

COLBY & BANNINGHAM PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE BANNINGHAM & COLBY COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2024 at 7p.m.

PRESENT:

Parish Council Mr R Anderson-Dungar, Chairman
Mrs P Ashby
Mr D Holgate
Mr S Elliott
Mrs J Morgan
Mrs S Woolliams
Mr Colin Studholme, Clerk

01 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed 8 members of the public to the Annual Parish Meeting.

02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr N Andrews.

03 MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes had been available via the website and at the meeting and were confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chairman – proposed Mrs Woolliams, seconded Mrs Morgan.

04 MATTERS ARISING

None.

05 REPORTS – THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE NOTED:

1. Colby and Banningham Churches

Mrs Feneron read the reports for both churches. The reports are attached in the appendix.

2. Banningham & Colby Community Hall

Mr Holgate presented the report about activity at the Hall over the past year. This included everything from the complete refurbishment and re-branding of the Hall, through to the current work underway in the former Sandy Lane Club to plans for Phase 3. Other work planned was landscaping of the grounds and the possible installation of batteries to store energy generated by the solar panels. Mrs Feneron thanked all who had worked on the refurbishment for creating a valuable resource for the community.

3. Bowls Club

Mr Hazelton presented a report on behalf of the bowls club. Despite only having 15 members and being one of the smallest clubs in the area they had had a successful year. The report is attached in the appendix.

4. Colby & Banningham Parish Council

Mr Anderson Dungar presented his chairman's report and highlighted the Council's role in, among other matters, development planning in the parish. This was followed by the Clerk who reported on his work looking after the finances and ensuring proper procedures were followed. Finally Mr Elliott reported on the Council's progress against its priorities for 2023-24. The reports are attached in the appendix.

5. Colby School

Mrs McEwen presented the school report for the year prepared by Year 6 Pupil Leaders. This is attached as an appendix.

06 PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE RESIDENTS’ SURVEY

Mr Elliott presented the preliminary results of the residents survey, the first in the parish since 2007. A full report and action plan was to be produced once all the information had been analysed and would be put on the website. Mr Catton praised the Council for all that it had done during the year and the positive changes it was making to the parish.

07 QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO DISCUSS AT FUTURE MEETINGS

1. It was suggested that there should be repeated training in use of the defibrillator as the course had been valuable but not very well attended. It was further suggested that it should be better signed and residents made aware of its location.
2. There was discussion about events in the parish throughout the year and the need to avoid clashes with events in the two villages and those held by local groups.

08 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and closed the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15p.m. Attendees were then given the opportunity to view the refurbishment work taking place in the former Sandy Lane Club.

Signed (Chairman)

Date

APPENDIX

1. COLBY & BANNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The news that a number of us were pleased to hear was Norwich City 1 Ipswich 0 !!

At this time last year, as Vice-Chairman, I was not anticipating sitting here as Chairman this year, especially as after 29 years as a Parish Councillor a long- awaited rest had been planned.

However, I have been very proud to have taken this task on at this time, during a year which has seen many exciting changes and progress made.

THANK YOU

Colin our **Clerk** had an unenviable act to follow but has made great strides in not only doing this but pointing us in a new direction and up to speed as policies and protocols have changed. We thank him for all the effort he has put in.

Other supporting reports which will follow and map the many things that we have achieved and some we have not.

I know this will sound like a speech at the Oscar’s but I need to thank ...

Our **County Councillor** – Saul for his support in particular for the SAM Speed Monitoring and being our go-to for County Highways.

Our **District Councillor** – John Toye for his ongoing support and involvement in the Parish Council networking events and in particular Planning, which I will come onto shortly.

But especially the **Parish Councillors** themselves, as we now stand with a full complement of seven, having welcomed Serena Woolliams and Jill Morgan this year. They have all given me tremendous support and continue to keep me on my toes!!

HIGHWAYS

We are all well aware of the pothole situation which every district is facing and the means to notify necessary repairs. Although these now appear slow we have to remain confident that Highways will deal with these. I have included this more importantly because of the junction between the A140 and B1145. This is a problem we have fought as a Parish Council even though it is outside our boundary but now we can look forward to the improvement by widening through the Vattenfall wind turbine scheme.

PLANNING

Apart from Highways this is a subject which is the next most popular, we still have to deal with, which this year has seen more challenges. We have always had a very proactive council whose combined skills complement each other for this subject, so that we can react to any application that arrives in the best interests of the two villages.

Affordable Housing has been the latest challenge. A balance between the need and opportunity to offer local people housing and allow them to stay where they were born or brought up compared to those who do not want any development especially close to them. Broadland Housing Association who instigated a search for land, in our two villages, has not done us or themselves any favours in the way they have promoted this. After a Public Meeting which allowed residents to question them, we asked them to go away and search for other locations locally. Communications from them has been lacking to say the least, if not compounded by their Pre-Application submissions to the District Council on which we are not consulted as a Parish Council. Please be re-assured that nothing will happen until a formal Planning Application is submitted.

