



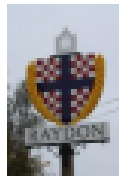
Annual Parish Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 9th April 2024, KGF Pavilion

Minutes

1. To **receive** apologies for absence - Cllrs. Cranfield and Halloran
2. **Confirmed** minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Tuesday 11th April 2023** and signed by Cllr. Lovering
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting - **None**
4. To **receive** a report from Georgia Hall, Suffolk County Council Councillor - SCC Cllr. Hall spoke to her a report (attached) which was discussed and noted. Splitting the year into quarters from the second quarter in 2023 until now. Questions were put forward with concerns arising from gullies getting full and not being cleaned causing drains to become full and blocked. These are done by priority and case by case but should be reported to highways for them to check. With concerns raised about road surfaces and verges etc being damaged by the Anglian Water works, It was noted that Anglian Water is given priority to carry out their works and should replace, correct the damage but it there are concerns that this is not being done to let Cllrs. Hall and Ward know to look into.
5. To **receive** a report from John Ward, Babergh District Councillor BDC Cllr. Ward spoke to his report (attached) which was discussed and noted. Questions were raised in regards to the parking payments in Hadleigh to confirm the areas and pricing with the ability to pay via cash, card or the mypermit application. It was queried as to why all parking is not priced the same as it could cause confusion to some members of the public, to which Cllr. Ward said this is an option the council are looking into. It was also asked if payments will be needed to collect prescriptions as these are now done from the surgery which will be looked into. Yellow lines will remain the same areas but monitoring will be increased and they need to be 80% faded until they are repainted.
6. To **receive** a report from the Chair of the Parish Council, Keith Lovering - Cllr. Lovering spoke to his report (attached) which was discussed and noted. A statement was made in regards to improving the play area at KGF with this being encouraged by those with young children and grandparents in the village.

Closure of the formal part of the meeting at 8.20pm



Annual Parish Meeting

Community Groups Presentations – Attached

KGF Trustees – Nev Davenport

Raydon Sports and Social Club – Michael Hampton

Fair Trade Coffee Morning – Wendy Mumford

Raydon & District Garden Club – Geoff Horrex

Village Hall – David King

Parochial Church Council – Geoff Horrex

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April 23 - 99% of pupils receive a preferred primary school place on National Offer Day

99.18% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred primary schools and 95.78% were offered a place at their first preference school.

Suffolk County Council received 7,056 applications from parents and carers indicating which primary school they would prefer their child to join in September 2023.

Families who applied online can log on to the Admissions Portal from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer. Letters will be sent to parents who made a paper application by second-class post today (17 April 2023).

May 23 - Revised policy agreed to protect Suffolk's water supplies

Suffolk County Council Cabinet has today (16th May) agreed to a revised infrastructure policy to support water security in the region.

As part of its focus on adapting to a changing climate, Cabinet members agreed a revision to the Energy Infrastructure Policy to cover future projects needed to protect and maintain water resources, including reservoirs, pipelines, and water recycling plants.

This new policy addition lays out how future water infrastructure projects will be managed and the council's role with stakeholders, such as the water companies, Ofwat and the Environment Agency. It also sets out how the council will recover the money it has to spend in the planning process for infrastructure projects.

June 23 - Suffolk Fire Service to bring control room back to the County

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has announced plans to create a new fire control centre here in Suffolk.

Since October 2011, Suffolk has shared a control room with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service in Huntingdon. The joint project has worked well, saving both fire services money and enabling greater cross-border resource sharing.

However, the company behind a project to deliver a new IT system, initiated in 2019, has run into technical and financial problems, causing a significant delay. This, in addition to advancements in technology, has led to the decision to bring fire control back into the county by the end of 2024.

The proposed new control centre will be brought to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet for approval in September 2023.

July 23 - Councils set out concerns as public consultation opens for Norwich to Tilbury proposals

National Grid has opened its consultation to anyone wishing to comment on its Norwich to Tilbury proposal, previously known as East Anglia Green. This is an eight-week non-statutory consultation period which closes on 21 August 2023.

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The project will see a new 400kV electricity transmission line built between Norwich and Tilbury, running a distance of 111 miles. It will be made up mostly of overhead lines and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new substation.

The new consultation reveals the route for the pylons, passing through Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. It shows the line will run underground through the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Essex-Suffolk border.

The consultation is open to residents, landowners, businesses and any individuals or groups that may be interested in commenting on the revised proposals. Consultees can participate online or via face-to-face events.

