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MINUTES OF THE COLLINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at 7.30 pm on 13 APRIL 2023
in the YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, LOW STREET, COLLINGHAM

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Gillian French

Iain Orme

Parish Councillor Derek Mackenzie

Parish Councillor Mike Lloyd

2. To receive the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 14 April 2022

Copies of the minutes were available and accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair

3. Chair's report on Parish events

The Parish Council has had another busy and at times challenging year but here are some of the highlights:

2022 was of course Jubilee year and wow did we celebrate. The events kicked off with the lighting of the beacon and continued with the Fun Day at the Cricket Club, culminating with abseiling teddy bears at Vine Farm.

The Parish Council organised the beacon lighting event and supported the other events that were expertly organised by other committees. Thank you to everyone involved. I thought it was fabulous.

Sadly our Jubilee bunting and flags had to be removed before the year was out following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September.

Next, came the Skatepark Jam another fun filled day from Extreme Wheels to round off the summer season of weekly sessions in the park quickly followed by Christmas.

Our Christmas event took place on the day that the England football team were playing in the World Cup, despite that the Collingham Young Farmers turned out in force with a wonderfully decorated float escorted by Collingham Fire Service, Santa and his helpers.

Generous donations to the food pantry were collected and the selling of seasonal refreshments in the car park meant that we were able to donate £317.06 to Beaumont House Hospice.

Again thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success.

After 12th night the Christmas tree that has been beautifully decorated by the Collingham Brownies was recycled by the Young Farmers helping the community work on its green agenda.

In last year's report it was mentioned that the Parish Council had bought a small piece of land on Station Road, this has now been named the Platinum Field.

Planning permission has now been granted to turn this into a community garden. Work is ongoing, a path has been added, seating put in and at a recent community event 502 saplings donated by the Woodland Trust were planted as a hedge around the perimeter. Still to come are more trees and a wildflower meadow, the space will be used primarily by

the Scouts and Guides but watch the notice boards for other public events. There is to be an official opening in June.

We also discussed changing the small play area at Pitomy Farm into a sensory garden. The Coop has donated money to us from their Community Champions scheme and we are working with a garden designer called Guy Petheram to make the space suitable for all. The land slopes quite a lot and some work will need to be done to provide a safe level access for prams and wheelchairs.

The initial surveys have been done and the council look forward to being able to share the proposals in the coming months.

In February this year the Council launched its latest project GEM standing for Greet, Eat'n Meet.

A successful group called Sage Gardener had been running in South Scarle for many years where people came together for activities, social interaction and food.

NSDC were promoting the idea of warm hubs to help people with their heating bills and to combat loneliness so with the help of Linda Dales our District Councillor we got together with the South Scarle group and the rest, as they say "is history".

Sage Gardener became GEM and we now have GEM running successfully in both venues. The sessions last for three hours and include craft activities, games, a quiz and a raffle. Tea/coffee/biscuits are served on arrival and homemade soup and cake at lunchtime.

Linda managed to secure a start up grant from NSDC so not only would I like to say a huge thank you to Linda for getting this idea off the ground but also to the small army of volunteers that it takes to make each event such a success. There are too many to name all individuals however a special mention must go to Jean and Belinda from Collingham Village Care who handle the bookings and transport and to Mary-Ann, who has recently accepted the role of Co-ordinator, which means that there will always be a supply of homemade soup and cake available for anyone that wants to drop in.

Thank you all without you, it wouldn't happen.

Our regular Council meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of each month, here in this building at 7.15pm.

There is a public forum at the beginning of each meeting lasting 10-15 minutes and after that you may stay and listen to what is being discussed.

At this point I would like to say thank you to Caron our Parish Clerk and Mary-Ann our assistant Parish Clerk for all the work they do in dealing with all the legal aspects of running the Parish Council, sorting out agenda's minutes, invitations, such as the one you received to be here tonight, responses to resident's queries, planning responses etc. etc. Thank you both, you do a great job.

Our council tax bills have gone up this year however you will note that the portion for the Parish of Collingham has remained the same, this is because as the Parish is expanding the Parish Council has an increase in revenue this is due partly to the increase in the number of houses and partly because some of the developments in the Parish incur Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL money) which is paid to the Parish Council. This money along with the money the Parish can allocate to support groups has allowed the Parish Council to yet again support a huge number of people via grants to:

- Collingham and District Pre School
- Collingham Community Pub
- Collingham Rural Advice & Resource Centre
- Norton Disney History & Archaeology Group
- Collingham Bowls Club
- Cricket Club

And Collingham War memorial Hall kindly granted the Parish Council permission to provide a further defibrillator and cabinet on the front of their building.

So, the next steps:

Several Councillors have decided not to stand again for re-election so there will be six new Councillors from the 9th May along with 4 of the existing Councillors.

This means we will be losing a wealth of knowledge and experience but welcome the energy, enthusiasm and skill sets that the new Councillors will bring.

As Chair of the existing Council I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the departing Councillors for all the hard work that has been done over the years and for the legacy that will provide a firm foundation for the next Council to build on.

Looking to the future:

The Neighbourhood Plan is taking shape and will remain on the agenda for the new council. Your responses to the recent survey are very enlightening and will be taken into consideration as the plan evolves.

Finally, this report started with Jubilee celebrations and will finish with plans for the upcoming coronation of King Charles III.

At the request of the King there will be no beacon lighting as part of the coronation celebrations but beacons will be lit next year on June 6th, 2024, to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings in Normandy. Therefore, there will not be a stand-alone event from the Parish Council for the coronation however several Councillors have joined the committee that is organising the Family Fun Day at the Cricket Club on Sunday 7th May, it will be similar to the fun day held for the Jubilee and promises to be a great day.

See you there! Thank you for listening

4. **Open forum for parishioners' comments and questions**

- *No one wished to raise any comments or queries*

5. **Representatives of voluntary groups within the Parish to report on their progress in the last few years and plans for the future**

Collingham Bowls Club – Norma Clarke (secretary)

Very grateful for the opportunity to complete the clubhouse project and there will be an opening event to attract new members and say thank you.

Collingham Village Care – Michael Davies

The transport service is under pressure with 27 drivers and 350 passengers on the books. They haven't let anyone down yet but are seeking further volunteers.

6. **Prospective Candidates for Parish Council Elections to introduce themselves**

When the agenda was published the Parish Council did not know how many nominations had been submitted and therefore if all vacancies would be filled or if an election would need to be held.

Newark & Sherwood District Council received 10 nominations for the 10 vacancies. Therefore, all persons nominated will be duly elected on the 4th May. However this still presents an opportunity for the Parishioners present to learn a little more about the Parish Councillors that will be representing them for the next four years.

Laurence Curran

Has lived in Collingham since 2015 and is a director of company providing social media services to young racing drivers.

John Wilson

Has lived in the village for 20 years at Vine Farm. He organises the May Fair and the Ceilidh as he likes doing things for the community.

Keith Walker

Has lived in the village for seven years and has spent 30 years on the district and county councils.

Sue Gray

Co-opted in March 2022 and has loved every minute.

Steve Blagg

Has lived here for four years and is impressed how much there is going on. He is also a volunteer on the litter picking group and was co-opted in March 2022.

Angela Haberton

Has lived here for 35 years in three different houses and is a former educational manager.

Rosemary Fabian

Has lived here since 1991 and has been the Parish Council Chair for two years.

7. Close of the Annual Parish Meeting

Thank you for attending

The meeting closed at 8:05 pm

8 members of the public present, 4 parish councillors and 2 Parish Clerks

No members of the press present

DRAFT