



Starston Parish Council

Minutes of Starston Annual Parish Meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, at 7.30 pm Tuesday 23rd May 2017.

Present: Cllr A Leitch, Cllr R Formston, Cllr B Formston, Cllr C Doughty, Cllr R Franklin.

Clerk to the Parish Council- Clare Crane

Members of the public- 5

AGENDA

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence.

Mr Peter Grimble, and Mr Michael Bartlett as well various other organisations representatives, The Parish Council were very grateful to the reports that had been sent in advance of the meeting.

2. Chair Persons Welcome and Report (Appendix 1)

Cllr Leitch provided a report to the meeting.

The Parish Council thanked all the regular volunteer litter pickers in the village, furthermore thank you to Mr P Grimble for his expertise advice to the Parish Council and the tree warden.

A Big thank you to the Pigeon Post team.

The Conservation area boundary map should go on the noticeboard to assist residents with information for planning restrictions (Cllr Doughty has a copy)

3. To receive reports on matters of interest to the parish from District and County Councillors.

No reports had been received by the Clerk but if anything was received retrospectively the Clerk agreed to include in the appendices of the minutes.

The clerk had provided a hard copy of the Year End 2017 finances. Appendix 2.

4. To approve and sign the Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th May 2016.

Proposed and seconded and approved by the members as correct.

5. To discuss matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

No matters were arising from the previous year's minutes.

6. Reports from organisations and groups active in Starston

See Appendix 3 for the full copies of the reports.

i. Parochial Church Council

Cllr J Formston read the report on behalf of the St Margaret's Church in Starston.

Mr J Taylor thanked Mr J Formston for all his hard work gaining the lottery funding,

The Parish Council also thanked Mr Formston for all his work on this matter.

Mr J Taylor reiterated that residents and previous residents can be buried

in the Burial Ground and the Parish Council must ensure the Burial Ground is maintained properly.

ii. Starston Jubilee Hall



Starston Parish Council

Cllr R Franklin read the reports on behalf of the Starston Jubilee Hall and the Starston Jubilee Hall improvements

The Parish Council thanked all the trustees of the Jubilee Hall.

iii. Glebe Meadow Management Group (a Jubilee Hall subcommittee)

Cllr Chris Doughty read the report on behalf of the Glebe Meadow Management Group.

The Parish Council thanked all the volunteers with regards to the Glebe Meadow.

iv. Community Speed-watch

Mr Frederick Coates reported to the meeting that there was a dedicated, active, community speed watch team. Unfortunately The Street is not allowed to have any speed watch team involvement as legally they can only operate in areas with speed restrictions over 30 mph. He went onto confirm that the new speed gun is now being used.

The Parish Council thanked all of the community speed-watch team for all their continued hard work.

v. Pigeon Post

The Clerk read the report on behalf of the Pigeon Post. The report raised concerns that the Pigeon Post team urgently needs skilled support. It was agreed to encourage people to contact the Pigeon Post team directly if they were willing to help.

vi. Starston St Margaret's Tower Ringers

Cllr John Formston read the report provided. The Parish Council thanked the bell ringers and the whole support network.

vii. The Starston Youth Club

Cllr Leitch read the report provided on behalf of the Starston Youth Club. She thanked the Starston PCC for providing safeguarding arrangements and public liability cover, and the Jubilee Hall for providing free use of the hall in its inaugural year.

viii. The Starston Charities

Mr Julian Taylor provided his report to the meeting. He confirmed to the members of the Parish Council that in 2018 they will need to nominate a new trustee.

ix. The Starston Pealers

Cllr J Formston provided information on the Starston Pealers.

x. Archbishop Sancroft High School

The Clerk agreed to include the report as an appendix to the minutes.



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(Any Starston resident can obtain a copy of these reports from the Parish Clerk)

7. Any Other Business

Comments were put forward by a resident regarding the overall maintenance and costs involved at the Burial Ground. The parishioner agreed to provide a copy of the notes she had prepared to the Clerk and for this to be included in the appendices of the minutes.

The Clerk explained that the NCC Rangers will be visiting the village soon and for any defects to be reported to her asap. At the top of Church Hill, the drain is blocked and needs flushing fully.

The Clerk asked the residents about their thoughts on obtaining a defibrillator for the village. The Jubilee Hall was thought to be a good location. The Clerk would liaise with Hardwick Parish Council and see if another defibrillator is needed at the top end of the village or if there is one located in a neighbouring village.

Comments regarding the village telephone box were also made.

The members of the Parish Council thanked all the village organisations for their reports and for all the volunteers in the village. It was agreed that it was a privilege to be a part of such an amazing village.

8. Date of Annual Parish Meeting 2018

To be confirmed.

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm.



Starston Parish Council

Appendix 1 – Chair Persons Report

Starston Parish Council - Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17 (to end March 2017)

The year has been a busy one, with changes of staff, Parish Councillors and new projects initiated for the benefit of the local community.

Parish Clerk and Councillor Changes

First, I would like to express my thanks to Sonja Burnett, who worked as the Parish Clerk until September 2016. Sonja provided a handover to Clare Crane, an experienced Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). My thanks also to representatives from the different groups within the parish who met with Clare as part of her induction, thereby ensuring a smooth transition.

Tom Banks, Helen Gale and John Akast all served as Parish Councillors during 2016/17. Again, my sincere thanks to them for committing their time and energies on a voluntary basis to serve the village. There were 16 Starston resident's at John's funeral, which shows the high regard in which he was held. Whilst at peace at the end of his busy and varied life, John said that his biggest regret was not seeing his grandchildren grow up. A valuable lesson to us all about ensuring that we get our priorities right, and that life is not a rehearsal – this is it.

Starston Parish Maintaining its Independent and Rural Status on a Sustainable Cost Effective Basis

During 2016/17, the Local Government Boundary Commission review of South Norfolk took place. After consultation, the position expressed by the Parish Council was supported by both the District Councillor Clayton Hudson and the national review body. Consequently, Starston will remain in a rural ward with the Pulhams and Dickleborough, rather than be incorporated into Redenhall with Harleston, as proposed by South Norfolk District Council officers. Our success in being both heard and listened to was in my view a demonstration of local democracy in action.

The Community Governance Review is ongoing, with the consultation deadline extended to 12th July 2017 due to the snap General Election in June 2017. Again, as a Parish Council we have expressed our desire to remain as a single parish, and not be amalgamated with another smaller parish. The model we have of a Parish Clerk working for Starston and another parish (Pulham Market), means that we achieve economies of scale by sharing training costs and telephone/ wifi expenses with another parish.

