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MINUTES OF THE COLLINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at 6:30pm on 11th APRIL 2024

**in the YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, LOW STREET,
COLLINGHAM**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Parish Councillor Angela Haberton

District Councillor Linda Dales

Mary Beech, CRARC

Charles Stothard, U3A

Mark Humble

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 13th April, 2023

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

3. Chair's report on Parish events

Good evening everyone

I would like to start this report with a thank you to Caron Ballantyne who served as Clerk to Collingham Parish Council for nine years. Caron retired as Clerk in October 2023 although I am pleased to say she is still working hard in the village as a Flood Warden, a founder member of GEM and a tree inspector.

Under her leadership the Council achieved a Quality Gold standard award, this was a first in Nottinghamshire, so the current council and staff are working hard to maintain it.

The reins have been passed to our new Clerk, Mary - Ann Horley who was an Assistant Clerk to Caron. Mary - Ann has completed her Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) training and is currently studying to become CiLCA qualified, which is a Certificate of Local Council Administration.

Harriet Boyd, our new Assistant Clerk, is currently working on her ILCA training.

Mary-Ann and Harriet are working well together and proving to be a great team, well done both of you.

Councillor Sue Gray and myself also completed ILCA training this year however it did take what seemed like gallons of coffee and many biscuits for us to get through it.

As well as new staff, six new Councillors were elected in May, so you can see it is a time of great change. The Council is working hard to achieve the goals set out in the action plan for 2023-27.

There are nine objectives on the action plan and I am pleased to report that the Council has made good progress on all of them.

I will quickly review them for you here:

1. Better Communication - Fleet magazine, website, Library
2. Engaging in Community Planning – Neighbourhood Plan is ongoing, special thanks to Iain Orme who has taken the lead on this. I believe we will be hearing from Iain later.
3. Improving community safety – Safer Neighbourhood Group, speedwatch
4. Emergency Planning – Floods! More on that in a moment
5. Engage in Community activities – again more on that in a moment
6. Maintain and enhance community assets – ongoing work, playgrounds, cemetery open spaces, benches etc.
7. Enhance youth provision – Extreme Wheels continued
8. To provide a warm hub - GEM a success
9. To be a “Quality Council” – back to opening comments Quality Gold!

If, for just a moment I can expand on a couple of these:

No. 4 Emergency Planning

From October through to January storms from Babet through to Henk battered the UK and sadly the resultant flooding breached several properties in Collingham, causing major damage to homes and significant distress to the occupiers.

Flood wardens worked hard to ensure they fulfilled their remit of monitoring the river gauges, closing the road when required, checking on residents thought to be at risk, delivering aqua sacks and sand bags and providing refreshments and a safe warm space (Memorial Hall) for those needing respite or shelter.

The water level eventually peaked at approx. 40mm higher than recorded on the Church wall in 2000.

At this point may I offer and record thanks to all the Emergency Services, Flood Wardens, Councillors and residents who worked tirelessly to help all those in need.

So what has happened since?

The County Council (designated Flood Authority), Newark and Sherwood District Council, Parish Council, Flood Wardens and affected residents have met to discuss a plan of action and create single points of contact to ensure that current, clear, correct and relevant information is made available to all who need it.

The Parish Council (via the Clerk) will be the point of Contact with Notts County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, VIA and Severn Trent

Linda Dales will continue with her work with Quarry liaison and the Internal Drainage Board who have in the last couple of weeks cleared the Fleet.

All necessary information to and from residents will be via Emma Dixon who has kindly agreed to do this role.

The plan is in its infancy but there is commitment from all involved to achieve a plan that will bring about improvements.

Additional Flood Wardens have come forward since the events in January and initial training has already been completed and more in depth training arranged for 27th April.

The Environment Agency in partnership with NCC has arranged a community drop in event for the 15th April.

More information will be made available as the plan progresses.

Objective No. 5 Engage in Community Activities.

The council works hard to be active and visible within the community e.g. Station Adoption, Best Kept Village competition, at this point I would like to say a huge thank you to all the village volunteers who litter pick, maintain planters and green spaces and keep our footpaths clear.

The council is not the main organiser of all events but some Councillors are involved with and support the other organisations that provide other celebrations:

May Fair - Thanks to John and Jane Wilson for all the hard work that goes into making this annual event such a success.

Coronation of King Charles III – Thanks to the Cricket Club for giving us yet another day to remember.

Tour of Britain – it is all over in a flash, but the flag wavers smiles are well remembered. Thank you NCC for once again securing a leg of the race through Collingham.

Collingham Show- the show committee does a fantastic job and have done since 1849!

The switch on of the Christmas lights – although this is a Parish Council event a huge thank you goes to all those volunteers and sponsors that help us make it happen. There are too many to name individually but I will just mention the Young Farmers as it is their enthusiasm that gets us all out on a cold, dark winter's night. From this list you will appreciate just how active and community focused Collingham is.

Personally, I enjoyed every one of the events and I am glad to hear that arrangements are already being made for more in 2024. Starting with the May Fair, which is just a couple of weeks away.

So, looking to the future, the Council will continue to work on its action plan with focus on two items, in particular the Best Kept Village competition and the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council will need cooperation and support from residents to achieve these goals so if you would like to be involved then please get in touch. If you let Mary-Ann or Harriet have your details they will put you on our volunteer register.

Finally, D Day 80 celebrations are to be held on Thursday 6th June.

A flag will be raised in the village centre at 9:15am and a beacon will be lit at the Royal Oak at 9:15pm.

