



Unapproved Minutes of the Pettistree & Loudham

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Thursday 25 April 2024 7pm in the Village Hall, Pettistree

1 PRESENT

From the Parish Council: Cllrs Jones (Chair), Chilvers, Cook, Hayward, Over and Smith.

In attendance: Cllr Nicoll (SCC), A Staples (Parish Clerk), two representatives from Kindwater Ltd, and 14 village residents.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Clarke (PPC) and Cllr Sally Noble (ESC).

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 20 APRIL 2023

The minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Jones reported on the following successes in 23/24:

- Cllr Olivia Smith joined the council and a new Parish Clerk appointed.
- Pettistree People has reached 100 issues.
- Significant planning applications are routinely published in Pettistree People and residents are encouraged to respond on the ESC Planning Portal. A planning refusal on the car works site was recently upheld on appeal by the planning inspector.
- There is more CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money than expected now available.
- A road safety mirror has been purchased to replace the previous mirror that was irreparably damaged.
- A defibrillator has been installed. It is fitted to the outside wall of the Church Room, some residents expressed interest in receiving training. It was suggested an motion-sensor outside light illuminating the defibrillator should also be installed.

- Helpful reports continue to be made on the condition of parish footpaths by Judy Steventon.
- A “Not suitable for HGV” sign has been agreed by SCC Highways for Java Lodge Road and is being paid for by Kindwater.
- The parish council has set up gov.uk addresses for councillors and staff.
- Quiet Lane signs have been installed. There was comment that these were yet to made an appreciable difference to driver behaviour. Concern was also expressed about the national speed limit on Rogues Lane. Cllr Nicoll suggested writing to him to query the issue, especially if there are national speed limits in Quiet Lane areas.
- The CEO at East Suffolk Council, Chris Bally, attended to address a recent Parish Council meeting. The councillors explained their planning concerns to him.

The Council faces the following challenges:

- Damaged roads and potholes, residents are encouraged to report these on the SCC website.
- Drainage issues, especially after the storm Babet deluge. These are reported by Cllr Smith and are on the SCC to-do list.
- The Loudham Solar Park, for which the planning process is ongoing. The parish council has objected to the application. There was a site visit by ESC today and they anticipate deciding the application next month.
- CIL money in the sum of approximately £12,000 has been received. A further £13,000 is expected shortly, with possibly another £13,000 due in the Autumn. This arises from the Hopkins Home development, which was formerly within the Pettistree boundary. This money has to be used for specific projects, rather than the day-to-day running costs of the council. Wickham Market PC has contacted the council to request a grant is made to their village hall refurbishment project.
- Chris Garner has requested to stand back from the village website, which he has been generously looking after for the last decade. A replacement volunteer is sought.
- A large shed has been built in Presmere Wood and it is thought it might be being used as an unauthorised habitation; this will need to be investigated.
- The finances of the Parish Council were explained; the precept had to be increased in 24/25 to ensure the council is able to meet its day-to-day running costs and build up reserves. Whilst the accounts are in the black, the budget allows very little scope for additional spending.

5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM

5.1 District and County Councillors

Cllr Nicoll (SCC) discussed Sizewell. The various groups created by the deed of obligation are now coming into being, of these he is involved in the northern and southern transport groups. In addition to the anticipated HGV movements, there will be impacts on local roads from sub-3.5 tonne traffic arising from the various contractors working on the development. This is because some logistics firms

supporting Sizewell may be based on Bentwaters, and there is the southern park and ride site to the north of Wickham Market. EDF are supposed to manage traffic issues. Early next year is when activity on the Sizewell site will start ramping up.

Cllr Noble (ESC) was unable to attend and submitted a report in writing, as follows:

East Suffolk Blooms community wildflower growing scheme returns

A flourishing environmental scheme, encouraging people in East Suffolk to grow beautiful, pollinator-friendly wildflowers, is returning for 2024.

Each year, East Suffolk Council distributes free packs of bulbs to town and parish councils, community groups and organisations to plant locally as part of the East Suffolk Blooms campaign. The planting efforts of last year's successful applicants are already being rewarded with colourful narcissus displays.

This time, in tandem with the East Suffolk's Amazing project to promote an all-round effort to keeping the district clean and attractive, and in order to provide greater benefit to pollinators, East Suffolk Council will be offering blends of native bulbs that appeal particularly to bees and butterflies.

East Suffolk Council's Public Realm Contracts Manager, Laura Hack said: "We were thrilled with the level of interest in last year's scheme and we're looking forward to receiving applications for East Suffolk Blooms in 2024.

"We expect to have enough bags of bulbs to distribute one to each of 50 groups across the district."

Packs of bulbs will be available to collect in the autumn, around October, from two locations in the district.