Additional Parish Income via Grants

The Parish Council has continued to seek grants for the village, in addition to the monies it receives as precept, which in 2016/17 amounted to an additional income of £1,594 for the village, or a 30% uplift on baseline turnover for the village. Grants included £120 (EDP Community Chest) towards the costs of the 3rd Annual Teddy Bear's Picnic in August 2016; £824.33 (NALC Transparency Fund) for a laptop computer and printer for the Parish Clerk; £650 (Ward Member & Beck Vale Funds) to cover the installation and first year costs of a free community broadband facility. This grant income figure compares to £700 secured in 2015/16 (of which £400 was for the Queen's 90th birthday celebration, held June 2016).



Starston Parish Council

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Monies

Since 2015/16 all eligible new developments in the village attract CIL. 15% of this levy is given to the Parish Council for community infrastructure investment. After much discussion, the Parish Council agreed the following priorities: year 2 monies for the community superfast wifi facility at the Jubilee Hall; 50% funding of the 2017 new curved bench in community orchard on the Glebe Meadow; monies towards a Starston Youth Club/children's resources storage shed on the Jubilee Hall site; provision of funding towards emergency tree work on the Glebe Meadow should this be required/ requested by the Jubilee Hall trustees.

Vehicle Speeding through the Village

Cars travelling through the village at speeds much higher than the speed limit set for roads in the parish remains the top priority for residents. This was originally identified in the Parish Plan published in 2008. The main development in the last year is the regular appearance of the Community Speedwatch Team on our roads, which hopefully acts as a prompt for drivers to slow down. My thanks to all the speedwatch volunteers and Fred Coates who co-ordinates the team.

Free Community Superfast Broadband Access

With a third of households in the village not having access to superfast broadband in the current Better Broadband for Norfolk roll out plan, the Parish Council prioritised this issue. With the support of the Jubilee Hall management committee, a free facility was installed autumn 2016 in the Jubilee Hall and car park. Particular thanks to Peter Grimble who tirelessly pursued BT/Open Reach, and Councillor Clayton Hudson, without whose intervention and engagement of the BT Regional Manager, we would still be without this community service. Achieving both a reliable and 100% coverage of the village for both mobile and wifi connectivity remains an ongoing issue.

Trees

150 hedge plants were secured at no cost to the parish, and planted along the footpath which stretches from Yew Tree Cottage down towards the Beck and water meadow. Peter Grimble completed a course in basic tree management, and is able to provide support and advice to the Parish Council tree warden.

Footpaths

In 2016/17, the Parish Council developed a volunteer footpath warden scheme. Feedback is followed up and a summary RAG (red, amber, green) rating is updated. This summary shows the frequency of use and condition of all footpaths in the parish.

This up to date data is provided to Norfolk County Council (NCC), who have been actively working with the Parish Council over the last 12 months to replace/ repair missing finger posts and ditch crossings. As a result, a number of public right of ways have been brought back into use. NCC anticipate that it will be another 6 months before all footpaths are clearly marked and accessible. In parallel, we have been exploring developing a series of six circular walks across the parish, most of which would start from St Margaret's Parish Church. The intention is that this will dovetail into the development plan for the church, as part of the "Keeping the Rain Out and Bringing the Community In" project. The PCC are to be congratulated for being awarded £250,000 over the next 2 years from the Heritage Lottery Fund to repair the only Grade I listed building in Starston.



Starston Parish Council

Litter Pick

Sadly, litter thrown from cars passing through the village continues to be a problem, particularly on Rushall Road, Low Road and Harleston Road. We are most grateful to everyone in the village who picks up bits of litter when out walking through the village, and also in the annual litter pick.

Digital Starston

My sincere thanks to residents including the Pigeon Post team, who have worked tirelessly for over a year, such that up to date information about the village and South Norfolk, including police alerts and general information of relevance to local residents, is all available on the village website.

With the wifi connection now installed at the Jubilee Hall, the agenda and documents for Parish Council meetings are all presented digitally. This both saves paper and costs. All minutes, finance information and reports from the Annual Village/Parish meeting are available on the Parish Council section of the village website.

Plans for 2017/18

Looking ahead to the coming year, initiatives on behalf of residents include the following:-

- Welcome to Starston Initiative – 6 monthly informal social event to meet Parish Councillors, to which all new residents are invited (first one May 2017)
- Development of Starston Parish Circular Walks
- Ongoing development of Village Contacts Database, to help gather feedback from residents on community priorities and information sharing, for example how CIL monies should be spent; road closures etc
- Development of a Parish Emergency Plan

Ann Leitch

Chairman, Starston Parish Council 2015 – 2018



Starston Parish Council

Appendix 2- Parish Council finances for the year ending 2017



Starston Parish Council.

c/o Mrs Clare Crane (Parish Clerk), Sixmill Green, Colegate End Road, Pulham Market, Diss, Norfolk IP21 4XG
Tel: 01379 608590 e-mail: starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Receipts & Payments Account For the Year Ended 31st March 2017

Income and Expenditure 2016-2017

	End of year - Actuals	End of Year Actuals	Variances
	2016/2017	2015/2016	YE 2016 to 2017
<u>Income</u>			
Precept	5,100.00	5,000.00	100.00
SNC Grant Funding	232.00	322.00	-90.00
Interest on Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grant Funding	120.00	400.00	-280.00
Sundry	0.00	70.00	-70.00
Transparency Funding	824.33	0.00	824.33
VAT refunds	200.06	0.00	200.06
Members Ward	650.00	300.00	350.00
CIL	1,365.89	1,240.50	125.39
Total	8,492.28	7,332.50	1159.78
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Salary Parish Clerk	2,943.28	2,649.40	293.88
PAYE Administration	58.00	0.00	58.00
Internal Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00
External Audit Fee	25.00	0.00	25.00
ICO	35.00	0.00	35.00
SNC Dog Bins	128.18	0.00	128.18
Insurance	222.43	210.25	12.18
Stationery	179.29		179.29
NALC	104.42	120.67	-16.25
CAN/SLCC	60.00		60.00
Training	267.50	150.00	117.50
Mileage	71.42		71.42
Broadband / Telephone	222.76		222.76
Village Maintenance	97.22	695.30	-598.08
Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jubilee Hall Hire Charges	100.00	100.00	0.00
Section 137 payments	0.00	721.00	-721.00
Car Parking Harleston	321.00	0.00	321.00
Misc	0.20	750.00	-749.80
Village Website (transparency code)	88.17	0.00	88.17
Transparency	415.82	0.00	415.82



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Starston Parish Council.

c/o Mrs Clare Crane (Parish Clerk), Sixmill Green, Colegate End Road, Pulham Market, Diss, Norfolk IP21 4XG

Tel: 01379 608590 e-mail: starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

The Queens 90th Birthday Celebration	350.00	0.00	350.00
Grant	520.00	300.00	220.00
Vat on payments	177.96	12.26	165.70
Members Ward	0.00	0.00	0.00
CIL	591.50	0.00	591.50
Total	6,979.15	5,708.88	1270.27
Surplus / -Loss	1,513.13	1,623.62	-110.49

