

## TUDDENHAM ST MAFRY PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Tuddenham St Mary  
Held at the Village Hall on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.00pm

**Councillors Present:** **TSMPC** = Cllr. A. Long, Cllr. M. Dunnett, Cllr. N. Crockford, Cllr. G. Loveday, Cllr. M. Fitzjohn & Cllr. J. Kendall. **FHDC** = Cllr. Rona Burt.

**Present:** Vicky Bright - Parish Clerk, Inspector Mark Shipton - SNT, Chris Compson – TPFC, Gill Flack – Friends of St Mary's Church, Graham Dudley – VHC, Kathryn Parker – Cockerton Trust & Rachel Brittain – PCC.  
13 Members of the public were present.

### Item

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#### **Election of Chairman for Village Meeting**

Cllr. Andrew Long was elected to Chair the Meeting.

#### **Apologies:**

Cllr. K. Soons – TSMPS & Colin Noble – SCC.

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#### **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dunnett and signed by Cllr. A. Long.

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#### **District Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Burt updated the meeting with the following;

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, for those who don't know me I am Cllr. Mrs. Rona Burt, I have lived in Tuddenham for almost 21 years and I have been the District Councillor for Icen Ward since 2003.

Mildenhall Base, to date, no further news as to when the closure will be so we are assuming it is still 2024.

Hatchfield Farm, this is a development that Lord Derby has been trying to get planning permission for 400 houses this has been going on for a long time now. The site is just off the A14 junction 137 to Newmarket. There was a challenge by the Horsemen's Group, it has been to the High Court and is now back with the Secretary of State to make the decision.

Local Plan, this is looking at housing figures across the district until 2031, we are still awaiting to hear when the plan can be adopted, it is under review by the Inspectors at present, we are hoping to hear fairly soon as it is now six months overdue.

One Council, I am sure you have read that Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury are to become one Council in May 2019. At present there are 72 Councillors across both Councils, this will reduce to 64 May next year, each Cllr will have 2050 electorate. The orders to create a new Council have been approved by Parliament and the House of Lords and has now gone back to the Secretary of State to be signed off which should be in the next couple of weeks. Once the orders are received then work will begin on the Shadow Council which all of the current 72 Councillors will be members.

Warding options, there was a period of consultation set up by the two councils where Councillors, Parish Councils, Residents were able to put forward their suggestions and options. These have now all gone to the Boundary Commission who will look at these and in July will come back with their suggestions. There will be an 8-week consultation period from 3<sup>rd</sup> July to 27<sup>th</sup> August where anyone can put in their suggestions of warding. If you want to make any comments or suggestions, we have been advised not to just say 'you don't like' give your reasons why. After the consultation period has finished the Boundary Commission will look at the comments and suggestions and in October will issue the final orders. Even if the two Councils were not becoming one the Boundary Commission would still be looking at the current warding. Those Councillors

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who have decided to stand next year will have the opportunity in October to decide on their preference of which ward they would like to stand in.

### 4 **County Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Colin Noble sent his apologies. Report received.

### 5 **Police Q&A Session**

Inspector Mark Shipton begun by presenting crime stats for the village for the last year; there have been 4 crimes in the last year, including a Burglary at the Cricket Club and an arson at the Nature Reserve, also theft of eggs and Bat recording equipment at the Reserve too.

During the question and answer session, Inspector Shipton clarified the following;

- If you catch a criminal in the act, you are covered by Common Law Act and can use the minimum reasonable force to restrain and make a citizen's arrest.
- 90% of 999 calls are reached within 20 minutes in rural areas and 10 minutes in urban areas. Forest Heath's rate is 89.95%.
- The system of dealing with crimes is Police>CPS>Courts>Magistrate/Jury.
- 999 calls and emergency threat to life calls take priority. Non-emergency calls should be reported to 101 or online. All crimes reported will be investigated. The 101 system is currently being revised to improve its effectiveness.
- The Forest Heath Team now have a Mental Health Nurse on the switchboard team and they have a Mental Health Triage Car.
- All crimes must now be reported and recorded (however, small), this means that crime stats will rise as a result of this.
- The activity and arrests at the weekend on The Green are currently under investigation and the Press Release is on hold at present due to a further development.

### 6 **Parish Council Chairman's Report**

My personal thanks go to everyone who has served on the Parish Council during the course of the past year. Their time and efforts are given entirely voluntarily and the Village benefits considerably from all that is done on our behalf. It would also be very remiss of me not to mention our Parish Clerk, Vicky Bright whose knowledge, experience, good humour and dedication are absolutely invaluable to us all. Without her efforts things would simply not get done in the way that they consistently are.