A 'Bees Mix' of bulbs flowers from February to May and includes crocuses, chionodoxas, scillas, muscaris and naturalising tulips, while the 'Butterfly Mix' flowers between May and July and comprises camassias, nectaroscordums, irises and alliums.

The scheme is funded by East Suffolk Council's trading company and services operator, East Suffolk Services Ltd, and from the Enabling Communities Budget scheme.

An application form will be available to complete online until 30 June, before a judging panel meets to decide the successful applicants, with additional consideration given to groups reapplying after missing out last year. Applicants will then be informed of the decision by August.

To view the application form, visit:
my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/east_suffolk_blooms

East Suffolk's Amazing

We invest every single penny we can in services to help maintain the beauty and cleanliness of East Suffolk but sometimes admit that it can never necessarily be enough.

A cross-party working group of councillors is already working on different ways we can work to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, which includes encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area.

This includes reducing fly-tipping, recycling properly and even, where possible, looking after the spaces outside your own property. We are also working closely and collaboratively with Suffolk County Council who have responsibility for weeds on roads and pavements, potholes and road signs.

There is already an incredible network of volunteers who work to help keep our district beautiful, with regular litter-picks, planting, and an all-round effort to keep their local area clean. If East Suffolk matters to you, if you want to play your part we would love you to get involved. East Suffolk's Amazing... let's keep it that way! For information on community litter picks, recycling, community composting schemes and reporting issues, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/

Ease the Squeeze on cost of living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

5.2 Village Hall Committee

Dave Caudwell presenting the following report on behalf of Jim Jarvie:

“Bookings for the village hall have remained high and groups using the facility have been varied. Almost all weekdays are being used by groups, including pilates, art classes, basket weaving, patchwork, quilting and wellbeing therapy. Children’s

parties (up to 12 years of age) continue to be booked at weekends. The hall is also used for local and national elections and hosting Parish Council meetings.

Our coffee mornings, held on the first Wednesday of the month have proved incredibly popular and we have up to thirty attendees from the village, the church and surrounding community. There is an incredible buzz when those attending engage with friends and neighbours. The coffee machine purchased by Cath and Dave prepares excellent coffee, on a par with the major chains! Alun and Zoe Davies started a table tennis evening on the third Wednesday of each month and although the numbers remain in single figures, we are hoping to encourage more people to attend this 'for fun' event.

The hall has been maintained throughout the year and we have undertaken a number of improvements. The felt roof over the entrance was repaired by Brad Bye and Cath ensures superficial marks, mainly from children's parties are cleaned. This is in addition to her weekly duties keeping the hall clean and well stocked. The hedges around the carpark were trimmed as part of the village Autumn programme. Our thanks go to Louis Deliss and Tom Over.

The hall was decorated for Christmas and hosted a Xmas bring and share lunch. Debbie Hayward's children performed their nativity play. Our annual Burn's night hosted by the Jarvies was a great success and thanks to all those that helped with the food and with the raffle we were able to donate £930 to the Woodbridge branch of Riding for the Disabled. Peter Holloway has agreed to perform in the hall on Saturday 4 May which will follow a village BBQ. Please keep a look out for publicity regarding this event.

The finances of the hall are very healthy and no doubt you are aware of the legacy amounting to £250,000, specified for the build of a new hall, which was included in Mike Watt's will. We are currently corresponding with the solicitors and the executors of Mike's will to determine the way forward. The consensus of the committee is that we do not want to change the character of the hall and a brand-new replacement is not what is felt appropriate. What is crucial throughout is that if any works are planned we do not jeopardise the current users of the hall.

The village hall is a terrific community asset and the committee would welcome any suggestions for future events. It is for us all.

My thanks go to all the committee members and supporters for their continuing support."

5.3 Pettistree Heritage

Cath Caudwell presented the following report:

“I’d like to begin my report by thanking Ray Whitehand, who was a Pettistree resident many years ago and who has taken a keen interest in its history ever since. Ray has been diligently cataloguing Pettistree’s archive records which are on loan to the Suffolk Record Office (SRO), having been deposited there in 2014. Quite rightly the records were listed as the Joan Peck Collection after Joan’s many years’ work as our Local History Recorder and then on the Pettistree Heritage Committee. Ray’s volunteer work with the SRO has resulted in the Collection being listed online so that anyone can now see what records are held about Pettistree and visit The Hold, the home of SRO with confidence to do further research.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla’s coronation in May was celebrated by the village with a BBQ and social occasion, enjoying the weather and company after watching the ceremony the day before.

During the year the booklet about The Mount was updated and reprinted following conservation work by Natural England around the canal and the Mount itself. The last few months of exceptional rainfall have benefited the water levels within the canal so that it probably looks more like it was originally intended.