Essex County Council, Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are also being consulted on the proposals as statutory consultees. All three councils have already raised concerns to the initial consultation undertaken last year.

August 23 - Formal opening of £1.3 million Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service training centre

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre at Wattisham Flying Station near Stowmarket has recently undergone a £1.3 million upgrade.

It now boasts a tactical firefighting facility, which uses real fire and an LPG-fired facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with.

The most recent addition is the modular office complex, which features additional classrooms and welfare facilities for all delegates and staff.

The centre was formally declared open at the annual base families' day on Thursday August 24 by Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Jon Lacey of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, and Colonel Toby R Moore MBE, Station Commander, Wattisham Flying Station.

September 23 - Inflation, SEND school transport and care costs contribute to council's predicted overspend

Inflation, school transport for children with SEND, and looking after children in care are the main factors for SCC forecasting to spend £22.3m over its £688.1m budget for this year.

This is a similar story for many councils across the country, due to higher demand for their services, inflation remaining higher than expected for longer, and interest rates rising to levels not forecast by financial markets.

[Recent research by the County Councils Network](#) suggests that England's largest councils will need to make at least £1bn in savings to balance their current 2023/24 budgets.

A [BBC investigation](#) also reported that councils expect to be £5.2bn short of balancing budgets by April 2026, the average council facing a £33m predicted deficit by 2025-26.

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Suffolk County Council projects a 4% overspend (£29.3m), to be partially offset by an additional Section 31 grant from Government, and additional income from the pooling of business rates with the district and borough councils in Suffolk, totalling £7m.

October 23 - New highways services arrive in Suffolk as multi-million-pound partnership goes live

The new contract, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will deliver highway projects and improvements across Suffolk for up to 20 years, including maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, improving drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting and much more.

Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, was awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract back in February and since then has been working with Suffolk County Council to mobilise the new contract ahead of it commencing on 1 October.

When seeking a new highways partner, the county council wanted a keener focus on delivering greater social value, building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment, using local skills and talent, and giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector.

With this in mind, the new partnership was built around six key contract objectives, which will form the basis for all that Suffolk Highways delivers going forward. These objectives are:

- Collaboration and Partnership
- Social Value
- Environment and Net Zero Carbon
- Customer Communication and Engagement
- Commercialism and Enterprise
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

November 23 - Cabinet approved £10 million new funding to resurface residential roads

At Suffolk County Council's Cabinet meeting (7th November), Cabinet approved an extra £10 million to repair and resurface local roads in villages and residential areas across Suffolk.

The funding will nearly double Suffolk Highways' £11 million annual road maintenance budget but be targeted at smaller residential streets which are typically maintained less frequently than busier A and B roads.

Over recent years, the county council has recognised the importance of improving roads for residents, this new proposal follows the successful £21 million contribution towards the resurfacing of 1,000 miles of road between 2017 and 2021, and more recently the committed £21 million between 2021 – 2025 to increase pavement maintenance, deliver drainage improvement schemes and repair road signs.

It is hoped that the extra £10 million boost to resurface some local roads, minor rural roads and urban cul-de-sacs would result in a reduction of new potholes, which in turn will reduce the overall financial burden on the council's emergency and reactive repair budgets. Between 2020 and 2023, 2

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out of 3 pothole repairs were carried out on local roads, minor rural roads, and urban cul-de-sacs. During that period, more than half of all defects reported by the public were on these types of roads.

The extra investment will make use of more sustainable materials such as warm mix asphalts that have a lower CO2 footprint than traditional hot mix asphalts and which include recycled materials to reduce raw material use; resulting in a more positive impact on Suffolk's environment.

December 23 - Government backs A12 road improvements with funding commitment

The government has confirmed (on 31st October) funding for a transformative package of improvements as part of Suffolk County Council's A12 Major Road Network scheme.

The scheme will see upgrades to the key roundabouts from the A14 at Seven Hills, east of Ipswich, north to the A1152 at Woods Lane, and a new dual carriageway section replacing the existing single carriageway bottleneck at Seckford Hall between the B1438 and B1079.

It will also deliver improvements to bus links and walking and cycling connections to reduce the issue of severance for communities on either side of the A12 – for example, where the A12 separates houses from local employment and retail areas.

The Department for Transport has committed to funding up to £ 54 million of the scheme's estimated £ 64 million total cost. The remainder of the cost will be funded by local development contributions, including from Sizewell C and Brightwell Lakes.

