals went in two by two into Noah's Ark.

Financially, St Peter's has little money to spare and with the costs of maintenance, heating and the Parish Share rising, matters can only become more difficult. Last autumn a Stewardship Campaign was launched and there has been a small increase in regular donors. Fundraising this year has been fairly successful, with last summer's barbecue and the Autumn and Spring Quiz nights being well supported. The Churchwardens would like to thank those who gave up their time to arrange these events and for providing the delicious food. The summer barbecue will be held again at Gurneys on 27<sup>th</sup> July by the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Cox. We hope to hold another Quiz Night in the village hall in late October/November.

Our Quinquennial Inspection was due last year and it was decided that a new Church Architect should be appointed. The PCC chose Mr David Llewellyn, who is also the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Mr Llewellyn surveyed St Peter's last August. Thankfully the church fabric appears to be in a reasonable order, with only fairly minor matters requiring attention.

As usual, we are most grateful to all those who are involved in maintaining the Church and Churchyard, by doing such things as cleaning, flower arranging and mowing, and without whose help we would not be able to make St Peter's the welcoming place that it is. A copy of this report is attached.

**Reports written by the Football Club and the Cricket club were read out by Ms Hart.** Generally both clubs are very happy with the facilities. The Parish Council and these clubs have a very good working relationship and work well for the good of the recreation ground and the village. Rob Day the Cricket Club grounds man has done a very good job of painting, making small repairs to the Pavilion and generally keeping it clean. He has had a professional cleaner in to clean the kitchen, toilets and showers. The Parish Council would like to thank him for all his hard work. It was suggested that the Parish Council contribute to the cost of this work which will be approximately £220.

**Bowls Club – A report was sent by Mrs Anna Gilbert.**

Mrs Gilbert reported that they have played one or two matches so far this season; unfortunately they did not do so well last season. They have lost a few younger members to more competitive clubs and have struggled to recruit new members. They intend to promote a youth group to include children of all ages as they have the equipment and suitable bowls for the much younger people so hopefully this will entice their parents too.

With permission from the Parish Council the men members have been working very hard on the exterior part alongside the clubhouse. This has made a great deal more room for visitors to sit outside and enjoy the matches. A full copy of this report is attached.

**HACT Committee report from John Burden is attached.**

Mr Kelly a member of the HACT committee gave a short report outlining the key points as Mr Burden was unable to attend the meeting.

**Report from Mr Mick Kelly recreation grounds man:**

Mr Kelly reported that there were a few repairs needed to the machinery puncture repair (done free by Mick Kelly and has now ordered inner tubes). Mr Kelly reported also that the daisy spraying is due and sycamore seeds sprouting up on the recreation ground need attention. The harrowing has been done and the ground may need to be fertilised. Ms Hart was concerned that the harrowing machinery may cause injury should anyone fall against it and asked Mr Kelly to tape this area off.

There are holes in the ground from rabbits and Mr Kelly is concerned they may cause a trip hazard.

The garage door needs attention and Mr Kelly was asked to look into this and get a quote for a new door. On behalf of the Parish Council Ms Hart thanked Mr Kelly for all his hard work.

Ms Hart informed the various clubs that it was possible for them to apply to the North Hertfordshire District Council Southern Rural Committee for grants and this could be repeated every three years if needed. The next deadline for applications for grants is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

Ms Hart thanked all who attended the meeting and those that sent in their reports.

The Annual Parish meeting closed at 8.30 p.m