CIL Income Payments	2,606.39
CIL outgoing payments - Community WI-FI	101.50
CIL outgoing payments - Glebe Meadow	490.00
CIL commitment to 2nd year of community WI-FI	650.00
CIL MONEY LEFT TO SPEND	2,014.89

2016 Members Ward Fund & Beck Value Fund Income Payments - restricted funds for community wifi yr 1	650.00
Members Ward Outgoing	0.00
	0.00
Members Ward MONEY LEFT TO SPEND	650.00

Bank Statement

Unpresented checks

Unpresented receipts

BARCLAYS ACCOUNT

5,141.08

BALANCE B/F

5,141.08

RUNNING TOTAL WITH CIL DEDUCTED

3,126.19

RUNNING TOTAL WITH COMMUNITY WIFI RESTRICTED FUNDS DEDUCTED

4,491.08

OVER ALL RUNNING TOTAL

2,476.19

Bank of of 31 March 2017 and carried forward

5,141.08

Less earmarked reserves c/f to 2018 CIL money

-2,014.89

Less earmarked reserves c/f to 2018 Members Ward

-650.00

Over all running total

2,476.19

Maintained reserves advised £2000

2,000.00



Starston Parish Council

Appendix 3 – Reports from organisations

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH STARSTON

**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the period
1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016**

Interregnum

Independent Examiner

Keith Baxter & Co

Hill Farm

Diss Road

Burston

Diss

Norfolk

IP22 5TS



Starston Parish Council

BACKGROUND:

St Margaret's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, Pastoral, Evangelistic, Social and Ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and graveyard. Starston is a rural parish, covering approximately four miles length and 1.5 miles in width. There are approximately 300 residents, some of whom do not live permanently in the village.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Rector:	Interrugnum.
Wardens:	Julian Lombe Taylor and John Formston.
Elected Members:	
PCC Chair:	John Formston
Children and Vulnerable Adults Rep.	
Deanery Synod Reps:	Rev. Norman Steer and one Volunteer
Treasurer:	Miss Margaret Griffiths (Lay Ministry)
Secretary/Electoral Roll Officer:	Mrs Ruth Cawcutt (Flower, Cleaning and Church Opening Rotas)
PCC Members	Miss Sheena Duncan (Organist/Lay Ministry)
	Mr Bryan Hanner (Lay Ministry/Verger).
	Mrs Patricia Lombe Taylor (Brass/Altar Flowers Rota)
	Dr Edward Libbey
	Mr Herbert Websdell (Tower Captain of Bell Ringers)
	Mrs Julie Websdell

GENERAL:

Having been without an active rector for more than 12 months the PCC wish to express their gratitude to the Ministry Team, especially The Revd's Norman Steer; John Adlam, Paul Schwier; Readers Mrs Gale Hodgkinson and Mrs Margaret Adlam and Reader under training Mr John Taylor. All of them give their time in order that Services can be maintained throughout the Benefice every Sunday. Thanks to Julian Taylor and John Formston for their activities as Churchwardens and to Bryan Hanner as Verger. An even larger vote of thanks to Ruth Cawcutt and Margaret Griffiths, Secretary & Treasurer respectively who diligently give a great deal of their time to such important duties. The PCC has met six times during 2016. Meetings have been well attended. The Annual General meeting for 2016 was held on 17th April 2016.

The first social event of the year is the "Meet and Mardle" gathering that takes place on New Year's Day, organised by the bell ringers. Visitors come from all around East Anglia to enjoy this event, visiting the bell tower and trying their hand at ringing the bells. At 3.00 p.m. on 11th June The Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations were held on the Glebe Meadow, the church was open and the bells were fired 90 times to start the party off. This was followed by a Church Service to recognise Her Majesty's deep faith. A souvenir booklet "The Servant Queen" had been delivered to all residents of the village. When the thunderstorm finally cleared the celebrations got under way with tea and games for all ages and a good time was enjoyed by all. On 17th July, a Festival of Bells was held to celebrate 70 years of Bell ringing by Herbert Websdell, Tower Captain, who with his wife Julie, have been ringing for 117 years. The Bishop of Norwich, The Right Revd. Graham James was guest of honour and preached at the service following the buffet lunch kindly served in the Coach House by Julian and Philippa L Taylor. There were demonstrations of all types of bell ringing; cream teas were provided in the Jubilee Hall and the event raised £408 towards the Church Fabric fund. The Annual Fete and Barbecue was this year held at The Old Rectory, it was extremely well supported and raised £1,173. A Poetry and Play Reading held at the end of August raised £407.00. The church was open for the Diocesan Open Churches week. The Harvest Festival celebrations and supper were again held at the Coach House, Starston Place, courtesy of Julian and Philippa L Taylor and was very well attended and raised £367.

During the year there were 2 Weddings; 3 Baptisms. Numbers have remained consistent with previous years. Services are held in the church every Sunday, with the exception of when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, when a joint Benefice Service is held at churches throughout the Benefice. The services at Starston are conducted from the BCP, except when there are special services when the Service of the Word is used, or arranged as appropriate for the occasion by the Lay Ministry Team. The "Great and Small" themed service held on the 4th Sunday of the month is held. Although it is hoped that it will bring more children into the church the worship is enjoyed equally by all ages and is now one of the better attended services with refreshments, craft work, a story, singing and prayers.

We are indebted to Sheena Duncan, who plays the organ for us and when not available wherever possible organises someone else to play for the service.



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St Margaret's welcomes all visitors to their church and are pleased to say that the church is manned on Saturday mornings from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon, between April and October. A contact list is available for when the church is not open.

The Revd Norman Steer acts as our responsible person for children and vulnerable adults.

Our thanks go to all of the flower arrangers, church and brass cleaners, many of whom do not attend worship but are willing to participate in the running and beautification of this church.

Tower Bells: Our gratitude is also expressed to the Tower Captain and bell ringers, who give their time to ring for all of the services at the church.

BENEFICE REPORT:

General: The Benefice Leadership Team has become a staff plus meeting and includes all non-Stipendiary Ministers and Lay Readers and those with a ministry role in the benefice. Administration is dealt with by Lyn Banks, who also deals with the arrangements for weddings and funerals, production of the Benefice calendar and weekly Pew slips. A copy of the Benefice Report is kept on file and distributed to all PCC members.

Starston is represented at the churchwardens meetings by Julian L Taylor and John Formston. Where necessary, any item discussed at the meetings, needing ratification by the parishes, is referred back to each PCC.

Tree of Life Festival: A new Festival in place of the Christmas Tree festival was held at Dickleburgh Church.

Communion: Starston and churches in the Benefice are open Communion Table churches and are compliant with church regulations.

FABRIC – Mr Julian Lombe Taylor:

General: Day to day maintenance has been completed during the year.