As was the case for the last two years, traffic remains the biggest single issue facing Tuddenham. Some improvements have been made but despite promises and assurances from both Highways and Suffolk County Council a number of measures which had been agreed have unfortunately not happened. We do however have a few bits of good news in that we are about to have some long awaited Visual Signs being installed which will hopefully remind the many drivers who consistently ignore speed limits within our village boundaries that there are necessary limits in place.

Sadly, our Speedwatch group seems to be slowly dying a death due to the lack of volunteers to actually carry out the checks. We have had several residents who have taken the training but very few have conducted an actual Speedwatch. In the meantime, far too many vehicles continue to thunder through Tuddenham with all of the various issues which that creates. Improvements have been made to the notorious accident black spot on the bend at the top of Higham Road where now thankfully the telegraph poles which were regularly hit by cars taking the bend too quickly are now moved well away from the side of the road. We were told regularly that it could not be done but happily persistence and perhaps common sense has now paid off.

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We are still plagued by potholes which is of course a national issue. But we do keep reporting them as they appear with it has to be said a limited amount of success. It is clearly a by-product of too much traffic using our village roads and heavy lorries in particular. A programme of works was carried out on Higham Road in the spring with a week of road closures. This has yet to be completed but we are assured will be at some time during August.

One or two successes are worth a mention here. We now have a defibrillator up and running by the bus shelter on the High Street. Thanks are due to all those who helped bring this facility to Tuddenham. Hopefully it will never be needed but it is comforting to know that it is there.

We now conduct regular litter picks and many thanks to all who have participated either in the litter pick itself or by providing a warm welcome, cakes and hot drinks upon their return. The playing field in particular is noticeably much tidier. If there is anybody in Tuddenham who have used the playing field in the past to fly tip then please dispose of your waste in the proper manner.

A new issue which we will all have to face is the possible expansion of the quarry on Cavenham Road. The Parish Council held an awareness session and distributed fliers to households telling everyone what was going on and letting us all know how to make our views known. There will be another consultation very shortly so again if we don't react it will just happen and then it will be too late for anyone to complain.

Once again there is much that can still be done but it does need the help of all of us. Things don't just happen by accident after all. So do please help if you can. It is our village and remains a lovely place for us to live in. Monthly meetings are held in the Village Hall and residents are always welcome to come and air their views or just to listen to what is going on.

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### **Friends of Tuddenham St Mary's Church Report**

Gill Flack updated the meeting with the following report;

The Friends of Tuddenham St Mary Church is a charity established in 1995 to provide and maintain space, and learning activities for the church congregation and the wider community.

This year we have seen a welcome increase in membership. Our thanks go to those who have renewed their membership and support this year, and to those who have recently joined. The Friends are committed in their aim to preserve and maximise the potential of the church as an asset to the village and should you wish to join, Membership Forms can be found in the display unit in the church.

Fund raising events continue to be held the next being an Open Garden Day at Porter's Lodge, Cavenham on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July; with a concert by the Suffolk Churches Choir scheduled for the evening of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September in the church.

The Friends have continued to support the Parochial Church Council (PCC) led project for installation of a kitchen and toilet in the church. This is a protracted process requiring formal approval from the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC), and support from Historic England and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The necessary approvals are now in place for the Faculty (church planning application) to be submitted with detailed plans being agreed in readiness for inviting tenders to undertake this construction. Hopefully work will commence before the end of the year

Just a reminder that the Friends will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Church. All welcome.

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### Village Hall Committee Report

Graham Dudley, Chair updated the meeting with the following report;

John Cairns looked into putting on a regular film show, unfortunately when he realised the costs involved he would have needed an audience of 46 people at £4.00 a head every film night, this he said would not be sustainable.

The Village Hall held a Table Top sale, 12 tables were booked, it was very slow to start off with and it remained so all day, to say it was a disappointment is an understatement. Seven people from the Village dropped in, we gave the sellers lots of free coffee to stop them from nodding off. With the tables and the sale of refreshments, we made £80.

After the hall was deemed a dangerous structure by Forest Heath council in 2013 Mr. Ian Jemmett came forward with a £10,000 interest free loan towards the renovation work, now after five years it's all been paid back to him, many thanks to Ian.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hall committee for their help and support over the last twelve months.

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### Parochial Church Council Report

Rachel Brittain, PCC updated the meeting with the following;

The PCC, representing St Mary's church in Tuddenham and St Andrew's church in Cavenham, held its Annual Parochial Church Meeting last Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, in St Mary's Church, following the monthly service that had taken place. Gill Flack and Kathryn Parker were elected as church wardens and Esme Murfitt, Vanessa Selwyn and Rachel Brittain continue to serve as members of the PCC. The minutes and reports from the meeting can be seen upon request to Kathryn Parker, Secretary to the PCC.