January 24 – More public money for adult and children's care, but difficult decisions are needed to balance the books

In the next two years, Suffolk County Council needs to pump almost £74 million extra into protecting the county's most vulnerable residents.

- £74 million extra needed to protect the most vulnerable over two years
- £64.7 million savings to be made over two years
- Council set to reduce workforce, services and use savings

As part of financial plans to prioritise those in greatest need, an additional £42.7 million for children's services and £29.9 million for adult care are being proposed.

Along with local authorities up and down the country, the council has been hit hard by inflation and rising demand for services such as children's care, special educational needs and disabilities and home to school transport. It means having to make difficult decisions about the services it provides, including £64.7 million of savings in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

The two-year savings proposals, which have been [published on the council's website](#) today, include:

- £11 million of staffing costs through changing the way services are delivered and restructuring across the council.
- £30.6 million of additional savings from an extension of the council's hugely successful Adult Social Care Transformation programme, which has focused on reducing demand for more expensive social care options by boosting people's independence and ability to stay well for

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longer through innovative methods including cutting edge care technology. This transformation programme has already saved £30.7 million over the last six years

- £0.5 million of savings by stopping core funding to Art and Museum sector organisations. To assist with the transition, £528,000 of COVID recovery money will be made available to Arts and Museum sector organisations for 2024/25 which will fully cover the funding reduction for one year.
- £140,000 of savings by centralising Suffolk Archives to The Hold and closing the branches in West and East Suffolk. In February 2023, the council committed £3.4m to relocate the West Suffolk Archives branch to the proposed Western Way development. Remaining at its current location would have required over £5 million to protect the historic records and meet modern archive standards. West Suffolk Council has since decided not to progress with the Western Way development, ending that opportunity. Centralising the three branches into one brings Suffolk in line with the majority of archive services across the country and is better value for taxpayers' money.
- £15.9 million of reserves will be used to balance the 2024/25 budget.

Feb 24 Public consultation on Suffolk County Council's proposed devolution deal starts on 18th March

A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government will start on 18th March and run through until 26th May. The consultation will be in two main parts – an open survey, hosted by Suffolk County Council, that any residents can complete and a sample survey of 1000 Suffolk residents conducted independently by Ipsos Mori. The consultation will be available through our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution and social media. There will also be media coverage highlighting the consultation.

Brett Vale Annual Parish Meetings 2024

Babergh District Councillor's Report

New Administration

The Green, Independent and Liberal Democrat groups agreed to power-share at Babergh for the next four years after no party achieved an overall majority in the elections last May. Part of the agreement was to have a rotating leadership, with a change each May. Cllr David Busby was elected leader for the first year. Unfortunately, he had to step down in September and take a break from council business due to health issues, with me acting up temporarily into the leader's role. I will be handing over to Cllr Deborah Saw next month.

We set out our initial vision and priorities for the next four years and then held a major engagement exercise with residents, communities, businesses, stakeholders and partners – so they could tell us whether they think we are focusing on the right issues. It was a very useful exercise which confirmed that, for the most part, we have got the priorities right, but we did make some changes. The priorities are grouped into three themes:

- Revitalised and improved environment
- Thriving economy
- Resilient communities

State of the District reports

In October, we published our State of the District report, which provides a treasure trove of useful data on issues such as housing, environment, health and wellbeing, and the local economy. Insight from these reports is also helping influence future council priorities. The report is available on our website.

Planning

In November, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils formally adopted part 1 of our Joint Local Plan - the blueprint for the districts' future development until 2037. This followed examination by the inspectors over the Summer, followed by their assessment that the plan is sound. It is proving to be very effective – not only in giving clear guidance to developers, our planning officers and planning committee members, but also in defending appeals against planning decisions. Part 2 is now well underway.

We are also progressing a local listed building consent order to enable owners to install energy efficiency measures, including solar panels, in listed buildings, without the need for individual listed building consent.

Neighbourhood Plans

The number of parishes with Neighbourhood Plans is steadily increasing with 17 adopted now and another 21 are in progress. These have considerable weight as they form part of our planning policy

and, despite some cynicism, planning decisions are made on the basis of what a neighbourhood plan says, as Assington can attest.

CIL

Significant amounts of CIL continue to be collected from developers, with much going back to communities to fund community projects including play areas, cycle paths and village hall improvements, in addition to funding major infrastructure such as school extensions.

