ILKETSHALL ST MARGARET PARISH MEETING

These are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd May 2025 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Ed O'Brien, Alastair Tomkin, Juliet Haley, Brenda Mace, Jane Waring, Clerk, Cllr Judy Cloke, Cllr Toby Hammond and 11 village residents.

1. Apologies for Absence
   Roger Webb, Andrew Slate, Cllr Dr Anthony Speca, Tony Runacres, Dawn Deakin, Chris McCrave, Julie Harding.

2. Current Chairman's Report
   Ed O'Brien, Chairman, gave his report highlighting our vibrant community and the people that work for the various committees and make the village such a lovely place to live.
   A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

3. Election of New Parish Meeting Committee
   Invitations to serve the meeting were responded to by Mrs. Mace, Mr. Tomkin, Mr. Webb, Mr Slate, Mrs. McVicar, Miss Haley, Chris McCrave, Mr. O.Brien. This being the maximum number of members allowed, these members were thanked for their offer and elected 'en bloc' by a unanimous show of hands.

4. Election of Chairman
   The current Chairman Ed O'Brien, having served his first year and being willing to undertake his second, there was no requirement for an election.

5. Minutes of the Previous Half-Yearly Meeting – November 2024
   The minutes of last year's Half-Yearly Meeting number 168 were read by the Chair and with a minor correction were proposed as correct by Brenda Mace and seconded by Eva Collyer.

6. Matters Arising
   Thermal imaging equipment – The Clerk had contacted Cllr Rachel Kellett from Halesworth as advised by Toby Hammond, and had been put on to the Climate Change Partnership who have confirmed that equipment is likely to be available again this winter and the Clerk has the contact details to get the parish on the waiting list. The Clerk asked that everyone interested in being part of the project to leave their details.

7. Presentation of the Annual Accounts
   Hard copies of the audited statement of accounts were passed to everyone and the Clerk identified and explained each item of income and expenditure. Valerie Carroll had undertaken the internal audit again this year and was thanked.
   The Clerk reported the balance at the bank on the 31st of March 2024 had amounted to £1,726.36 and this has been brought forward to the new financial year, 2025/26.
   The Clerk mentioned that the paperwork on which the annual statement of accounts is based, could be perused after the meeting. On asking for proposal acceptance of the figures, these were proposed by Karen O'Brien, seconded by Juliet Haley and accepted unanimously.

   The Chairman ran through the Accounting Statements as included in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and acceptance was unanimous by those present. These accounts will now be held as a public record and a Certificate of Exemption will be sent to the Government auditors.

A commencement date for the exercise of public rights for inspecting the records was agreed as 3rd June and a notice will be displayed by the Clerk accordingly.

8. Current Financial Position
   Having paid the Clerks expenses and bank charges for April, and having received this year's precept of £803.67, the current balance is £2,495.87. The Chair asked if anyone had any calls for money, any ideas to the Clerk.

9. Planning Matters
   None

10. Highways
    Potholes in Low Street have been reported to the Council.

11. Correspondence
    The Clerk had been contacted by a visitor to the village bringing to the Meeting's notice the condition of the bench located by the church. The Chairman and Simon Deakin had transported the bench to the Chairman's house where it was cleaned and re-treated. The Meeting were thanked for their quick action.

12. Appointment of Auditors
    Mrs. Valerie Carroll was proposed as internal auditor for the year and unanimously approved.

13. Village Newsletter and Website
    Julie Harding, the editor of the Village Voice was unable to attend the meeting but had no issues to raise and had reported that the next issue would be distributed soon. If anyone has articles for the newsletter please forward them to Julie.

14. Reports from village committees – Village Hall and Flower Show, PCC, Charities, Footpaths
    Village Hall – Ed O'Brien – the hall has now reopened and Chris McCrave has taken over as Chair of the committee. The Village Hall still has many items on the agenda, including improving and tidying the entrance hall and repainting the kitchen.
    Flower Show - Roger Webb - Schedules have been distributed to all residents and surrounding local businesses. See Facebook for News updates. Volunteers are always welcome, please contact Roger at **flowershowshow70@yahoo.com**
    PCC - Eva Collyer – Eva has been re-elected as church warden and Barry Chapman as treasurer. The Council is financially sound thanks to the donation by Theresa Salmond and on the 14th June at 2pm there will be a strawberry tea in the Village Hall.
    Charities - Eva Collyer – The Charity has given the Village Hall £1,000 can give more if needed. If anyone needs help, the Charity is available for support.
    Footpaths - Brenda Mace – The long grass has now been cut, but the rape has fallen over the paths. It was noted that paths should be 3m wide. Cattle are now around the village and dogs should be on a lead when around them. The Clerk was asked to produce a notice with guidance for the village noticeboard including the Countryside Code and information from NFU that Simon Deakin will forward.

15. Updates from Local Councillors
    Judy Cloke – the County Councillor for Bungay & Wainford read through her annual report. Highlighting transport and bus services including stops along the A144. Judy will apply for the stop at the end of Moles Lane to be considered for reinstatement.
    A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.
    Toby Hammond - District Councillor reported that the restructuring of the local councils is no longer a rumour, but now a certainty, a single unitary council will be established, but the new boundaries are uncertain. There may be more unitaries and decisions from the Secretary of State will be announced

later this year. Next elections for Norfolk & Suffolk will be for a Mayor in 2026 and unitary councils in 2027. East Suffolk Youth Council young people have now been elected and are working as a council putting a motion to the Councillors on youth well-being which was adopted. Adrian Ramsey MP is undertaking local surgeries and all are welcome. Adrian.Ramsay.mp@parliament.uk
The Enabling Communities budget is available for small projects in East Suffolk.

16. Any Other Business
Ann Heason asked for a new Charities notice for the Noticeboard and Eva Collyer offered to ask Leon for this.
Flower tubs – the Clerk asked if anyone would like to take on the 2 tubs in Low Street and Fiene Kolvoort offered to look after the one by the Village Hall and Eva Collyer offered to tend the one by the church.
The footpath at the front of the Village Hall needs reducing for drainage and the Chairman offered to action this.
The proposed plaque to commemorate the family of Billy English was mentioned and now that the Hall had been redecorated this will now be put in place.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.46pm