

St. James South Elmham
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd
May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Committee Members present: Mr C. Bradley (Chair)
Mrs M. Henry (Clerk)
Mr A. Hadingham, Mr B. Crockford,
Mr R. Hadingham, Mrs A. Dinsdale & Mr Graham 7
residents of the village

1. Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting,

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:- Mrs L. Bradley, Mrs C. Rodbourne, Mrs J. Bastow & Mrs R. Ritchie.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes had been published on the parish noticeboard, and copies were available to read this evening. Mrs A Dinsdale then read a precis of the minutes.

Acceptance of the minutes, proposed by Mr A. Hadingham, seconded by Mr D. Ritchie, vote unanimous. Signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that would not be covered in later reports.

5. Reports:

Chairman's Report

The impact on the village of the waste operations [REDACTED] had resulted in enforcement orders being issued in early 2021 by Suffolk County Council for the cessation of all waste processing and the clearance of both sites. A huge amount of evidence had been submitted by Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, St James Parish Meeting and residents affected in support of the Enforcement Order. The owners [REDACTED] [REDACTED] appealed against the order, but it was strongly rejected by Suffolk County Council and the Parish Meeting. The Government's appointed inspector finally delivered decisions on both properties on 11th January 2023. The appeals were dismissed, the enforcement notices upheld and deemed planning permission refused. Furthermore, the owners were required "to remove from the land all materials, plant, equipment and waste associated with the waste transfer facility, including the material spread on the land to form hard standing as part and parcel of the material change of use". The owners were given 14 days plus 2 or 4 months to comply. This time expired on 11 May. Suffolk County Council are of the opinion that there are no signs of compliance of the Enforcement Order, in fact if anything there seems to have been an escalation of activity at both sites. Suffolk County Council have been monitoring both sites and are now considering legal action.

St James has been granted an order for the Parish Meeting to hold land, although East Suffolk Council's legal department is still taking its time to enact the decision to gift the field — renamed The Village Green — to the Parish Meeting. In the meantime, maintenance of the field has continued, and options for improving the site with the addition of benches and trees is under consideration. However the mound in the northwest corner which may contain hazardous waste, needs to be removed. Discussions have taken place with The National

Lottery on how to manage their grant given the delays to date and the unexpected task of removing the mound.

There had been two minor planning applications submitted during the past year One for Cuckoo Farm Barn, which was a variation to an original planning approval, and had been granted. The second for Moat House for the erection of a cartlodge, still awaiting approval. The committee had responded positively to both applications.

Finally, the Chairman congratulated all those concerned with the organising, helping and attending the recent splendid Coronation Celebrations.

6. Accounts

The Chairman presented the accounts for 2022/2023.

Annual Governance & Accountability Return

There had been an internal audit report which had been signed off by the committee's internal auditor.

6a. The Chairman then read out the governance statement which said that like all bodies concerned with local government we are required to demonstrate and confirm we have followed proper governance practices and properly managed our finances. There are particular requirements for Parish Meetings without a Parish Council and an exemption from external audit review in certain circumstances.

Acceptance of the Governance Return by the meeting was required. proposed by Mr M Graham seconded by Mr D.

Ritchie and agreed by the meeting and all Committee Members

6b. The Accounting Statement (how money was spent and where) was signed by the Chairman on behalf of the committee and presented to the meeting.

Acceptance proposed by Mr A. Hadingham, seconded by Mr R. Hadingham, Vote: unanimous. The Chairman then announced the dates for exercise of Public Rights of inspection of the records.

The dates were:- Monday 19th June 2023 to Friday 21st July 2023. Signed by the Chairman.

Contact either Mrs B. Crockford 01986 782347 or Mr C. Bradley 01986 782582

The Chairman then announced that as a small Parish Meeting, with receipts and payments below £25,000 we may claim exemption from an Assurance Review by the external auditors.

As St James Parish Meeting met this criteria, the Chairman signed the Certificate of Exemption.

Accounts

The accounts for 2022 were presented, and explained by the Chairman, and thanks extended to Mrs B. Crockford for preparing them.

Adoption of the Accounts: proposed by Mr C.

Faux - seconded by Mr D. Ritchie Vote — unanimous Signed by the Chairman.

7. Locality Budget

The Chairman briefly explained the purpose of the Locality Budget, and following the local elections will make contact with the newly elected councillor to this area.

8. Donations

The Chairman explained that the donations agreed at this meeting would be taken from the Precept, this did not however mean that all donations should always remain the same. He then invited representatives from St James Church, the Village Hall and the Village Orchard to give a brief recap of their need for a donation.

This was followed by a short discussion where it was agreed that the Community News should receive their usual donation Proposed by Mrs A. Dinsdale, Seconded by Mr M. Graham, vote unanimous

The church and the village hall were suffering from the lack of fund raising events and income following the pandemic, and it was agreed that both should have the support of the Parish Meeting. Therefore a donation of E500 to each was proposed by Mr R. Hadingham seconded by Mr D.

Ritchie, and the vote was unanimous.

The donation to the village orchard would remain the same.

Proposed by Mr A. Hadingham, seconded by Mr M. Graham, vote unanimous.

Accordingly:- The Community News — would receive E1 50
St James Parish Church - {500
St James & St Nicholas Community Hall - E500
St James Village Orchard - E200

9. Elections

The Parish Meeting Committee Members serve for a period of 6 years. This year there were no members due for re-election. However, following the move from the village by Mrs. K. Bullen the committee had co-opted Mr M. Graham. With his agreement the Chairman proposed Mr M. Graham be elected to the committee. This was seconded by Mr R. Hadingham and the vote was unanimous.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been approached by a resident concerned about the number of cars and vans being parked on the field and side of the road at Rookery Corner. Mr A. Hadingham said that as the field in question belonged to him, he would have a word with the resident of Rookery Cottage.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all those who cared for and maintained the verges, hedges and ditches in and around the village, their efforts were much appreciated. He also expressed thanks for the support and help given by the Committee Members, Mrs B. Crockford and Mrs M. Henry.

Mr M. Graham expressed his thanks on behalf of the village to the Chairman for all his work throughout the year on their behalf.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55p

ADDENDUM

Greshaw Green Enclosure Trustees Charity

Mr C. Bradley reminded the meeting of the purpose of the Greshaw Green Trust and how the funds were used. The fund currently stood at approx. ±2273.00 No donations had been made during the past year. The Trustees would welcome any recommendations for people who are thought to be in need.