

Minutes of the Carlton Scroop and Normanton on Cliffe ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 17 May at the Village Hall, Carlton Scroop

1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

In the absence of Councillor Simon Hutton, the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Johnston Calder, chaired the meeting. Councillors Baines, Baker-Browne, Hankinson, Rainthorpe and Thomas were in attendance, as were County Councillor Maughan and eight members of the public. The Vice-Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He explained that the Annual Parish Meeting was not a Parish Council meeting, and that Councillors were there to listen to the views of electors. He explained that the previous year had been difficult due to the pandemic and the need to conduct meetings virtually, and he was pleased to be able to meet in person. The Vice-Chairman concluded by saying that the Parish Council wished to focus on communications and ensuring that it was in tune with the views of people in the parish, working as a collective with a variety of skills to look after the interests of the village.

2. APOLOGIES

The Clerk gave apologies on behalf of the Chairman, Councillor Hutton who was unable to attend due to work.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2020

Councillor Rainthorpe proposed that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 March 2020 be approved as a true record, which was seconded by Councillor Thomas and agreed by those present.

4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

The Vice-Chairman invited representatives of village organisations to present reports to the meeting. The Reverend Stuart Hadley, Rector of the South Cliff Villages group gave the first report. He reported that St Nicholas' Church, Carlton Scroop, had been closed for much of the year due to the pandemic, but had been open for private prayer on a Sunday and from today would re-open every day, with Communion taking place on the third Sunday of every other month. The church clock had required a new motor, and a death watch beetle infestation was being treated. The church yard continued to be recognised as "God's Acre" and since March had been included on the website of the charity Caring for God's Acre as a Burial Ground to Inspire due to its biodiversity.

The Reverend Hadley reported that St Nicholas' Normanton on Cliffe was managed by the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) and had also reopened daily following closure for much of 2020 due to the pandemic. The CCT had obtained funding to make good the nave roof which had been stripped of its lead and had very recently been covered with two layers of felt which should last for 30 years. The churchyard grass was cut through the season by David Wills and this weekend a village churchyard tidy up was organised by Jackie Gonzalez. There were no services in Normanton in 2020 but two were planned for 2021, with the first at 4pm on Sunday 30 May.

A member of the public in attendance noted that anyone wishing to attend the service at Normanton should call to make an appointment as capacity was limited due to social distancing. Councillor Thomas asked whether Carlton Scroop was a closed churchyard, and if not who should be contacted regarding burial matters. The Reverend Hadley responded

that the churchyard was open, although it was specifically managed as a wildlife area. He added that the Church Warden, Liz Naeem should be contacted with any enquiries.

Jim Arnott gave the next report regarding the Village Hall. He reported that the hall had been closed for most of the year, with only a few users in the open period between September and the November lockdown. During the closed period, a great deal of work had been carried out on Covid risk assessments, and making adjustments to capacity, signage, sanitisers, floor markings and conditions of hire. Although very little income had been generated from users, the Hall had received generous survival grants from the government, which would allow it to subsist until users returned in numbers. An electrical installation upgrade required for compliance had been completed, and wall lights had been installed in the Hall which were funded by the Parish Council. The issue of flooding on Newark Lane had been resolved thanks to County Councillor Maughan's intervention and new soakaways had been installed in the car park.

The next major project would be the new entrance and ramp, for which planning permission had been granted, and two contributions from South Kesteven District Councillors totalling £900 had been received towards the building works. Mr Arnott thanked Janet Bullock for her invaluable work at the Hall in spite of having broken her wrist during the winter. Councillor Thomas asked if Mr Arnott was able to estimate the cost of the new entrance and ramp. Mr Arnott responded that he had received an estimate from a civil engineer that it was likely to be around £30k.

Councillor Thomas asked when the Social Club was likely to reopen. Mark Watson, Chairman of the Social Club responded that the club was hoping to reopen in the middle of June, but this was yet to be confirmed. He added that the club had received no income throughout the recent lockdowns but thanked the Village Hall Committee who had waived the rent. The Social Club account was healthy, but bingo nights, which were a major source of income, were unlikely to return for some time due to social distancing.