Attempted Theft of Lead from North Aisle of the Church (December 2015): The Lead replacement was completed in January 2016.

Roof Security: Enquiries have been made to a roof security company about the installation of security sound and lighting following the attempted lead theft. This is a very costly business but was felt necessary

Quinquennial Survey: The Survey was completed during April. The process of an applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund/English Heritage grant was started. The Application was completed and submitted on-line 31st October 2016 and a decision is awaited.

WC and Servery: The inclusion of the WC has been made with the application for an HLF/EH grant. The kitchen and servery works; along with electrical repairs will have to be funded by further grant applications elsewhere. St Margaret's has to raise in the region of £25,000 for this purpose.

CHURCHYARD –Mr Julian L Taylor and Mr Bryan Hanner

General: Repairs to the Lytch Gate found necessary with the Quinquennial Survey have been completed. Maintenance and grass cutting of the churchyard is an ongoing situation and a grant of £400 from the Parish Council has helped the PCC to pay for the services of a regular contractor to cut the grass. The churchyard at Starston is extremely well maintained and often commented upon by visitors.

Gate to top footpath: The memorial plaque in memory of Mr. George Newby has now been fitted.

Churchyard Safety: Notices are displayed at the entrances to the churchyard advising the general public of their and our obligations when entering the churchyard.

Church Notice Board: The erection of a suitable notice board, giving details of the services etc., is in hand and we understand there is a grant available for this purpose. John Formston is dealing with this matter and should be concluded when the installation of the kitchen servery and w.c. is done.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Miss Margaret Griffiths:

The Accounts for period to 31st December 2016: The Annual Accounts have been prepared for the approval of the PCC and will subject to the Independent Examiners report. Details of finances are available from the Balance Sheet, a copy of which is kept on file. Should further information be required please contact the Treasurer.

Parish Share: Sadly, we have been unable to fulfil our obligation to the Diocese. As at 31st December we have only managed to pay £3,000 of the £8,600 due for 2016. The PCC fully accept that this is not an ideal situation and that every effort should be made to meet the requirement.

Monies for the maintenance and Financial Obligations of the church are met through collections; savings, direct giving and various are raised from fund raising events previously mentioned.



Starston Parish Council

ELECTORAL ROLL: Mrs R Cawcutt:

There are 25 names on the Electoral Roll.

LAY MINISTRY TEAM

Members: Miss Sheena Duncan, Miss Margaret Griffiths, Mr and Mrs Bryan Hanner. The team contribute to and offer ideas and arrangements for special services. Members attend weddings, baptisms and funerals to represent the regular congregation and make themselves known to the families.

Sick Visiting and Welfare: Ongoing and is also done by other members of the congregation.

Special Services:

Battle of Britain (September) held in church was well supported. Collection is donated to RAFA.

Harvest Festival service (October) held in church well supported. Collection is donated to Water Aid.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The traditional family Carol Service was held on 13th December followed by mulled wine and mince pies. It was very well supported and greatly enjoyed.

The Christingle service was held on 23/12/2016 and was also very well attended. As usual the collection was donated to the Children's Society as part of the PCC's Charitable Giving Budget.

24/12/2016 the usual Midnight Communion was held.

Home and hospital communion is offered to the frail in the benefice and members of the ministry team accompany Rev Norman Steer to the homes where possible.

REDENHALL DEANERY SYNOD – PCC Representatives the Revd. Norman Steer and a volunteer:

It has been a difficult year for representation at the DS meetings and it is hoped that a new appointment will be made at the APCM.

STARSTON YOUTH CLUB – RERPORT SUBMITTED BY MRS A LEITCH

The PCC agreed to provide Public Liability cover and Safeguarding arrangements for the Youth Club. A copy of the complete report has been circulated to all PCC members and will be kept on file.

Signed: Dated:



Starston Parish Council

Jubilee Hall Report for Annual Village Meeting 2017

Starston Jubilee Hall is a registered charity run by 5 Trustees, supported by a Management Committee. I became a Trustee of the Jubilee Hall last October and took over from Bryan Hanner as Chairman. Bryan had done 5 years and was ready to hand the baton on. At a meeting of the Trustees in December we revised the scale of hire charges for the Hall and implemented a policy whereby everyone who uses the hall pays something towards its running costs. We also introduced a Hirer's Form to be completed by anyone who uses the hall to say they understand the conditions under which they use the premises.

In addition we have updated the very old Constitution which was originally drafted before the hall became a charity. Having a formal Constitution has already proved beneficial in grant applications and in our application to become registered for Gift Aid. This has now been achieved so should prove an addition source of income.

We have begun the process of expanding the range of events we hold in the hall. Some, like the recent Book Sale, are primarily fund raisers, but others are mainly social and fun, though we expect them to at least cover their costs. Our intention is to try and organise a greater variety of events so we can appeal to a wider cross-section of people in the village.

We have benefited from a number of grants over the past couple of years which have enabled us to make major improvements to the hall both inside and out. Our thanks go to Peter Grimble and Ann Leitch for helping to guide us through this grant application process.



Starston Parish Council

However, as Trustees of a registered charity we have an on-going financial responsibility, not just for the Hall but also for the Glebe Meadow so, although our financial position is currently stable, we need to make sure it stays that way. To enable us to plan for the future we will shortly be preparing a financial forecast for the next 2 years, taking account of possible income and anticipated expenditure. This will give us a useful tool to plan the level of funding we might need to continue our programme of improvement, to cover the replacement of old equipment and to make sure we have sufficient reserves to meet the unexpected when it happens.

Finally a big thank you to Bryan Hanner as outgoing Chairman and to all the other Trustees and Committee Members without whom we could not continue to run the hall and the meadow.

Michael Bartlett
Chairman
Jubilee Hall Trust



Starston Parish Council

Annual Village Meeting - Jubilee Hall improvements report 15 May 2017

Since the celebrations last May to mark the completion of the restoration of Starston Jubilee Hall, refurbishment of the kitchen has been the focus of our attention. And with help from the South Norfolk and Parish Councils, a **WiFi hotspot** was installed in Jubilee Hall in December 2016.

Following a consultative process with members of the Hall management committee, it was decided to replace the **electric cooker** and to install a **dish-washer**, along with repositioning some of the units and replacing the worktops. The cost was covered by grants through the Norfolk Community Foundation - from the Norfolk Village Halls Fund (cooker) and the Shelroy Trust (dishwasher and refurbishment). We are indebted to NCF and these funders who have made these improvements possible.

Currently in hand is the provision of a **storage shed** to accommodate **Starston Youth Club equipment**, which will be positioned outside the kitchen in the yard. This will save the flourishing Youth Club from having to store equipment off site, providing much needed time saving and greater flexibility of use. The cost of the shed will be covered by the District Councillor's member's grant, and the balance from Parish Council CIL monies.

