



Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 17th May 2023, 8PM Venue: Village Hall, Wilburton

23-AGM-01: Apologies for Absence

No apologies were given.

23-AGM-02: Receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th May 2022

The minutes from the previous meeting were read out by Kara Atkinson

23-AGM-03: Chairmans Report

Welcome everyone to the Annual Parish meeting and thank you for coming. This year brings my first year as Parish Council Chair to a close and it has certainly been eventful! Firstly, can I formally thank our Parish Clerk Rixon who is stepping down as Clerk. He worked through the difficult conditions that arose from COVID, and other difficulties, to ensure that the Parish Council could meet, and the bills got paid! We wish him well in the future. Kara the assistant Clerk is also cutting down her hours but will continue to take care of the cemetery. The new Parish Clerk Andy Milne will take over everything else that was Rixon and Kara's responsibility, and we wish him all the best in his new job!

Since the last Annual Meeting we have had two new councillors join. James Lambert and Mark Duckworth have made excellent additions to our council and have already got to work trying to improve the Parish one item at a time! We welcome them and thank them for giving their time freely to helping Wilburton flourish!

We have sadly lost Sara Hennessy due to other commitments on her time making doing the job of Parish Councillor very difficult. We thank her for her time and efforts.

I would like to take the time to thank all the councillors of Wilburton Parish Council for their hard work, dedication and commitment to Wilburton. All of which they give freely and in their own time to make the parish run and develop for the better.

I would especially like to thank Councillor Harvey Upton for vice-chairing this Parish Council over my first year. His experience and understanding of past events have been valuable with various important tasks we have undertaken this year. He has put in a lot of work for the Parish, including the work on the speed cameras and defibrillator on the Rec. We owe him a lot for the time that he dedicates to Wilburton as a Parish Councillor.

Also, I would like to formally recognise the work that Councillor Gill Spencer has done this year in taking over the HR responsibilities of the Parish. She has put in hours of work helping to select our new clerk. She has also been working hard with Haddenham Parish Council on trying to recover some of our lost local footpaths and found time to represent us on the Wilburton Beer Festival Committee and at the Haddenham and Wilburton Warm Hub! She has also agreed to be my vice chair for this new council year, I look forward to working with her again this year on helping and improving Wilburton Parish.

During this past year together, we have achieved several goals of which I am personally very proud and so should all the councillors here. We have worked towards closer ties with Haddenham Parish Council. A council that has a great deal of experience and has shown they are always more than willing to help us with any issue. Of course, between here and there almost everything is in common interest!

With their help we entered a highway bid for 20mph limit through the village just as they had done before us. This will help reduce the speed through the entire village but more importantly will allow us to get the desired second light-controlled crossing on the A1123 further to the east of the village. That plus the new car park planned for the Rec should improve road safety no end on what is a very dangerous spot to cross as a pedestrian or navigate in a vehicle.

With Haddenham's help a Warm Hub was set up at the Haddenham Social Club for both villages and in part funded by both villages share of the government funding. This hub helped to take care of a few thousand visitors over the coldest 6 months, 5 days a week 6 hours a day. Not just for warmth but serving food, drink, and entertainments too. I haven't heard of another nearby that was open as much and provides so many services to parishioners. They have had enough footfall and success to continue past the end of March (as was originally planned) and go all through the year. All reports from there I have received have been positive and all involved should be very proud of themselves and deserve all our appreciation.

In this past 12 months the lease for the Wilburton Rec was signed and gives us use of the full site for 30 years from February 2023. This allows us to be able to raise capital to spend on developing the site now that the grant providers can see we have use of it for such a period. We intend to build a more developed recreation facility on the site that will include a 40-space car park, a hard surface tennis court, an all-weather astroturf surface, all floodlit. Also a new pavilion to be shared by all the teams that use the Rec is on the cards but we are working to provide playing spaces and build up the user numbers on the Rec so we can apply for money for that later. I would like to thank the new WRAPP committee for undertaking all the work needed to make this become a reality. Councillors Steve Morgan and Henry Wilson have been instrumental in helping me on the committee do all the behind-the-scenes work designing amenities as well as applying for funding and physically being there to supervise the work!

