

Homersfield Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Homersfield Black Swan

Wednesday 16th May 2023 – 6.00pm

Present

Angela Stokes, Lucy Hammond, Ian Duffy

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO): Sally Chapman

Also Present: one parishioner

MINUTES

1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Westgate.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2022

[The Minutes from the Meeting held on the 25th May 2022](#) were confirmed unanimously as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. The Chair's End of Year Report

The Chair read out a full report (*attached*).

6. The Responsible Financial Officer's End of Year Report

The RFO read out the End of Year Balance Sheet (*attached*).

7. The County & District Councillors End of Year Reports

None received

8. To Receive Community Reports

a) Homersfield Tree Warden's Report

The Chair read out the Tree Warden's report (*attached*).

b) Homersfield PCC

Lucy Hammond Secretary to St Mary's Parochial Church Council read out her report (*attached*) and answered questions.

c) Homersfield Parish Land Trust

Cllrs were disappointed that no report had been received.

d) William Adair (Homersfield)

No report received.

e) Homersfield Playing Field Charity

Debbie Bird read out her report (*attached*) and answered questions.

9. Public Questions

Cllrs questioned why a property at Barnfield Cottages was empty.

The Meeting ended at 6.45pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Homersfield Parish Council

Point 5.

Homersfield Parish Council

Chair's End of Year Report - 2022-2023

There has been a range of business items in the last year, all of which have been published bi-monthly through the agendas and the approved and signed minutes. These may be seen on the Parish notice board, and via the village website. (If inquorate, a meeting must be cancelled, and a new date arranged.) Mr Ian Duffy was co-opted onto the Council. There is now one vacancy.

An additional meeting was held to discuss three planning applications from East Suffolk County Council. Considering planning applications HPC seeks to preserve the character of the village. Our influence on the final decisions whether to give planning consent or not is limited, and we must bear in mind the planning regulations. In general, the planning authority concurs with our recommendations.

2022-23 Councillors agreed to allocate Grants and Donations to:

- Suffolk Accident & Rescue Service – Grant
- Redenhall with Harleston Town Council - Car Parking Grant
- A report from The River Waveney Trust decided that 'a dog bin and waste bin were only needed on the Alburgh side of the river Waveney'. A grant of £100 (One hundred Pounds), will be gifted to Alburgh Parish Council once they have purchased the bins and sent a copy of the invoice.
- The new Homersfield Village Heritage Map displayed on the back of the Telephone-box on the Village Green was created by Alan Irvine and paid from a generous grant received from Councillor Judy Cloke (East Suffolk Council).
- A new Poppy Wreath and Crosses for Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday were placed on the Village Sign. Cllr Duffy made a wooden trough for the crosses. The original plaque with the names of the six men who died in the First World War, was incorporated into the box. The Village Sign could be a more suitable place for a permanent memorial.
- The 'Village Tea and Cake' event to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, was a great success. Thanks to Tony and Helen for the use of the garden of the Black Swan. A commemorative plaque was attached to the post of Homersfield Sign for all to see and admire in the future. The Jubilee Commemorative plaque that came with the oak sapling previously planted, was placed in front of it, near the Millennium Sculpture.
- A commemorative plaque marking the Coronation of King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla was attached to the village sign. A Big Lunch in the grounds of St. Mary's Church was held. This enjoyable event was organised by HPC and HPCC.

Other activities

- There were two occurrences of vandalism in the village that badly damaged the bus shelter. Incidents were reported to the Police by a Parishioner. Councillor Judy Cloke gave a Locality Grant to fund the repairs. Mr Lawrie Hammond and Cllr Ian Duffy volunteered to undertake the repair work.
- Progress is ongoing with the Playing Field.
- Homersfield Village Litter Pick volunteers met twice and those who worked in the wood, five times.

Thanks to: -

- Councillor Judy Cloke, and District Councillor David Richie for their input, time and support during the past year;
- Mr Mark Timms for helping with the wood and Mr Mick Pellatt for grass cutting and keeping the village green so lovely;
- Tony and Helen for agreeing to hold Council meetings in the Black Swan;

Signed _____

Date _____

Homersfield Parish Council

- All those who gave their time and effort to keep Homersfield a beautiful village in which to live.
- In particular, grateful thanks the clerk, Sally Chapman for her commitment, hard work, and her achievement in returning a very good Internal Audit.