Peter Grimble
Jubilee Hall Trustee
15 May 2017



Starston Parish Council

Annual Village Meeting 23 May 2017 - Glebe Meadow report

Glebe Meadow continues to attract an increasing number of visitors including many walkers from Harleston, and remains a place for Starston folk to wander with friends and/or their dogs, and to relax on a seat or at the picnic table. The meadow is used for village events whenever needed and, along with the Jubilee Hall, remains very much at the heart of village life.

Regular maintenance is carried out by the faithful mowing team (please join us if you can help) who keep the top-end, orchard and paths fully accessible. Docks and nettles have to be kept under control to reduce invasion and to give less competitive grasses a chance, and the wildflowers we planted in an experimental area near the apiary did well and were welcomed by the bees and are becoming established this year. The remainder of the meadow was cut for hay in early August as usual and the bales sold as winter maintenance rations for horses - with the receipts covering the cost of hay cutting and baling.

A successful **volunteer day** was held in January with a very good turnout from Starston and some from Harleston. We succeeded in doing essential bank clearance by the Beck and hedge cutting in the meadow along Harleston Road, and are grateful to Ralph Moore's team for tractor cutting the hedge so well from the roadside.

Some **orchard produce** was available in time for the Macmillan Tea Party afternoon in the autumn, and we expect a greater harvest from the fruit trees as each year passes - if late frosts don't spoil things. The orchard trees have been pruned and mulched with wood chip, which will help them conserve moisture this dry spring.

The **Bee Group** is continuing to manage the bees in the apiary, and while we have lost one hive this spring which became queen-less, we have another new swarm hive and are on the lookout for others. If anyone knows of swarms of honey bees which they would like removed, please give us a call. Last year saw our first true honey harvest, and the honey proved very popular with the first 60 jars being sold at the Church Fete in The Old Rectory. While Glebe Meadow honey ran out in January, we still have jars of Starston honey available from others in our 'community of bee keepers'. We also hosted 15 Brownies in the meadow and introduced them to the bees using an observation hive - which proved very popular.

The highlight this year has been the celebration of **5 years of Glebe Meadow** on 8 April when we 'unveiled' the new **Jubilee Orchard** seat with help from Prof Tim O'Riordan, who officially opened Glebe Meadow for us in April 2012. About 60 people joined in a lovely day, including members of Starston Youth Club eager to search for Easter eggs in the meadow. Richard Lombe Taylor and Harry Colman did the honours by releasing balloons from the seat to mark the occasion. We also had the unique services of our own Town Crier and wonderful Starston cake-bakers and helpers who provided a perfect alfresco tea party on a beautiful afternoon.



Starston Parish Council

Annual Village Meeting 23 May 2017 - Glebe Meadow report

The orchard seat is a special curved oak seat made by Richard Hitchman. The cost was covered by a grant, a contribution from the Parish Council, and 2 personal donations. Set in a glade in the middle of the orchard, it is already being enjoyed by many walkers and is becoming a focal point for people in Glebe Meadow.

Tree safety. Given our responsibility for health and safety for users of Glebe Meadow, and concern about some of the trees along the Beck and Low Road in particular, I attended a Tree Safety course run by Norfolk CC at Holt Hall in March 2017. Having secured my Level 1 qualification, I will be undertaking a survey of the mature trees in Glebe Meadow at least annually, and following any storm events (eg Doris), in the interest of reducing risk and demonstrating due diligence. As the course was jointly sponsored by Jubilee Hall and Starston Parish Council, I will be able to assist the Tree Warden elsewhere when requested.

Glebe Meadow would not be what it is for so many people without the help of **volunteers** from the village, and my thanks go to everyone for their help - both in the meadow and in Jubilee Hall. If anyone is not involved but would like to help in some way, please let me know - we'd love to see you.

Peter Grimble
Glebe Meadow Management Group
15 May 2017



Starston Parish Council

Pigeon Post Report for Annual Village Meeting 2017

The Magazine: There is very little to say about Pigeon Post other than we continue to produce a 28 page edition every month which goes to every household in Starston free of charge. At present we are still managing to cover our costs through advertising revenue, as well as providing the prize money for last autumn's short story competition and for the forthcoming photo competition.

However, producing and distributing a magazine of this quality every month is extremely time consuming and from June 2017 items for inclusion will only be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. With only two Editors, both of whom effectively have full time jobs, this is the only way forward and even this may not be enough. It is quite possible that in the near future we will have to reduce Pigeon Post to 6 editions a year, one every two months, as the monthly workload is now almost impossible. I must thank the rest of the volunteer team - Treasurer, Advertising Manager and the team of Distributors - for all their hard work and commitment, but the bulk of the work inevitably falls on the two Editors and it is difficult to see how this can continue.

Village Web Site: Although the website is not the direct responsibility of Pigeon Post we do keep an eye on it and it would seem that it is gradually being used by more people to keep abreast of local information on a day to day basis. The Events list is particularly useful. A reminder that anyone can register on the site and can then add information to the Home Page that is of use or interest to the village as a whole.

*Michael Bartlett
Co-ordinating Editor
Pigeon Post*



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However, as Trustees of a registered charity we have an on-going financial responsibility, not just for the Hall but also for the Glebe Meadow so, although our financial position is currently stable, we need to make sure it stays that way. To enable us to plan for the future we will shortly be preparing a financial forecast for the next 2 years, taking account of possible income and anticipated expenditure. This will give us a useful tool to plan the level of funding we might need to continue our programme of improvement, to cover the replacement of old equipment and to make sure we have sufficient reserves to meet the unexpected when it happens.

Finally a big thank you to Bryan Hanner as outgoing Chairman and to all the other Trustees and Committee Members without whom we could not continue to run the hall and the meadow.

Michael Bartlett
Chairman
Jubilee Hall Trust



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STARSTON TOWER RINGERS REPORT 2016

We have a good team who are committed and loyal, who attend when required for services and attend weekly practices. Only one of the ringers is resident in Starston. At last we have a ringer from the village who should be available for Sunday ringing soon.

Year started as usual with midday bells followed by Meet and Mardle on New Years Day. Between 50 – 60 attended from a wide area, including including those who wanted to follow our tradition at their churches, which they did in 2017.

A ringers dinner was held in February. Good Friday, the first five bells were rung muffled at the request of Rev Steer. Problem with the sixth bell's clapper prevented a muff being fitted. A new set of modern muffs are hoped to be obtained soon.

The Queen's birthday in April, and official in June, were celebrated with a special ring and the bells fired 90 times on each occasion.

The July Festival of Bells organised by the ringers proved a very popular and successful event, an afternoon and early evening with many different bells, plus a visit by Bishop Graham. Thanks to all who helped in any way. The festival was to celebrate 70 years ringing by one of our ringers. Another festival is planned for 2019. This will be 50 years ringing by one of our lady ringers.