The village itself has experienced a lot of road flooding from field run-off and blocked drains, with an event at the Village Hall having to be postponed during the Storm Babet period. The area around Presmere Pond, in The Street near Holmleigh, by the church car park, in Walnuts Lane near the Village Hall and Rogues Lane at both ends experienced extended periods of varying depths of standing water. Rogues Lane in particular continues to suffer due to a number of large vehicles which arguably shouldn’t use it as their size damages the verges, leaving substantial deposits of soil in the middle of the lane, seemingly on a permanent basis now.

Small enquiries continue to be answered as and when they arise but there have been no exhibitions since the Platinum Jubilee.”

5.4 Pettistree Parochial Church Council

Maggie Hallett presented the following report:

“The regular Sunday morning services have continued with Rev Jenny Catchpole arranging for clergy cover following the departure of Rev Leslie Sui in early June.

The Priest in Charge vacancy was first advertised in October 2023, attracting a single applicant who was interviewed on 29th November. No appointment was made on this occasion, with the decision to re-advertise at the start of January 2024. Five weeks ago interviews were held and an applicant was appointed as Priest in Charge of the Wickham Market and Pettistree Benefice. Unfortunately, we heard today that the applicant has withdrawn his acceptance of the post for personal reasons, so we are back to square one!

The normal festival services have continued with Easter, Harvest and Christmas being particularly special and the Harvest service was followed by a Bring & Share lunch in the Village Hall. The celebrated church was beautifully decorated at these times. A Christmas 'Songs of Praise' was held in the churchyard on a sunny but chilly afternoon followed by mulled wine supplied by Will from the Greyhound. A very well supported Christingle service was held to enable the Presmere nursery children and staff to attend, and was very much appreciated by them and their parents, with 82 people (children & parents) attending.

The bells were rung for the 'Act of Remembrance' at the War memorial on November 11th. with the two minute silence at 11.00 am, laying of the Pettistree village wreath, Peter Holloway from Charsfield sounded the Last Post and Jim Jarvie played his bagpipes.

On the eve of the Coronation of King Charles, May 5th, a full peal of 5040 changes was rung, taking 2 hours and 40 minutes by the Pettistree bellringers. They are an extremely welcoming and very proficient band and would be delighted to show anyone interested 'the ropes'. They have an open morning on May 4th so I hope that members of the village will go and see what is involved. Regular church attendance or musical experience are not required but the ability to count does help!

The Community Payback Service team returned regularly to work in the churchyard and the PCC are very grateful to Andy Curtis for mowing the churchyard and to Dave Caudwell for ensuring that the bonfire does not get out of hand!

The PCC are investigating the most cost efficient way to sort out the damp problems of the Church room and ideally upgrade it to make the room more user-friendly!

Following a detailed review with the church architect, the PCC identified the most immediate maintenance needs and what monitoring actions to help with planning for the more extensive repairs may be required. This work was carried out in November 2023, consisting of both internal and external repairs, drainage inspections and placement of monitoring patches to assess wall crack movements. Unfortunately it was found that the stone cross at the Gable end of the chancel roof was unstable. It was not possible to repair this at that time due its height, so the area of churchyard immediately under that section has been cordoned off. A building investigation survey report summarising the work carried out, together with recommendations for future planning, is being prepared by the church architect.

The Church redecoration saga continues but progress has been made in that on 12th December 2023 the Chancellor issued a judgment which authorised the PCC to remove the contaminated nave plasterwork and then replaster and repaint with lime wash. The PCC are delighted to have an agreed and permitted way forwards to rectify the nave issues, which will be progressed as swiftly as possible in 2024.

Unfortunately this requires yet more discussions with the architect about details of the work so we still do not have dates for the work to be carried out.”

5.5 Roads

Cllr Clarke was unable to attend and submitted the following report in writing:

Quiet Lanes

Following the installation of the quiet lanes signs this project is now closed. The signs are in place and no problems have been reported. You will have seen the green signs around the village they are located next to the entrance of the Greyhound Pub starting at Walnuts Lane and finished at the top of Walnuts lane and one at the beginning of Rogues Lane at the Wickham End.

SID

The speed indicator continues to give good readings however there have been some issues with the batteries themselves. Although the device it is working and collects results it is currently not displaying the speed on some occasions. This has been reported to the company who arranges the installation and new batteries will be supplied. If anyone is interested in any results or information it collates you are welcome to contact me on either 07949 796007 or jamesclarke@gmx.com

Roads in General

The roads in general are in good condition save for a pothole or two. As I find them, or they are reported to me they are immediately reported to East Suffolk Council. The one that I have noticed the most, which looks more like a sink hole than a pot hole, is the one on the bend near Pettistree Grange and the open land behind the 3 tuns. This has been reported a number of times but it doesn't seem as though the council deem it to be considered a pot hole. I will persevere.

