

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Kirby Cane & Ellingham on Monday,
25th April 2021 at 7.00pm in Kirby Cane Memorial Hall**

Present:

Parish councillors:

John Cook James Lally Lesley Lodge Julie Pickering
Michael Skipper Iain Wright

Also four residents, District Cllrs Brendon Bernard and Chris Brown, and the clerk to the council, Jane Love.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Kerry Mallard, District

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th April 2019 were agreed to be correct, and were signed as by Cllr Cook as Chairman of the Parish Council on behalf of the Meeting.

3. Presentation by Tracey Allan of Community Action Norfolk on establishing Good Neighbour Schemes:

Tracey Allan told the meeting about the help offered by Community Action Norfolk to support neighbourhood assistance schemes throughout the county to build on the community efforts during the pandemic. Mrs Allan was thanked for her interesting presentation, which may be of interest to the village's own Covid support network.

District Cllr Chris Brown gave his apologies and left the meeting

4. To receive a report from the Parish Council Chairman on the council's activities during the past year:

Cllr John Cook thanked his fellow councillors for all their hard work and support during the year, and also to Covid support group, in particular its coordinators. He also reported on the recent work to the cycle path along the A143, which had been transformed by work organised by Norfolk County Council following persistent lobbying by this parish council. He also gave a brief run-down of the car park project to serve the primary school and playground, which had been a focus of attention during the past year and would be addressed further later in the meeting.

5. Report by the Parish Council Playground Committee:

Cllr Lodge reported on the continuing success of the playground, and the playground committee was thanked for its hard work.

6. Report by Parish Council Car Park Committee:

Cllr Skipper reported on the progress of this important project during the year, including the design and tendering process, which had led to the selection of a local contractor to carry out the work. The lease for the land was still being finalised, but once this was available the council would be looking for grant funding for the project, and he appealed to members of the community for any assistance and expertise they might be able to bring to this aspect of the project.

7. Report by District Cllr Brendon Bernard:

District Cllr Bernard reported that many of the activities of the district council were returning to normal, and the combined administration of South Norfolk and Broadland district councils were looking at saving money where possible to be able to put more into local recovery. Efforts were being made to help with the Ukrainian refugee situation, and the council would also be trying to reduce its carbon footprint going forward.

Cllr Bernard also suggested that it might be worth looking at breaking down the car park project into phases which might make fundraising easier.

Reports by village organisations:

Cllr Skipper reported on behalf of the Kirby Cane Memorial Hall Committee that activities were starting to resume and the hall was fortunate to be hosting several fitness clubs, as well as Knit and Natter and a social club. Parties were also booked for some weekends. The hall itself was in very good condition, and a new non-slip surface had recently been added to the floor in the main hall. There were vacancies on the committee and new, especially younger, members would be very welcome.

The clerk read out a report from Newgate Allotment Society, which thanked the parish council for its continuing support and relayed the efforts of allotment holders to recover from the heavy flooding of the previous winter, enabling their plots to remain productive in spite of the challenges, and looked forward to a good growing season in 2022 following a reasonably favourable spring.

Cllr Wright reported on behalf of the Kirby Cane Charities that it had about £1500 to give away each year and welcomed requests from residents who need support for themselves or for others.

8. Matters raised by residents:

There were none.

9. Any other business:

Councillors were grateful to those residents who had attended the meeting, but were disappointed that there were not more present. As refreshments were already being offered, they wondered what else could be done to encourage attendance, whether a different time of day, or a different day of the week/weekend might help.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.42pm, and those in attendance were invited to join councillors for refreshments

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....