Councillor Thomas made the next report on behalf of the Carlton Scroop Charities. He explained that the three Charities (Charity of an Unknown Donor, Charity of Edith Tyndale and The Parish Lands) were administered by five trustees. The original purpose of the charities was to support the poor and needy in the parish, but this had been expanded to allow support for projects benefiting the community. The land was rented out and generated £543.50 per year in income, in addition to which £475.38 was raised in dividends from investments last year. The Charities' costs were low and as they had not installed new fencing in a rented field as planned, they were able to make a contribution of £500 to the Caythorpe and Ancaster Medical Equipment Trust which benefited many people in the parish. Assistance had also been provided to a small number of individuals. In total, the Charities' funds were valued at £22,833. Councillor Thomas asked that if anyone was aware of an individual or project that could benefit from the support of the Charities, or anyone who would like to become a Trustee, they should let him know.

Councillor Calder asked how people would apply for funding, who would be eligible and if there was a limit. Councillor Thomas responded that there was no funding limit, and that applications could be made by email, with an article placed in News and Views asking for applicants twice a year. The trustees would look at any applications in line with the constitution, which was quite specific. Councillor Calder asked whether improving

recreational areas might qualify for funding, which Councillor Thomas explained they may if the project enhanced the wellbeing of the community.

The Vice-Chairman gave the next report, concerning the results of the recent survey carried out by the Parish Council. He noted that there had been 65 replies, 41 from Carlton Scroop and 24 from Normanton on Cliffe, which equated to a 26% and 27% response rate respectively. He added that the majority of respondents in Carlton Scroop were aged 61 to 74 and over 75, whilst most in Normanton on Cliffe were aged between 46 and 60.

Everyone that responded felt that life in the villages was safe and liked the rural setting where they lived. 40 respondents were against more housing development, although a diversity of views was expressed which would be helpful when the Parish Council drew up the parish plan. The majority of respondents in Carlton Scroop felt the 40mph speed limit was too high. Most respondents were in favour of a footpath from Normanton to Carlton Scroop, and there was less support for cycle paths than for footpaths. All respondents felt the Village Hall amenities were good, and most were in favour of receiving online correspondence. There were 24 respondents from Carlton Scroop and 19 from Normanton who expressed a willingness to volunteer. The Vice-Chairman read some narrative comments from the questionnaires received and informed the meeting that further analysis of the results would be available on the Parish Council website once completed.

Councillor Rainthorpe gave a report on the Normanton Church Yard fund, which was set up by residents to provide for the upkeep of the graveyard. David Wills cut the grass and Brian Wills maintained the graveyard free of charge. Jackie Gonzalez had convened a working party at the weekend to tidy up the graveyard, and it was hoped another would be organised towards the end of the year. Councillor Rainthorpe reported that the fund's outgoings exceeded its income every year and thanked the Parish Council for their contribution.

Councillor Baker Browne asked how many years the fund was sustainable for if it was running at a deficit, and when plans for future funding would be made. Councillor Rainthorpe responded that it was sustainable for five or six years, although regular maintenance could extend this period. He expected to make plans for future funding in the next couple of years and added that if anyone wished to organise a fundraiser, it would be most welcome. The Reverend Hadley commented that when services were held, half of the collection was given to the CCT and half to the church yard fund, which would increase its income. Councillor Rainthorpe added that £10 income had been received from book sales in church.

5. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS

Councillor Thomas mentioned that the Parish Council had joined the Community Speedwatch scheme, and that training for volunteers would soon restart following lockdown. He noted that at least three volunteers would be needed for each village to operate the radar guns and asked that anyone interested in volunteering contact the Parish Council to arrange to attend training.

There were no further representations. The Vice-Chairman thanked those present for their contributions and closed the meeting at 7.17pm.