Each Planning Application is considered impartially

We have had a number of individual applications which have been given due consideration especially when outside the Planning Framework. When these are viable and sustainable we will in conjunction with our District Councillor when applicable, give support especially if they relate to a local housing need.

We also take enforcement seriously where unlawful activity has occurred without approval or consideration given to adjoining ownerships.

Richard Anderson-Dungar
Chairman of the Parish Council

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2. BANNINGHAM BOWLS CLUB REPORT FOR 2023 SEASON

We thought the previous season was the best ever, but 2023 went even further for **Banningham Bowls Club**. We achieved excellent results whilst running a very small squad of players.

We play in the **NANSA Evening Triples League** and finished mid-table.

There is also the afternoon **Sixers League** where we finished Runners Up but won the **NANSA Afternoon Triples League**

However, the **NANSA Evening Pairs League** proved a great success this year pipping Cawston to the title.

We hold our **Annual Open Triples Tournament** which remains a very popular event and is our main fund raiser.

With sponsored cash prizes and BBQ our volunteers provide and run the catering.

We hold the **Peter Jeckell Memorial Closed Singles Trophy Tournament** when we enjoyed another excellent day. Peter's close family joined us later in the season to present the awards.

This year we hosted the **NANSA Presidents Day** for the first time and planned it in a similar format to our Annual Tournament. Another fine weather day with all the proceeds going to the NANSA Charity in the sum of £300.00.

We always enter a team in the annual **Cawston Bowls Club Floodlight League** at the end of the season, beating Cawston on the way to reaching the semi-final of the Main Tournament.

We were asked again to provide the refreshments for the **Burgh Valley Harriers 10 mile road race** with start and finish at the Community Hall. This again raised additional funds for us.

As well as our **Committee**, the Club is indebted to Steve balding for his ongoing help on the green with preparation for matches and all the volunteers who assisted in any way during the season.

We enjoyed an 'End of Season' **Christmas Lunch** at The Banningham Crown.

3. ST. BOTOLPH BANNINGHAM ANNUAL REPORT for APCM

INTRODUCTION: The Church continues to benefit from the investment of the Gogle Fund for the maintenance, restoration, mission and ministry to fund necessary repairs and improvements. We have an ongoing support group of volunteers assisting the Church Wardens at regular services and events.

Refer to Church Wardens regular reports during the course of the year for the PCC Meetings

FABRIC: Builders have been approached to obtain competitive prices to carry out works the Quinquennial Report under Priority A and also consider Priority B & C, which are now coming up as advised by the Ecclesiastical Architect. However, it should be noted that a number of these items are part of our regular and annual maintenance regime.

Bats: 'Insight Ecology' have now completed their remit for the 'Bats in Churches' Project although advise is still available on their website.

Roof Alarm: No further problems have arisen over the last year. The poor mobile signal still hinders the monitoring centre to check the system every 12 hours. As 5G slowly comes on-line the existing camera system is likely to be upgraded.

Church Bell: We are still awaiting the specialist's advice on the proposed bell rope guide, servicing of the bell mechanism and frame following the kind help from Peter Brown at Felmingham Church.

CHURCH YARD: Maintenance: Regular grass cutting, strimming, weeding and this year further tree husbandry has been carried out. Contribution is acknowledged from Parish Council towards the grass cutting costs.

Tree in grave: The work to remove this tree was offered FOC by the Old Rectory but has been rescinded. We are waiting to instruct the contractor who has carried out the other tree husbandry work to remove this tree.

Unmarked Grave: This has been discussed with the family member in the knowledge that an up to date measured survey would be carried out to agree its location. This has been done and Reverend David can now agree this with the family.

Entrance Gates: The use of the entrance gates and the bolt system are slowly being used correctly although some visitors are not bothered about closing the gates when leaving. A User Guidance Notice may still be worth providing.

Flood Lighting Tower: This is still turned on over Christmas and New Year's Eve. We again combined this as part of our Christmas Lights competition award ceremony with carol singing on the green, when Reverend David brought music and carol sheets after the presentation and enjoying the mulled wine and mince pies, however the weather was awful and had to be curtailed.

War Memorial: Work has commenced by Nick Hindle Stonemason in restoring the engraved names. A text design is ready for the addition of Shingles from WW2 and has to be approved. Once the lettering is complete work will commence on the repair of the base and when complete we can apply for the WM to be taken off the 'At Risk' register.

Conservation Area: We continue to respect the guidance from Norfolk Wildlife Trust for their maintenance plan for our Wildlife Areas and Conservation Scheme.

EVENTS:

Harvest Festival Weekend: We were delighted to host this event in September with members from all the other churches helping out. Over Saturday and Sunday with good weather, a display was on show in the church with refreshments and fete on the green area near Banningham Crown. Our service on Sunday included Mr Papworth giving a talk on YANA followed by lunch at the Community Hall which had a good attendance.

GENERALLY:

Outreach: We thank Jeanie for organising the Friday Club Lunch **regularly** at either Community Hall or Banningham Crown which remains popular with numbers still on the increase.