Early in the year I was approached by several parishioners concerned about the fact we have no amenities on our High Street any longer. A position I imagine most of us share. After a conversation with the owner at the Kings Head she was interested to see what sort of interest there was in a community purchase of her pub, to see it reopen as some sort of pub/shop/Post Office for the village. A work colleague of mine had done this in Horningsea only recently so I looked to follow his blueprint. We had a large response to the survey and the data showed almost total support for the idea if

the money could be raised. Unfortunately, almost immediately after the consultation at the end of August we had the crash in September, and it was felt that although we had raised a large 5 figure amount it was almost impossible to result in enough to have a serious conversation with the owner about buying the pub. The idea hasn't gone away altogether and may have to alter significantly to continue. I would like to thank Councillor James Lambert for taking this task in hand and I'm sure another route will head us back on the path to trying to return at least one of our village amenities to Wilburton.

We have worked on several repairs and improvements to the St. Peters Hall and the Social Club premises. Thanks to Councillors Upton and Morgan for their help with this as well as the caretaker David Maltby. The Cinema and Theatre Groups have both helped with plans to improve the speakers and the acoustics of the hall. We intend to try and make the space as user friendly as possible while trying to be suitable for the widest range of possible activities and groups. The cinema group has resumed showings here in the hall beginning with Stardust before Xmas and the theatre group has been doing a wonderful job of organising various productions this year. I would like to thank the Social Club committee for all the recent improvements and decorating they've done in the club; it looks much better and hopefully will entice people to join as members. All of these groups, who have the goal of bringing the community together at their heart, should be supported widely and will wherever possible be aided by our Council.

With help from the Social Club, we intend to try and make the hall more of a venue that people may wish to book for events or parties etc. The hall really is the village's only significant asset and trying to rent it out as much as we are able will help the council make enough income to avoid large rises in costs. Then unfortunately the costs having to be passed on to the public in the precept part of the council tax.

We have stopped using our Speed Indicator Sign under the banner of Roadwatch and have agreed to put that, and our 2 new ones, under the banner of the local Speedwatch and its volunteers. The Parish Council would like to thank Speedwatch for volunteering to take over the maintenance and use of our new signs and helping to make the village a safer place in terms of road safety.

I would like to thank Rosemary Hughes for her donation of a new bench on the High Street by Station Road. After Harvey, Henry, Steve and I cleared all the leaves and debris from the site last July it was clear the old bench had seen better days. Thanks to Harvey and David Maltby for securing it in place. Now we have a new bench, a little taller and more comfortable than the previous!

The Wilburton Beer Festival was a great success in 2022 and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it for the first time. Thanks to Nigel Pymont the Chair and everyone else involved in bringing this great event back again after COVID. I'm very much looking forward to this year's festival as many of us are! Please get in touch if anyone wishes to volunteer to help either on the day or in the preparation stages.

Then finally have planted a memorial tree to the late Queen Elizabeth on the green space by the Berristead playground. We chose a type known to be a favourite of the Queen and will soon install a plaque dedicating it to her. After 70 years as our head, we felt it only right to honour her in this small way.

I look forward to bringing you all a report with many more improvements and hopefully amenities for Wilburton next year!

23-AGM-04: Reports from County and District Councillors

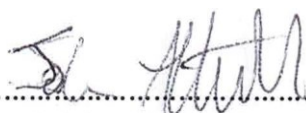
There were no reports from County and district councillors.

23-AGM-05: Reports from the Village Organisations

There were no reports from village organisations.

23-AGM-06: Any other Business/questions from the floor

None were received.



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Signed: Mr J Attril/Date: 15.05.24