5.6 Survey on use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds

Cllr Hayward thanked residents for their responses to recent CIL funds survey. The most favoured responses were for replacement chairs for the village hall and a grant for Wickham Market School. Cllr Nicoll (SCC) recommended engaging with ESC at the highest level as there may be forthcoming changes about types of projects can be funded with CIL receipts, such as roads maintenance or funding for rural transport. Bromswell PC are currently having such discussions with ESC and may be a useful contact.

Further suggestions for the spending of CIL funds were sought. The meeting discussed whether funds could be used to alleviate drainage problems causing road flooding.

6 OPEN DISCUSSIONS

- **What are the challenges for the parish?**
- **What improvements can be made?**
- **How do we see the future in terms of community, agriculture, environment, business?**

Part of this agenda item was taken at the start of the meeting for the convenience of Julian Hobday from Kindwater, who attended to answer queries from residents about the number of heavy vehicles coming into the village to access the Kindwater site.

The residents of Pettistree raised the following concerns:

- 44 tonne vehicles are using Rogues Lane which is not wide enough, they cutting the sides of the verges and collapsing grips. It was acknowledged this isn't just lorries attending Kindwater, but includes other heavy goods vehicles and farm traffic.
- The resulting dangers caused to pedestrians, dog walkers and cyclists, many of whom are discouraged from pursuing these activities in the village as a result.
- Damage to the fabric of the road; in places the surface is disintegrating; and the risk of damage to chambered areas under the roads and building foundations.
- Damage to the village green, caused wheels trimming the corners.
- The current frequency of vehicle movements; whether these are sustainable, and will they increase as Kindwater grows. What is being done to mitigate the disruption caused?
- Can Kindwater use smaller vehicles for their deliveries?
- A further "not suitable for HGVs" sign might be needed at the top of Rogues Lane. These may be lorry movements going to Grove Farm.
-

The meeting heard from Julian Hobday in reply:

- They are trying to ensure vehicles are double loaded, i.e. they both arrive and leave laden, to save an extra vehicle movement.
- The aspiration is to limit it to four heavy vehicle movements a day. At the moment it is averaging at six movements a day. Kindwater work with the hauliers and drivers to schedule heavy vehicle movements them so that they don't overlap, but acknowledged there is a period around lunchtime where two collections sometimes overlap.
- Currently unconvinced that heavy vehicles are pulling onto verges and causing damage to verges and grips. Heavy lorries don't tend to pull over because there is no possibility of allowing room for another vehicle to pass.
- Doesn't agree that 44 tonne lorries cause more disruption than the alternative option of smaller vehicles being used, but in much larger numbers. Heavy vehicles have more tyre surface area to dissipate the weight, so should not increase road damage.
- Kindwater is happy to help the village by funding repairs, signs, etc. to try to solve the problem.

- There are plans to grow the business. There has been rapid growth since 2020, and that has increased the number of heavy vehicle movements. By consolidating loads we intend to move more product but not increase vehicle movements. The business needs more space, which isn't available in the village, so seeking to buy an additional site elsewhere, which will in due course take some vehicle movements away from the village. There is a shortage of suitable sites in east Suffolk.
- Kindwater moved into the village in 2006, we employ local people, and provide good quality employment in the area, particularly for blue collar workers, hence we want to remain within the locality for our employees.
- Residents were encouraged to notify Kindwater of any specific incident they will try to do what we can to solve it. It is generally the same drivers each day, so feedback is passed on.

It was agreed:

- Should endeavour to keep records of whose heavy vehicles are using the lanes in Pettistree. Cllr Nicoll agrees that some kind of audit would be useful. He noted that Kindwater are a considerate road user and attempting to engage with their community and mitigate impacts. There may well be other road users that are less considerate.

Dave Caulwell raised concerns about car parking on the meadow adjacent to the Church as it is causing damage to wild flowers. He reported this happens every Sunday and when there are weddings. Maggie Hallett pointed out that a lot of Sunday service attenders do not live in the village, and have to drive. People know to park in the pub car park and village hall car park. It is estimated the Church needs twelve car parking spaces. The Church owns the land concerned. The solution is for the village to develop car parking, rather than it being considered to be the Church's responsibility. It was agreed the matter should be discussed at the PCC and PC meetings.

7 CLOSE OF MEETING AND REFRESHMENTS

The meeting closed at 20:42.

Refreshments were kindly provided by Cllr Chilvers.

Signed:

**Chair
(Date)**