The annual barbecue in July was held in Starston, our thanks to Anne and Andy for hosting this.

The ringers, as usual, helped at the Village Fete for church funds.



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The bells were open for one band of visiting ringers and rung for one wedding. All the special services were preceeded by bells.

A reminder, the bells could be available to Starston residents who are celebrating a special event, birth, birthday, anniversary etc. A small donation to church funds will be requested for the service.

Ringers are still needed to make sure this “English” art is continued. Forget all the tales you may hear, ringing is relaxing, not hard work. It exercises both mind and body and is very gentle and satisfying.



Starston Parish Council

Starston Youth Club Annual Report January – December 2016

Introduction

This briefing has been written for the 2017 St Margaret's Parochial Church Council (PCC) Annual General Meeting on 2.4.17 and the 2017 Starston Parish Council Annual Village Meeting on 23.5.17. It is a report on the first year of the Starston Youth Club (SYC).

It may also be of interest to potential donors, as it covers:-

- Identification of need
- 2016 activities, outcomes, community support and learning
- Governance arrangements
- 2017/18 next steps

Identification of Need

57 residents (as at April 2016) of the 331 Starston residents are children less than 16 years old, or 17%.

With no village school, pub or shop, there is no central meeting point for what is a widely geographically dispersed village, such that children of the same age on one side of the village may not know those of the other side. With village children attending five different primary schools, in 2015 parents expressed a desire to see regular activities for Starston children, so that their children could develop friendships with others living close by. There is also a desire from young families to get to know other families living in the village.

From research undertaken for the first Starston Teddy Bear's Picnic in August 2014, the location and approximate ages of all children living in Starston is known. Hence, we are aware of:-

	Starston Pre-School children	Starston Primary School	Starston Secondary School	Starston total children	Total Starston residents (ONS 2011)	Children as % of Starston residents	Total Household with children	Households with children as % of Starston households
Age of children	14	35	8	57	331	17%	31/153	20%
Anticipated number of regular SYC attendees	8	8	NA	16			10/31	32%
% anticipated attendance	57%	23%	NA	28%				
2016 actual average number of SYC attendees	4	7	NA	11				
% actual average attendance	29%	20%	NA	19%			18/31	58%

2016 Activities & Outcomes

2016 Club Meeting Dates (including attendance figures)

16th January – Cinema event (5)

20th February – Arts & crafts, Mothering Day cards (12)



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- 9th April – Farm visit, Crane’s Watering Farm, Starston, to see calves being fed (8)
- 11th June – Queen’s 90th birthday celebration on the Glebe Meadow (10)
- 23rd July – Glebe Meadow outdoor games (7)
- 23rd August – Starston Teddy Bear’s Picnic on the Glebe Meadow (12)
- 17th September – Apple day (8)
- 5th November – Fireworks party (24)
- 17th December – Christmas party (14)

The average number of attendees over the 9 club meetings held in 2016 was 11 children, ranging from 5 children (January 2016, first meeting) to 24 children (November fireworks party).

Whilst the average attendance (mode 12 children) has been lower than was anticipated (16 children), the percentage of Starston households with children who have attended the club has been much higher than anticipated – nearly two thirds rather than one third.

This higher level of household involvement is due to families who have not actively been involved with village life previously choosing to do so. The main reason for this is that there is now local age appropriate activities for Starston children. (Note: the social events organised by the Starston Jubilee Hall Trust in recent years are targeted to adults. “Church Mice”, aimed at pre-school children, ceased in August 2013 as children in this age group moved into primary school or the families involved in organising it moved out of the village or back into full time employment).

When exploring the reasons for the lower attendance numbers than anticipated, reasons identified reflect modern day family life, including:-

- existing involvement with toddler groups outside of the village
- a clash with existing Saturday activities such as sports clubs, dance or swimming lessons
- family holidays
- prior family commitments such as birthday celebrations
- children of divorced parents being with the other partner who lives outside of Starston on the date of the club meeting.

Note that attendees included children with connections to Starston but not actually living in Starston such as cousins and friends, in addition to villagers.

2016 Community Support

There are many people to thank who helped instigate and support Starston Youth Club through its first year. These include:-

- Jon Dowling – for the design of the SYC logo
- Peter Grimble – for researching table tennis equipment
- Trevor Bow – for researching table football equipment
- Verona & Rob McWhinney – loan of parachute for children’s games; donation of village bunting
- Sue & Ralph Moore – for enabling village children to visit their dairy farm, feed day old calves and clamber on their humongous tractors
- Eric Barker, Joy Brooks & Rob Atkinson, Andy Leitch, Peter & Mags Ryalls, all fireworks party volunteers, without whom this event could not have been held
- Jen Roope – who asked autumn 2015 if there was a Starston Children’s Christmas Party (to which the answer then was “no”)
- Jane & George Thompson – members of the 2016 organising team & donors of pre-loved toys.
Particular thanks to George for his creative ideas which shaped the 2016 club programme



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- Nicola & Ella Wilson – members of the 2016 organising team & donors of pre-loved toys. Particular thanks to Ella for her input into the creation of the health & safety risk assessment for club meetings at the Jubilee Hall
- Rachel Wells – donation of pre-loved toys and regular loan of pre-school equipment to the club
- Pigeon Post – for advertising SYC events
- Ben Wilson, Diss Signs www.dissigns.co.uk – for the production of the SYC banner (displayed outside the Jubilee Hall three times a month in 2017)
- Starston Jubilee Hall Trust, who provided free use of the hall during our inaugural year and facilitated grants for SYC through their registered charity's bank account
- Starston Parochial Church Council – for providing public liability cover and safeguarding arrangements
- Starston village bakers – the many individuals who baked cakes and biscuits, enjoyed at club meetings
- Starston villagers and friends of Starston – the many households who collected EDP vouchers over several months, enabling two successful grants applications for the outdoor table tennis equipment and funding the 2016 Teddy Bear's Picnic bouncy castle
- Anonymous donors and Starston bunting hirers, who helped us purchase equipment for the club and cover running costs
- East of England Co-op who have donated fairtrade T-bags for the 2017 SYC & Teddy Bear's Picnic

2016 Learning

1. Format of 2017 Starston Youth Club

Reflecting on our experience in 2016, the club has split in 2017 into a fortnightly mid-week pre-school group and a Saturday monthly primary school age drop-in club. This replaces the six weekly Saturday club meeting, held simultaneously on two sites for the different age groups for the latter part of 2016. This is to ensure that we meet the differing needs of the wide age range of children, coupled with the increased number of pre-school children in the village (due to births and families with younger children moving into the village in 2016).

Thanks to the donation of pre-loved toys for pre-school children, a table top football game (£70) and successful grant applications for a soft-play ball pit & play mats (£300, South Norfolk Go For It grant) and outdoor table tennis (£600, EDP Community Chest), the club now has its own resources and will continue its open drop-in style in 2017 for primary school age children.