Plans are still being made but there will be entertainment and because it is National Fish and Chip day the pub has agreed to have them on the menu.

Watch the notice boards etc. for more information.

I look forward to seeing you there.

But just before I go some additional news;

In the last few days the Council has had an offer accepted to purchase the land to the west of Foster Road.

No plans have been made yet but I can confirm that this will be retained as a green space for the village. More information will be available in due course.

That's all for now, thank you for listening

4. Representatives from groups within the Parish to report on their progress within the last year and plans for the future.

Collingham Young Farmers Club - Isabelle Chennells

The YFC meets every Tuesday at the Youth & Community Centre as well as running rallies and fundraising events such as the recent Easter egg hunt. A fundraising event for this year's charity the British Heart Foundation is coming up.

Nottinghamshire Royal British Legion – Paul Clay, Vice-Chair

The Collingham branch is on the verge of closing as the main committee has resigned so four new committee members are sought who would need to commit to about 30 hours per year.

Collingham and District Local History Society – Nigel Priestley

The society operates approximately in the area between the A57 and A1 and has 140 members, often those new to the village and many with academic expertise. Projects such as Collingham Uncovered continue and a 9ft map of the villages pre-enclosure has been donated. This year there will be five lectures and two village walks, and younger members are encouraged.

PC Gareth Nicholls

PC Nicholls is the beat officer for the area between Barnby-in-the-Willows and North Clifton. Beat officers attend the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings every three months. A recurrent issue in the area is hare coursing during the winter months with three incidents this year, and residents are also advised not to buy from doorstep sellers. Whatever the incident, residents are urged to contact the beat team as soon as possible – contact details are on local noticeboards.

GEM – Caron Ballantyne

GEM started just over a year ago, taking over from Sage Gardener in South Scarle. Numbers are rising, especially in Collingham, and guests have gone on and joined more groups. Guests are served home-made soup in the winter

and quiche in the summer. Grants have been awarded for the costs of hiring the halls and a volunteer is sought to run craft activities with the group.

Collingham Bowls Club – Norma Clarke

The club has been running since 1835 and plays in leagues in Newark and Lincoln. The clubhouse has recently been refurbished, assisted by grants from the Parish Council and from Tarmac. The club is looking to buy more accessible equipment and is also introducing a pay and play option for people who cannot commit or just want to play occasionally.

Collingham & District Cricket Club – Charles Lucas

The club now has over 200 members, with the first team playing in Nottinghamshire Premier League 2 and teams for ladies and all ages of juniors. It is expensive to run so the club is grateful for support from the Parish Council and others. There is to be a celebration weekend in July with the club playing the Marylebone CC and a dinner dance. More details will appear on social media.

Collingham Football Club – Tom McGill

The football club is a volunteer organisation with 27 teams and players aged from four to 86. The club also hosts pool, darts and fishing teams. There are 400 player members and 950 social members. The committee is looking to make the club more sustainable with projects such as solar panels and a borehole. The club appreciates the support and understanding from the village regarding parking, and has offered a site for a temporary phone mast.

Friends of the Trent Vale Trail – Steve Blagg

The aim is to extend the trail to North Clifton and get bikes, walkers and horses off the A1133. £200,000 funding is in place thanks to NSDC for construction to start in May or June with a target for 75% completion this summer. £30,000 more is needed to complete signage and other ancillary aspects.

May Fair and Collingham Show – John Wilson

John runs the May Fair on behalf of the parochial church council to raise money for the churches. This year the May Fair has been extended to three days with live music, a ceilidh and the fair itself on Bank Holiday Monday. Committee members are sought for both the May Fair and the Collingham Show.

1st Collingham Scouts – Iain Orme

Collingham Scouts lost two leaders and had very low numbers post-Covid but is now completely full with 60 children and young people, and 20 volunteers. Programmes have been set up for the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards and the Big Weekend at Newark Showground is coming up soon. The group has an increasing presence in the village for example with an Easter Egg hunt and

the May Fair barbeque and is soon to open a Squirrel group for children aged four to six.

Phoenix Community Hall – Iain Orme

The hall is now 15 years old and is becoming a community hub rather than just a Scout headquarters. The hall had been making losses but is now self-sustaining. Web and social media publicity have been increased and there is now an online booking system.

Neighbourhood Plan – Iain Orme

This is the plan for the village until 2036 and will also lead to more Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money coming into the parish, which is used for things like the new Cricket nets and the Foster Road land. After the surveys have been completed, priorities have been found to be environment, built environment, active transport and housing. The next stage is focus groups then the plan goes to the district council for checking before a referendum where every elector gets to vote on whether the plan is adopted.

Newark and Sherwood District Council – Councillor Phil Farmer

The village bottle bins, owned by a private company, have been removed after the introduction of household glass bins so NSDC have added their own bins in the original location. After widespread concern as to whether provision is sufficient, Cllr Farmer is to raise questions with NSDC.

Cllr Farmer also reiterated that NSDC must take into account the Neighbourhood Plan when making decisions such as allocating housing land.

5. Open forum for parishioners' comments and questions

A query was raised about the closure of the Cross Lane level crossing and the potential for increased through-traffic on The Hedgerows. The crossing closure is to improve the speed of the line from Nottingham to Lincoln.

6. Close of Annual Parish Meeting

Thank you for attending

The meeting closed at 20:00pm

More than 20 members of the public, 8 parish councillors and 2 Parish Clerks present

No members of the press present

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