**ALBY WITH THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Rosalyn Dawson

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

Held on **Tuesday 31st May 2022** at the **Aldborough Church Room, The Green, Aldborough**

**Present: Chairman – B Fitzpatrick; Vice-Chairman – Will Cutts;**

**Councillors, Stephen Jordan, Sheila Goodley, Clare McNamara,**

**Angus Mackenzie**

**Visitor: Councillor John Toye - Portfolio holder for Planning & Enforcement (Member for Erpingham Ward)**

**Clerk – Rosalyn Dawson**

**Members of the public**

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

**Apologies for absence:** none

1. **The Minutes of last year’s Annual Parish Meeting on 29th May 2021 were agreed upon and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.**
2. **Matters arising: None**
3. **Chairman’s Annual Report: None**

We are a small parish with limited resources. I consider that we are very fortunate to have a parish council that plays an active part in serving our community.

We have dealt with a high number of planning applications some of which have been controversial. Without the active participation of Council Members, we would have found it difficult to respond to the applications on time and with the detail needed. The District Council has passed responsibility for investigating planning matters to parish councils and much of this work is done online. Needless to say, no additional resources have been provided and the deadline to respond can be very short.

We have kept our Precept frozen in these difficult times. The cost of living and inflation has increased the Parish Councils’ overheads.

I am pleased to report that we have sought permission to plant an oak tree on Thwaite Common to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

I continue to be disappointed with the District Council’s lack of engagement with the Parish Council over Thwaite Common. Norman Smith, when he was alive, spent a lot of effort creating a consultative management committee that engaged with our community on a regular basis. Regrettably, this has not been met for two years but despite this, the Friends of Thwaite Common continue to provide some involvement and maintenance on the Common.

We were involved in a very successful campaign along with local parishioners to prevent the installation of a 30-metre Telecommunications mast on the edge of the Common and in this respect, I would like to thank MP Duncan Baker for his support for the campaign. Our incidence of Covid continues to be low and I hope this remains so. We have been well served by NHS. I wish everyone continued good health.

Barry Fitzpatrick

1. **Open discussion with Electors**

A parishioner asked where the oak tree will be planted on the Common. The Chairman responded by saying this had not been decided upon but planting would be in the Autumn and the Chairman considered a plaque could be erected on the tree.

Concerns were expressed about the Common and in particular – the ponds and the NNDC environmental policy. Councillor John Toye reported he has asked for regular meetings. He said the Norfolk Wildlife Trust has held a meeting locally.

A parishioner reported that fencing from Thwaite Hall westward on the Common had caused various problems. A deer had to be destroyed because it was injured on the middle strand wire. The matter was reported to the RSPCA. The Chairman asked if the middle wire could be removed. He promised a meeting in February 2023.

Councillor John Toye will refer the points raised about meetings to interested parties.

1. **The meeting closed at 7.40 pm**