The 2016 regular £2 donation/ primary school child per attendance will continue, with a maximum of £6/family, to cover general running costs. As in 2016, the donation will increase to £3/primary school child for clubs that incur higher costs e.g. fireworks party; Christmas party. The 2017 programme has been developed based on the availability of volunteers and the Jubilee Hall.

2. Organising Team

It is anticipated that members of the organising team will change every year. Volunteers are asked to commit to 12 months, to ensure that their involvement remains manageable, in line with the changing demands on children/ grandchildren as they grow up and parent's work commitments.

3. Promotion

Ongoing publicity about club meetings is via the Youth Club page on the Starston village website and articles in Pigeon Post, the free monthly village magazine delivered to every household in the parish.



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From our 2016 experience, the most effective form of communication is word of mouth, text and Emails sent directly to parents.

Governance Arrangements

The club complies with the Diocese of Norwich Safe Haven policy. A copy of this policy is available at club meetings for parents to view. The policy requires that if an adult could be alone with a child, then an enhanced DBS check is required and it specifies the number of leaders to children. One parent must remain with pre-school age children, but primary school age children do not require a parent to remain in attendance.

A risk assessment in line with HSE best practice has been undertaken for club meetings at the Jubilee Hall. All volunteers are asked to read this and it is available to view at club meetings. Additional risk assessments are undertaken for off-site events as required, for example farm visits and fireworks party. An attendance register is taken at each club for fire evacuation purposes.

All parents are asked to complete a consent form for their child (appendix C of Diocese of Norwich Safe Haven Policy), which includes emergency contact details and any known allergies or medical conditions. This confidential directory is available at each club meeting for the leaders of that club.

Public liability cover is provided via St Margaret's Church PCC insurance policy.

A spreadsheet is maintained of cash received and monies spent, so there is financial transparency. For 2016, the income just covered expenditure by £4.91.

2017/18 Next Steps

In 2017, the club will need to generate increased revenues to cover Jubilee Hall hire costs, which were waived for our inaugural year. In order to ensure that the club remains accessible to all Starston families, rather than increase the donation requested (which is in line with other local groups), sponsorship is sort to cover hall hire charges.

It would also be great to set up a SYC Facebook page in 2017, so that families involved with the club can easily communicate with one another.

Further to the popularity of the recently acquired table top football equipment, our priority for 2017 is to obtain a table top pool/snooker table suitable for young children, rounders equipment and secure easily accessible storage facilities for the range of equipment that has been donated to the club.

In 2016, many Starston households contributed to the Waveney Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal, which was hugely successful (see www.waveney.foodbank.org.uk). With support from parents, it would be good to consider how young residents can be involved in other community wide initiatives in 2017, whether further extending Starston's support for the Waveney Foodbank Christmas Appeal or other projects such as litter picking, glebe meadow volunteering, community bees etc.

The club exists to meet the needs of Starston children and their parents. If Starston families feel it is providing what they want, then with the ongoing support of the local community it will continue to flourish.

Ann Leitch, January 2017



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Starston Youth Club 2016 - Income	Restricted Grants/ Anonymous Gifts	Attendance Donations	Individual Donations	Gifts in kind	Comments
St Margaret's PCC					Admin cost of DBS checks for volunteers @ £12/ individual; provision of public liability cover
Feb 2016 - EDP Community Chest G	£599				Via Jubilee Hall Trust - outdoor table tennis table
March 2016 -SNC Go For It Grant	£300				Via Jubilee Hall Trust - soft play ball pit & floor mats
Club 16.1.16		£0.00			Cinema event
Club 20.2.16		£20.45			First event held at Jubilee Hall
Club 9.4.16		£10.00			Farm Visit
Club 11.6.16		£0.00			Queen's 90th birthday celebration
Club 23.7.16		£5.00			Club split site
August 2016 - donation for use of village bunting			£20		Donations to SYC agreed with Rob & Verona McWhinney
Club 21.8.16		£0.00			Teddy Bear's Picnic
Club 17.9.16		£7.00			Club split site
December 2016 - anonymous donation for fairtrade local Advent calendars	£52				Via Ann Letch - purchase of advent calendars
December 2016 - anonymous donation for table top football	£70				Via Trevor Bow - purchase of table top football
Club 5.11.16		£63.00	£8		Fireworks Party - all ages; donations of toffee apples
Club 23.12.16		£33.00			Christmas Party - all ages; donations of pass the parcel prize; party food
Total Restricted Grants/ Gifts and General Income 2016	£1,021	£138.45	£28	£0	
					Total general income 2016
					£156.45
					General income minus Fireworks and Christmas Parties
					£52.45
General Expenditure (excluding restricted grants/ anonymous gifts)					
19.1.16 PVA glue spreaders		£3			
22.3.16 Small red cashbox		£10.99			
9.4.16 Batteries for pre-school donated toys		£6			
28.6.16 Soft play balls - 2 additional bags (Tesco)		£12			
17.9.16 Sept cake ingredients, Nicola Wilson		£4.30			
					Fireworks & sparklers £85.02; food (sausages; rolls; ketchup; milk, tea; sticks for toffee apples; serviettes)
1.11.16 £24.17		£89.79			
22.11.16 Christmas crafts £4.95, decorations £3.40; food £15.1		£25.46			
Total General Expenditure		£155.54			
Total general donations minus general expenditure		£4.91			
					Cash in cash box at 31.12.16
					£4.91
Events P&I Fireworks Party		-£18.79			
Christmas Party		£7.54			



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Starston Charity Annual Report 2016

The Starston Charity receives an annual rent for land that it owns on Hardwick Road.

The purpose of the Charity to 'help those in need' within the Parish or those who have left the Parish, there is also provision for purchasing tools for apprentices.

The annual regular income is £1000 from the land which is let to NW Moore and Sons. In addition to this the owners of two small parcels of land have allowed their Basic Payment Scheme monies from the EC to be transferred to this account. Last year £681.35p was received.

The Trustees are Julian Taylor, Chairman. I have two more years of four to serve as a Nominative Trustee.

Brian Hanner, also serves as a Nominative Trustee and has one more year to serve of his 4 year term. Nominative Trustees are appointed by the Parish Council.

Debbie Griffin was Co-opted as a Trustee and serves for another 4 years.

The Trustees will Co-opt another person this year in place of Betty McKenzie, she was first Co-opted in 1999 having lived in the village since 1954!

To quote: The Co-optative trustees shall be persons who through residence, occupation or employment, or otherwise have special knowledge of the Parish of Starston.

The Trustees met on the 15th Dec 2016 at Starston Place, where it was decided to distribute £50 each to 9 beneficiaries. The distribution was completed by the 20th December.

Current Acc as at 31/12/16 £3,413.23p. Savings Acc as at 31/12/16 £76.44p (a 3p gain!)

