

Meeting Report from the Annual Parish Meeting of Emneth Parish Council
Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 6.30pm held online using Zoom (draft)

Parish Councillors present: Lloyd Groves (Chair), Roland Fry, Yvonne Howard, Dan Finnis, Mark Purchase, Steve Curtis (Vice-Chair), Philip Leakey, Julian McCourt, Michael Pearson. Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk), Harry Humphrey (District Councillor) and Chris Crofts (Borough Councillor) and six members of the public

1 Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2 Apologies for absence

No report.

3 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

- Thanks were given to Councillors who got to grips with meeting virtually via Zoom from the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020
- The parish council welcomed Dan Finnis in September 2020
- District Councillor Harry Humphrey will be retiring in May 2021
- The precept for 2021/22 was increased from £36,000.00 to £38,000.00 to allow the Council to properly manage all its assets and services to the parish i.e. grass cutting, tree management, footway lighting, dog waste bin emptying, litter picking in the village, playing field caretaking, refuse collection, cemetery management etc.
- The parish council changed banking provision from Barclays to Unity Trust as their customer support is far superior
- Community Infrastructure Levy receipts for the year totalled £1101.60 and these were attributed to tree management costs for the churchyard/cemetery
- The parish council agreed to take on the footway lighting for the new development at 11-37 Elm High Road
- The parish council is currently looking into developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish
- Training has taken place this year by the Clerk and a few councillors
- A tree survey was carried out in the churchyard/cemetery and works are currently taking place, a new noticeboard has been purchased and installed to engage with users, a topple test has been carried out on all memorials. Due to limited burial space, full grave burials are not currently being offered to non-residents
- The poplar trees at the playing field were felled and ground out and new play equipment has been installed here; thanks to Alex Lane for all his hard work this year
- A new dog waste bin has been purchased for Elmside, Gaultree Square has been resurfaced and costs are currently being investigated for the provision of a footpath at Church Road and another at Hollycroft Road; on-going
- Signage for the towpath is being purchased to deter motorized vehicles from using this area and the cost of kissing gates and a stile for this area are also being investigated
- The Council now subscribes to Scribe Cemetery and Scribe Accounts; two web-based software packages to hopefully enable the Clerk to manage the finances for the parish and the cemetery more efficiently

- CCTV is being investigated for the village hall to try and deter anti-social behaviour and Victory in Europe Day celebrations had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic
- Thanks was given to Jean Eady for her litter picking work this year which has been a fairly onerous task due to the coronavirus pandemic
- A new gate has been installed at the Ladys Drove allotment land. The Council will be reviewing land rents this year and aiming to achieve current market prices for all parish land. It was noted that there are currently scrap vehicles on the Grays Lane allotment land which need removing

4 To receive a report from the Borough Council

- Staff have been working from home during the coronavirus pandemic
- Meetings have been held virtually via Zoom
- Staff have been heavily involved in the vaccination process at Covid Centres
- The refuse collection contract with Circo is shared with Breckland and North Norfolk
- A planning application for 380 houses at King's Lynn Parkway in Gaywood would include a bridge over the railway line to link Gaywood to the industrial estate and the Hardwick Road which in turn would ease pressure at the Gaywood clock area and along the A149
- The King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board is providing a new pumping station at the edge of the Ouse to replace the Saddlebow Station of 1934

5 To receive a report from the County Council

- Schools have been affected badly during the coronavirus pandemic
- Staff have been working from home
- Meetings have been held virtually via Zoom
- The County disposes of 250,000 tonnes of waste per year
- Currently there are 20,000 people in the County receiving Adult Social Care and just under 1,000 children
- The budget for 2020/21 included a 3.9% increase in council tax (1.9% attributed to the County Council and 2% attributed to Adult Social Care)
- £28m is required for Adult Services, £7m for Children's Services and £10m for Community Services
- £100m of savings have been made over the last few years
- Museums and libraries have had to close due to the pandemic
- Potholes must continue to be reported via the Norfolk County Council website
- The Norfolk Flood Alliance has been formed

6 To receive reports from local groups, clubs and organisations

The Playing Field Committee

- The Committee is run by the Chairman and two trustees
- The poplar trees were felled and ground out last year
- The two main income streams are from the parish council and Hungate Rovers Football Club
- Currently hosting AFC Walpole Football Club too
- The Committee has received £37,000.00 in grant funding this year which has repaired the roof to the pavilion and provided a completely new play area for the village

- Litter continues to be an issue at the play area and football pitches

Emneth Central Hall

- Income was drastically reduced this year due to the pandemic
- A grant had been received from the Borough Council which has been a great help
- The toilets have been completely refurbished
- A Scarecrow Competition was held and proved very popular once more
- The Victory in Europe Day celebrations had to be postponed due to the pandemic
- Anti social behaviour around the village hall continues to be an issue particularly the use of nitrous oxide cannisters. It is hoped that CCTV will be installed soon
- Painted stones by the children of the village have been cemented in at the front of the hall as a permanent reminder of the coronavirus pandemic in years to come
- As of 17th May all regular groups can start to use the hall again under strict socially distanced rules allowing a maximum capacity of 20 people at any one time
- As of 21st June when all restrictions are lifted the hall can be used as it was before
- The next project is to install an insulated dropped ceiling including energy efficient panel lighting and emergency lighting

St. Edmund's Church

- Thanks was given to Julian McCourt and friends for the work done to tidy up the churchyard
- There is currently not a vicar since Reverend Dawn Mason retired
- St. Edmund's shares an interim priest with Elm and Fridaybridge Parish holding a service on two Sundays per month
- The future might hold some kind of relationship with Upwell and Outwell churches

Neighbourhood Plan

- Councillor Howard reported that the parish is currently investigating the provision of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish and is calling for any residents who might be interested in joining the Steering Group for the Plan to either contact her at cllr.yhoward.emnethpc@gmail.com or the clerk at clerkemnethparish@hotmail.com for further details.

Emneth Methodist Church

- A meeting is taking place on 27th April 2021 to determine when the Church will be able to reopen following closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is hoped that this will be Sunday 30th May 2021 with a service at 10.30am.

7 Open Forum

A resident of Mill Road requested that the parish council reconsider the current highways signage along Mill Road which currently comprises a dead end road sign, a 30mph repeater sign and a national speed limit sign. District Councillor Humphrey agreed to make enquiries.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Chairman's signature