Since reporting at the last Annual Parish Meeting, our parish has continued to be in an interregnum, without an official parson in post. However, during the last year plans have moved forward to create a group of 16 parishes, to include this parish and to be known as the Forest Heath Team. The final structure and mode of functioning for the team has yet to be finalised and representatives from the parishes involved have been invited to attend a meeting with the Bishop of Dunwich and the Archdeacon on the 19<sup>th</sup> June for further information and consultation. Progress is being made, and we look forward to the appointment of a permanent team rector who will work alongside, and lead, the three vicars who are already in post. In the meantime, we continue to appreciate the time that the Rural Dean, Revd John Hardy, the Revd Gordon Anderson and lay readers, in particular David Ball, have committed in taking our services. For the moment, the pattern of services continues with Holy Communion being held in St Mary's church on the first Sunday of the month with well attended Family Services being organised for the main festivals, at Christmas, Easter, mid-summer and Harvest. Services are held in Cavenham church, usually twice a year. Dates and times of all church services are announced in the quarterly Umbrella Newsletter and in the porches of the churches concerned.

The fine acoustic offered by our church building was once again enjoyed by those who were there to hear the Kokopellis String Quartet perform a varied programme, last September. This concert was well attended and a successful fundraiser for the PCC.

The plan to install a toilet and kitchen facility in the church is a joint venture with The Friends of St Mary's and will enhance the potential use of the building as a venue for events, such as concerts and exhibitions. This project is also progressing at a slow, but steady pace. Many hoops have had to be negotiated, including approval from the Diocese, Historic England and The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The final, detailed specification is currently being drawn up by the architect at the Whitworth Partnership, so that the project can go out to

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tender, the final application for a Faculty made to the Diocese, and funding secured. We look forward to seeing the completion of this installation.

The PCC is funding the current work to the roof and guttering and part of the nave wall, all on the northern aspect of St Mary's church, and all requiring the erection of scaffolding. These repairs had been planned for last autumn but approval from the Diocese was delayed, and the work had to be postponed until the spring. The work is now almost complete so that the scaffolding can be removed and the swifts left to nest in peace.

Finally, we greatly appreciate the commitment of many village members who help to keep our church on view by being part of the rota to open the church at weekends and refresh the flowers inside. Grass cutting is also essential for the well-kept appearance of both churches. Many thanks to Martin Tilbrook for looking after St Mary's churchyard and to Newton Kendall for the new graveyard at the back of the church. Also to Rob Gough for making sure that the graveyard at Cavenham is mown. A small working party was organised last summer to tidy up around the outside of Cavenham Church and Alex Bedford, from Cavenham, has been working on the ivy that has obscured the flint wall for so long.

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### Playing Field Committee Report

Chris Compson, TPFC updated the meeting with the following;

The activities which have been hosted on the playing field during the last year have continued to be those which have taken place in previous years. Principally these are Cricket, Bowls and Football. These are all active clubs who use the facility on a regular basis. The cricket club is largely responsible for the care of the square and outfield, and we are pleased at the high standard of ground maintenance which has been achieved particularly during the summer months. In spite of vandals filling the fuel tanks of our equipment with water, and stealing batteries and fuel, we have managed to maintain our standards and our activities have been largely unaffected. A cricket coaching programme for youngsters is an innovation this year with the intention of attracting future team members. Senior football is played regularly at weekends during the season and the team has achieved good results. Unfortunately, last season it was not possible to field a junior team as most of them exceeded the age limit and have moved on to greater things. We are grateful to Dennis Hayhoe for his tireless attention to marking out the pitch and doing battle with grub hunting crows who seem to make it their life's work to dig up the field. The bowls club remains active. and its members take great care of their playing surface. As always they are constantly on the hunt for new members.

The annual bonfire night last November was the most successful for many years and resulted in a surplus in excess of £3,000. Most of this has been earmarked for replacing the windows in the pavilion which we had intended to commission before now. We have however held back on this project until the plans for the new village hall have been confirmed, and whether or not they will affect the pavilion.

The playing field is available to any resident in the village, whether they be dog walkers, children, or smaller people who may wish to use the playground equipment next to the pavilion. The pavilion itself and indeed the playing field, can be used for small gatherings or meetings by prior arrangement with Rachel Nouch (01284 -705500), our new secretary.

It continues to be difficult to cover our costs, and much of our equipment will need replacing in the not too distant future. We would always be interested to hear from anyone who would like to step up to the plate and join our small committee. New ideas are always welcome.

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### Tuddenham Community Interest Groups Report

No report received.