The Charity also gives a Book Prize to a Starston Student of Primary School age whom has made not only great improvement in their own work over the year but has contributed to the school community in no small way. The prize alternates between the Harleston and Pulham Primary Schools. The winner in 2016 will come from the Harleston Primary, as yet I have not heard back from the Head. The prize will be given at the Church Fete, which this year is being held on August 8th at Conifer Hill.

Julian Taylor, Chairman,



Starston Parish Council

From the chair of governors

Report to Town Councils

Archbishop Sancroft High School is an OFSTED rated GOOD school. Academic achievement is good and students thrive.

Changes in curriculum, finance funding and political pressures at Archbishop Sancroft High school, now make the school day almost unrecognisable by students who will have attended the school five years ago.

We are firstly a Church of England Secondary school, but also, and importantly, a Community school. In practice this means that we must meet the needs of students from all walks of life. Governors recognise the importance of providing a broad based curriculum. We are aware that many of our students will go on to university although some will not be able, or want to. It is therefore incumbent on us to ensure that the education provision enables us to deliver our Vision - "From Ashs to anywhere". This is the measure of our success, that when young people leave Ashs they should be able to do the things that they really want to.

Government policy has a key focus on Maths and English. When assessing the school's performance OFSTED will look at the progress students have made in eight GCSE subjects. Maths and English count for double points. So the question Governors always ask when the budget is restricted is, do we sacrifice "low rated" subjects in order to satisfy the inspecting authority, and thence league tables. May be we should forget about those subject areas such as Music, Drama and Art, which appear not to be valued by National policy makers. Some schools have already abandoned them. However, this flies in the face of the facts, in that one of the UKs biggest exports and money earners is the arts - film, TV, Art, Music.

The Church of England is still responsible for educating more children and young people than anyone else - Nigel Gender Chief Education Officer - Church of England Education Office writes

"In our rapidly changing world, children and young people need an education which enables them to grow in character and be inspired in the service of others.

Britain has just triggered Brexit and President Donald Trump has signed an executive order rolling back rules aimed at curbing climate change.

In this complex world, these different events remind me how vital it is that our schools, even with all the pressures on budgets, continue to be places where the children we serve are given the opportunity to grow in wisdom, knowledge



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and skills, have hope and aspiration and learn to live well together with dignity and respect."

This view is totally shared by the Governors and Senior Leadership Team at Archbishop Sancroft, and we will do everything we can to maintain a curriculum that allows everyone to thrive.

Governors would like to thank the Councils and wider community for their continued support and enthusiasm for Archbishop Sancroft High School.

Archbishop Sancroft High School is a Good school.

Alan Thorp - Chair of Governors.



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Appendix 4- Notes from EF(AOB)



✓ Transcript of suggestion made at Annual Parish Meeting - May 23rd 2017.

Back in 2009 in their document called "Codes of Practice" The Church of England stated - "It is advisable for a Parish Church Council to set up a separate churchyard fund for churchyard fees". That was the year our Parish Council raised our contribution from precept to £400. Compared with similar parishes of our size this is a generous amount to come out of our local taxation.

In 2013 The treasurer was in the local press with a photo, and a report that it took £1,000 per month to run the church. The authorities of the Church of England should take some responsibility for this dilemma. The cost of a funeral depends greatly on things like coffins, hymn sheets, vergers, music etc but I want to concentrate on what happens to the mortal remains.



2/

The "Table of Parochial Fees" from 1st January this year published by The Archbishops' Council stipulated "No service in church - Burial of body in churchyard (committal only) £317." Burial elsewhere with leasing the plot and/or specific maintenance charges (There are many arrangements) are all more expensive and just an actual cremation is at least three times as much. Yet The Church of England says, "PCC fees for burials and monuments include an element to provide for long-term maintenance of the churchyard". At today's prices on the current regime here, this is clearly unrealistic.

In some parishes villagers perform tasks in the burial ground and indeed I remember when some of us used to. But we are getting old and creaky; younger people are working, stressed and too busy and added to this is the modern day imposition of Health & Safety and insurance.



3/

So the cost of our burial ground's maintenance is now £1,500 a year.

Around 24th March the burial ground's grass was cut.

A Landscaping contractor comes in for about 4 hours - five times between March and November to cut back the old part of the burial ground, at a cost of £150 a visit.

Over the same period of time, a gentleman with a mower comes for about 4 hrs every fortnight and cuts the newer end, adjoining Low Road. He makes 16 visits.

On 5th May (the day after the local elections) I spent 3 3/4 hours diagrammatically mapping the burial ground. It was charming in there with fresh leaves on the trees and shrubs and some of them blooming. There were forget-me-nots, bluebells and a cordoned off area where cowslips were growing.



4/ I marked every identifiable grave with a line; with a date if the grave stone was legible and symbols for crosses and tombs. I also noted those that appeared to have been tended or on since Christmas. Artificial flowers do not help with this but I know rabbits and deer nibble fresh flowers.

Despite my ageing knees and misshapen feet, I moved round the whole graveyard easily but the very next day as I passed through to juncy balls for a wedding at Palham Market, the grass was being mowed. Last week (15th May) the contractors were back - bluebells gone, forget-me-nots gone and with little time to seed.

There has been some suggestion of an ecological survey. If it hasn't already taken place, it may be impossible with this recent cutting. What they would be trying to detect has been destroyed.



5/ My suggestion is that the old part of the burial ground is allowed to be covered with wild flowers. Something tough like ox-eye daisies, that flowers a long time, suppresses grass growth and since they ^{are} around in the village already, could provide free seed. After their flowering, something else. I'm not a botanist but I'm sure we have people in the village and the benefice who could advise. Since cutting grass stimulates growth a period of preparation may be necessary to calm the vigour of the grass and to see what may be growing there. If nothing seems to be happening a notice might be helpful to explain 'it is not neglect'.

As regards the currently used area, a good mowing every fourth week would give reasonable access to the graves. If you go on holiday for four weeks your lawn needs cutting when you return but it is not disgraceful. We have a rural, medieval church where for centuries the graveyard would have been tended with hand-tools, it would



6/ never have had the appearance of a municipal park.

The foregoing would mean that the landscapers would probably need a whole day (8 hrs) at the end of the season for clearance. That's £150 x 2 and perhaps £50 more so say £350.

The 9 visits of 4 hrs by the gentleman with the mower at £11 an hour (which is a higher rate than I believe he is currently getting) would be £396.

That is a total of £746.

You will realise these are not actual figures but I believe a realistic example of what they may be.

If my suggestion were taken seriously the routine cost of maintaining the burial ground could be halved and year on year a considerable sum would be available for special needs in the churchyard or starting a funeral.

The Parish Council could continue to give £400 from the tax we have paid which is our precept.



7/... This could be part of the
church's new image.
It could begin this autumn.

E. J. W. F.