Our Annual Donation made to PCC continues including voluntary help on Churches Open Day

Key Holders: Church having been opened just at weekends and will revert to daily access in April with a regular mix of *Non-Church Goers participating* – The Monthly Rota has had to be organised as two members have had to withdraw. Contact Numbers of First Points of Contact remain available on Notice Board near gates.

NCT Cycle Ride: The Local Organiser will maintain our own sponsored cyclist to raise funds for the church. Last year sponsorship donations totalled £200.00 in order to receive 50% plus Gift Aid on most of the amounts.

We are delighted with how the ministry of our Rector has developed with increased congregations and an enjoyable relaxed atmosphere at services and events. Our thanks also go to the Ministry Team plus John & Mo for all their support and our own St. Botolph's Friends. Thanks also go to Hazel & Jill for organising the pedestal flower arrangements for our services.

4. St Giles, Colby

Colby church is one of the few churches in Norfolk that still has no electricity or water supply. In many ways this gives it a special charm (especially with any candle-lit services) but it can make fund-raising a bit of a challenge. With no funds provided by the Church of England, all the maintenance of the church is paid for by money raised by ourselves. (In fact, we also have to contribute to the Diocese each year through the Parish Share.) We receive an annual allowance from yourselves to help with the upkeep of the churchyard.

Our main fund-raising event is the annual Open Day, held in July. Once again, last year we were fortunate with good weather. We were incredibly indebted to everyone who helped with all the stalls and supplied cakes, jams, tombola prizes, bric-a-brac and so much more. It is always a worry a week beforehand when what we have looks a bit thin, but then it all suddenly comes together to make a good event. We made £1,570. This year's event will be on Saturday 20th July.

We had a full church for our Friends of Norfolk Dialect event (with cake) in September. It was a very entertaining afternoon full of funny stories, songs and dancing, making £345.

The Quinquennial report (a detailed structural inspection of the building and of the churchyard) highlighted a wide range of repairs. We plan on tackling the most urgent of these this Spring/Summer. It would be impossible to do everything as it amounts to over £100,000.

Sadly one of the most loyal supporters of the church, Maurice Hall, died in December 2023. Needless to say, at his funeral the church was packed with those paying respect to this wonderful man who had done so much for the church over many years. There were 4 funerals and one baptism in the last year.

With no heating, we do not have services in the Winter and the church is only open for visitors at weekends. The church is now open full-time during British Summer Time and will close again over the Winter from 27 October 2024.

Like Banningham, the church is managed by a small group of volunteers. Our "Friends" group is largely made up of non-churchgoers but all of whom are keen to see that the building remains in good condition and is used and available for everyone.

Rachel Crampton (verger)

5. COLBY SCHOOL - Year 6 Pupil Leaders Report to the Parish Council

This year at Colby School has been full of opportunities and fun. For us, in Year 6, we know that we are representing the school in everything we do. We have waited for this time to come for many years. Colby School is an amazing school. It gives you so many opportunities to do whatever leadership role you want. Mrs Mead even lets you create your own leadership role so you feel completely comfortable leading whatever you like.

As usual, Key Stage 2 led a thoughtful Remembrance Service during November 2023. The Head Boy and Head Girls were supported by members of the Royal British Legion and we all enjoyed welcoming our families to the service. Mrs Mead (Headteacher) and Mr Frost (Deputy Headteacher) were very proud of us.

Key Stage 2 performed a Pantomime at The Atrium at Christmas. Our families sang and danced to The Twelve Days of Christmas at the end of the performance. They were not expecting audience participation and it was very funny!

We have continued to have sporting success this year in Dodgeball, Rugby, Swimming and Netball – winning trophies and medals competing against other schools. Ophelia and Leonardo (Year 6) have represented Norfolk in Athletics events and we are very proud of them!

Mrs Mead wrote a big application to Active Norfolk and we were awarded £10,000 to spend on sporting activities. We have enjoyed having sport activities before school from 8.30am – a great way to start our day and get energised before our lessons begin.

We continue to love everything Eco – we've worked hard to maintain our fantastic school grounds. Mrs Frost runs a very successful Gardening Club and we all help out with weeding and tidying up around the school. We had a visitor from the RSPCA to talk to us about the work of the charity and we fundraised £50 for them by selling recycled crisp packet keyrings and toys.

We have introduced a new leadership role this year which is Head of Student Well-being. The Head of Student Well-being reported "I myself have made my own leadership role to support with well-being at Colby School. From my own personal experience, I know how hard it is for a child struggling with anxiety. Colby School was so supportive to me while I was struggling and now I want to help others."

The Head of Student Well-being organises happy events and raises awareness about talking to others if you are feeling low.

Our school animals are still one of our favourite things! Guinea Pig Club goes from strength to strength and children love Cuddle Friday, when the Head of Guinea Pigs arranges for them to cuddle the guinea pigs (and learn about how to care for them)!

It has been a fantastic year to come and we are looking forward to the Summer term.

By Year 6 Pupil Leaders.