

## **ILKETSHALL ST MARGARET PARISH MEETING**

These are the Minutes of the Half-Yearly Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Ed O'Brien, Chairman, Juliet Haley, Brenda Mace, Jane Waring, Clerk, Toby Hammond and 13 village residents.

1. Apologies

Andrew Slate, Roger Webb, Anthony Specca, Rob Hardman, Ann McVicar, Joyce Hunt, Alastair Tomkin and Karen O'Brien.

2. Minutes of the AGM – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The minutes of this year's AGM number 167 were read by the Chair, proposed as correct by Juliet Haley and seconded by Brenda Mace.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bulb Planting – the Clerk reported that unfortunately we have been unsuccessful in our application for bulbs this year, but have been sent a packet of seeds. These were handed to Brenda Mace to scatter in an appropriate place.

4. Half Yearly Financial Statement

The Clerk ran through the transactions since the last meeting and reported that the current balance at the bank on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 is £1,727.06. Those present confirmed that payments made since the last meeting were appropriate in accordance with the Constitution.

5. Precept 2025/2026

The Precept requirement will need to be confirmed to the Council by January 2025. East Suffolk Council have resolved to charge a 100% premium for 2<sup>nd</sup> homes from 01/04/2025. This will result in an additional 4.67 Band D equivalent properties for our Parish. This means that if our precept remains unchanged at £750 this will show as a -6.7% reduction on the 2025/26 Council tax bills. If we wish for a 0% change we could ask for £803.67 precept. It was unanimously agreed by those present that the £803.67 should be requested for 2025/2026 and the Clerk was asked advise the Council.

6. Planning matters

The Clerk reported that the outline plans to build 3 houses on the meadowland adjacent to Appleborough has been approved although there are many restrictions on the development. The land outline on the plans is incorrect and the applicants and Council have been made aware of this, but nothing further has been heard.

7. Highways

The drain outside Meadow View floods after heavy rain and has been reported by Fiena and Ton Kolvoort. They were asked to continue to reporting the flooding until this is resolved.

8. Village Newsletter

Julie Harding – Julie thanked Jon Lewis for all his hard work in the past and said that her 1<sup>st</sup> edition was now published and distributed. Any feedback is welcome as are any contributions of articles.

9. Reports from Village Committees

Village Hall – Rob Hardman had sent a report in his absence which was read by the Clerk and is filed with these minutes. The next nexts planned events are the Hotpot Night Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December Christmas dinner.

Flower Show – Roger Webb was unable to attend and had nothing to report.

PCC – Eva Collyer – 24<sup>th</sup> December there will be a carols and crib service at 3pm as usual, with wine & minced pies afterwards. Some pews have been removed to provide more space and the flooring had been improved.

Charities – Eva Collyer – 13 OAPs were being given £110 winter fuel money and the fund still have £1,000 for the Village Hall.

Footpaths – Brenda Mace – The footpaths are reasonable from High Street and a couple of farmers have been reminded to maintain the field crossing paths.

#### 10. Updates from Local Councillors

Toby Hammond – District Councillor – Toby and Anthony Specca were elected in 2023 and we now have Green/LibDem led Council. Toby mentioned his Top 10 report, which is displayed on the noticeboard, highlighting Anthony's youth council of students challenging the adults on various issues, which had been a great success. Also the proposed waste incinerator at Ellough, which has a permit and is being monitored to ensure it keeps within allowed limits. The potential restructuring of council boundaries is only rumour at the moment, but if this goes ahead there would be the benefit of less confusion as we would only have one council, but it would serve a much larger area. Toby has been working with several parish councils to tackle speeding and some have purchased their own Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Jordan Hindes, Bungay Mayor, has a technical background and is happy to help with these.

#### 11. Any other business

Ann Heason – any notices, please put them in Rowan Cottage purple box and Ann will put them on the outside board so that more passers-by might see them.

There is a tree on St Margarets Road leaning on an overhead cable and some other trees with lose overhanging branches. The Clerk said that she would report this to the highways team via their reporting tool.

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership have a scheme to loan thermal imaging equipment for communities to carry out heat-loss surveys. The Clerk had checked availability and there was no equipment to be booked, but Toby understood that Rachel Kellett, Halesworth Town Counsellor, may have access to equipment we could borrow and will to share her contact details with the Clerk. Those present were interested in the project and it was agreed to publicise though the noticeboard, Facebook and direct email to form a project group if we could obtain the equipment.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.19 pm.