Angela Stokes
Chair, Homersfield Parish Council
16 May 2023

Point 6. Responsible Financial Officer's End of Year Report

Homersfield Parish Council Balance Sheet Year ended 31st March 2022-23

Receipts and Payments		
2021/22		2022/23
£	Receipts	£
4,458.00	Precept	4700.00
34.07	VAT reclaim	383.59
922.00	Grants/CIL Payments	427.00
0.28	Business Saver Interest	6.07
50.00	Bank Credit	-
-	Petty cash	-
5,464.35		5,516.66
Payments		
2,698.02	Clerk's Salary	2403.84
168.00	Clerk's Office Costs	168.00
38.07	Clerk's Expenses	118.52
35.00	ICO Data Protection	35.00
469.80	Insurance	474.67
100.00	Internal Audit	150.00
70.69	Maintenance	66.19
69.92	Miscellaneous	95.83
50.00	S137 Grants/Donations	126.50
138.10	Subscriptions	138.49
50.00	Training	25.00
-	Future Projects	0.00
350.00	Homersfield Wood	1295.00
-	Village Projects	0.00
50.00	Website Hosting	50.00
2,370.20	Phonebox refurbishment	0.00
690.00	Oak Posts	0.00
383.59	Vat to reclaim	129.97
-	Village Map	250.00
7,731.39		5,527.01
(2,267.04)	Surplus income over expenditure	(10.35)
7,480.77	Balance b/f	5,213.73
-	Transfer to reserves	-
5,213.73	Balance c/f	5,203.38
Balance Sheet		
Cash at Bank		
3,611.17	Current Account	2,416.75
2,780.56	Business Saving Account	2,786.63
-	Petty Cash (none held)	-
-	Uncleared receipts	-
1,178.00	Uncleared cheques	-
5,213.73		5,203.38
2,101.93	General Reserves	2,350.58
3,111.80	Earmarked Reserves	2,852.80
5,213.73		5,203.38

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2023 and reflects its receipts and payments during the year.

Signed **Angela Stokes - Chair**

Signed **Sally Chapman - Responsible Financial Officer**

Signed _____

Date _____

Homersfield Parish Council

Point 8.a)

Homersfield Wood

A brief report on Church Wood which is as follows:

Work parties over the winter months were generally well attended and the following tasks were completed by volunteers:

- Clearing invasive sycamore saplings on the slopes and treating the cut stumps with herbicide.
- Planting young hazel plants on cleared area near the steps.
- Clearing back bramble plants and widening "Hazel's Walk" Maintenance work on the steps to make them safe.

The aim of the sycamore removal is to promote native trees and shrubs on the slopes to create a natural edge to the wood and improve the local landscape. It is hoped that a scatter of native oaks will be planted next winter using guards from dead saplings on the plateau.

Mark

Tree Warden

Point 8.b)

St Mary's Church, Homersfield, Parochial Church Council Report – May 2023

Most importantly for us this year, the roof and tower repairs have been completed. Our church is safe and watertight again. The majority of the funding was from grant aid for which we are most grateful.

Fundraising this year included a metal detecting talk by Joe Edwards-Gill which was much appreciated as well as stalls at the Homersfield Black Swan and Wortwell fetes. We held a raffle at the Jubilee celebrations. The Bric-a-brac/books for sale in the church porch continues to prove popular and apple sales (outside Mill Cottage) were well received again.

For the first time we held a 'Love Your Church and Churchyard Day', on September 10th, to coincide with the Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride event. This enabled us to spend time doing maintenance checks and we welcomed members of the community to help us tidy up and clean the church and churchyard. It was a really good day and will be repeated this year.

We had a Christening in the church (Daisy) which was lovely.

The Carol Service was well attended with mulled wine served afterwards. The Benefice Choir came to sing for us, which was a real bonus. After the service, the choir and a few volunteers headed to the Black Swan for Carols and a pint.

The Churchyard is now being maintained by volunteers – thank you to all who help. A second-hand ride on mower has been purchased for use by the volunteers. The blue, unlidded, water butt to the village side of the church has been replaced with a black lidded one on a stand.

Monthly Walks on the first Wednesday of the month began in January and are being enjoyed by around 10 people each time, with coffee in the church afterwards. There is no charge and everyone is welcome as always.

We are looking forward to jointly hosting the Coronation Big Lunch with the Parish Council on Sunday 7th May and to our quiz, being held in St Margaret's Village Hall on May 13th.

Lucy Hammond - Secretary - St Mary's Parochial Church Council

Signed _____

Date _____

Homersfield Parish Council

Point 8.e)

Homersfield Community Park

Report for the Annual Village Meeting May 2023

Very little has happened hence the very short report. There have been no safety checks since the beginning of COVID. It would be wise to have the equipment and fence checked by a qualified inspector. Costs will have increased so replacing/ renewing fences, safety gates and any repairs will need to be recalculated.

Last summer there were various people who decided to climb the fence to use the playground. Despite the gates being padlocked they 'didn't realise' the playground was closed! The police advice was followed and no entry signs put on display.

The advice from the CC is to ask the HPC to take on the charity and members of the council collectively to be the trustees. Any funds in our account would go with the land. A member of the PCC has taken on responsibility for registering the land however the Land Commission continues to raise issues.

Very little has been spent (£341) and there has been no fundraising since the pandemic started. There is a total of £1348 in the account.

Debbie Bird Trustee

Homersfield Community Park

(formerly known as the Homersfield Playground Charity)

Registered Charity Number 1193118

Signed _____

Date _____