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### Cockerton Trust Report

Kathryn Parker updated the meeting with the following;

#### The Charity

The Cockerton Trust is a charity which gives grants towards the academic, social and physical education of children and young people under the age of 25 & resident in Tuddenham St Mary. It is a foundation set up by the terms of the will of John Cockerton who was a yeoman who farmed in Tuddenham in the eighteenth century. To apply for a grant for an individual child or an educational group activity, apply in writing enclosing receipts e.g. for books or equipment or details of the residential educational holiday for school age children to; The Cockerton Trustees c/o Kathryn Parker, 20 the Green or phone 01638 713632 for more information.

#### The Trustees

John Cockerton specified that the vicar and churchwardens should be trustees. Since our vicar, Rev. Rosemary Rycraft moved to the Dalham-Gazeley benefice in January 2017, we have not had a clergy person trustee on the Cockerton Trust. Our trustees are Gill Flack and Kathryn Parker, churchwarden trustees and Esme Murfitt and Lisa Carter, trustees representing the village.

#### Grants awarded this year

In 2017, the trust awarded seven grants. Five were towards residential educational holidays, one was for equipment for a college course and one was for textbooks for a university student.

#### Selling the former school site

In 2018, the Cockerton Trust met seven times as we had a lot to discuss. Our main points of discussion were to do with selling the greater part of the former school site for development. The trustees felt that it would be best if the present village hall site and the former school site were offered for sale at the same time as a new village hall will be built on the land at the back of the school site and the two building projects will need to be coordinated.

The Cockerton Trust waited until the Village Hall Committee were ready to put their land for sale and then both pieces of land were offered for sale through Jackson Stops. The bids were opened on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

The successful tender was offered by Andrew Garnet, Mill House Homes, Tuddenham.

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### New Village Hall Update

The last twelve months started well with Jackson Stops & Staff producing a draft prospectus for the sale of the Village Hall site, the committee made changes to the wording in an attempt to maximise all potential returns for the Hall.

The Village Hall invited a representative of the John Cockerton Trust to join our meetings to allay any rumours and misunderstanding of what we were doing to progress the sale of the Village Hall site, we agreed a date to publish the prospectus for the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

The opening of the sealed bids took place in the Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 there were only two bidders Mill House Homes (Andrew Garnett) and a Mr. Mathew Almond.

Mr. Almond's bid was short of what we would have considered, he also would not agree to wait until the new Hall was ready to move into, before started the development of the old Hall site, that being a precondition of sale.

The trustees accepted the offer from Mill House Homes, owned and run by Mr Andrew Garnett, a well-known and respected resident of Tuddenham, who has offered to build our

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new Hall at cost of £319,000.00. He will also be covering such costs as site insurance / security /archaeological investigations. Completion of the new Hall will be approximately 18 months from signing of contracts.

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### Update on Highway Improvements & Traffic Calming

The Clerk advised that the new Vehicle activated Speed sign (SID) will be in place soon, this will rotate between 3 locations in the village on a fortnightly rota. Volunteers are needed to move the sign. Funding was secured from Cllr. Burt's FHDC Locality Budget and Cllr. Noble's SCC Locality Budget., our thanks to them both.

The bridge at the Reserve, which was meant to be a temporary bridge, and still there a decade later, has been looked at by SCC Structures Team. We have had the support of Claire Dickson, PROW, who has advised the team that the bridge surfacing and noise from the Weir is unsuitable for a bridleway. SCC are considering options for surfacing, or to remove and replace the bridge entirely. Claire Dickson has already installed signage advising that the path and bridge are a bridle way and not for motorbikes. The Parish Council, Claire Dickson, PROW and the local SNT have been campaigning to Highways to have the speed limit reduced on the Icknield Way. Claire Dickson has already requested advisory speed signs to be installed.

Highways have agreed the following improvements at the Higham Road crossroads;

New yellow backed cross roads and Give Way signs from both directions, renew existing Give Way markings and re-erect the existing Give way signs and bend signs which have been damaged, add reduce speed now signs, add a 40mph advisory speed sign on the bend and install 6 new chevrons back to back on the bend. Following a meeting between Highways and the Parish Council, they have also agreed to replace the finger post sign at the crossroads and to clear the drains and gulley's to reduce flooding at the crossroads. Cllr. Kendall has already dug out and cleared the ditches and gulley's to reduce rain water and surface water from the A14 ending up at the crossroads, our thanks to him. Highways have advised they will monitor the improvements and if necessary, a legal order to request replacement of the Give Way signs with Stop signs could be considered.

### Public Forum:

The Clerk was asked to advise Highways that the signage on the Higham Road/Cavenham Road junction is inadequate and the road surface is poor and eroding.

Meeting ended at 8:17pm

Signed: *Andrew Long*

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019