EV charging points in council car parks

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are installing 28 new electric vehicle chargers in our car parks, financed by a government grant. The government is encouraging councils to do this. This has proven to be controversial with many people questioning whether there is the demand. It may well be that we are ahead of the curve on this and, if it proves that demand is not as expected, we will return some of the bays to general parking until demand increases.

NG Pylons

The pylons saga grinds on.

The Norwich to Tilbury project non-statutory consultations took place last year and the 10-week statutory consultation started on 10th April.

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk continue to oppose the plans and we have significant concerns, particularly over the impact on our residents and the environment. We continue to state our preference for a coordinated offshore grid as it provides the best technological solution for connecting the North Sea wind farms off the East Anglian coast with those further north, the interconnectors to the continent and delivery of the energy to London and the South-east. We don't believe this is being given the serious consideration it deserves. However, in the light of the recent NG ESO Review's assessment of underground HVDC we will look at this to determine how we respond to the consultation.

The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement project is progressing towards its Development Consent Order. We have continued to submit formal opposition to the proposals, with concerns with the site of the Dedham Vale East CSE compound and the overhead section between the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley underground sections.

Community Support

We continue with our varied and important programme of support activities for our communities and residents. This work is often under the radar as it is not a statutory service, but it is valued greatly and makes a huge difference to many. We have:

- Provided support for residents struggling with the cost of living crisis.
- Provided activities to help tackle loneliness for older residents.
- Introduced a new scheme to improve the wellbeing of young people in schools and connect them with their communities.

- More than 30 community projects in Babergh and Mid Suffolk have each received a share of more than £36,000 to keep residents warm and connected this winter.
- Other projects have received a share of £230,000 in grants and funding as part of our commitment to residents' wellbeing and ensuring communities have access to local community facilities.

Repairs and energy efficiency improvements in council houses

We are carrying out a major programme of repairs and installing energy efficiency measures in our council houses. The repairs programme has suffered recently for a number of reasons, but we have committed extra funding and are carrying out a major overhaul of the repairs service.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk received £1.6m of government funding last month to add to £2.25m already committed by the councils to install energy saving measures.

Homelessness Prevention

We continue to help households at risk of homelessness with more than 1,500 having been helped across Babergh and Mid Suffolk since 2019 as part of our homelessness reduction and rough sleeping strategy.

Changing Places Toilets

New fully accessible toilet facilities for those with additional needs are being installed with the help of a government grant. There will be one as part of the new café in Belle Vue Park in Sudbury, and I attended the official opening of another at Flatford Mill, managed by the National Trust, last month. Official openings of toilets – the glamorous life of a council leader.

Flood support

Emergency council teams worked to support areas impacted by floods this winter, particularly in the wake of Storm Babet in January, offering practical support, as well as information and advice on what to do for those whose homes or businesses were affected.

Budget

We have increased Babergh's element of council tax bills by 2.99%, the maximum we are allowed by government – any more would require a referendum to get approval. This is an additional £5.46 to £188.10 a year, or £3.62 per week, for a Band D home. Babergh's proportion is only 9% of the total council tax.

We have also agreed higher tax premiums for owners of second homes and long-term empty properties as part of a raft of measures to bring more homes back into use.

We have also had to increase our council house rents to ensure that we can afford our repairs and energy efficiency improvements.

Balancing the budget has only been achieved through the planned use of £1.1m of earmarked reserves. In total we are forecasting to use 48% of our earmarked reserves over the two years 2023/24 and 2024/25 – clearly not a sustainable position.

We are facing a forecast cumulative budget gap of £6.7m over the next four years and we will be undertaking a number of measures to address this: we are increasing the fees we charge for many of our discretionary services, we have identified further savings we can make in how we do things, we will reconfigure the senior leadership team, we will not fill staff vacancies unless the post is essential and we will postpone some capital projects, but we do want to try to maintain the services that many people want and value. There aren't any easy decisions, which brings me on to the most controversial: the decision to charge for short-term parking. The majority of stays will only cost £1 and we will be including measures to ensure those attending surgery appointments won't have to pay and to provide permits for parents dropping off and picking up children from schools. We simply have no choice but to do this and our charges will still be among the lowest in Suffolk – indeed the country.

Fears that businesses will suffer are simply not seen elsewhere – if this were true, it would mean that nearly every town in the country is struggling and councils everywhere would be rushing to remove parking charges. The truth is high streets thrive or fail for reasons unrelated to parking. What they have to offer matters.

Most councils are struggling: some have issued bankruptcy notices and other may well follow in the coming months. All, irrespective of political control, are critical of the current local government financing regime, which is no longer fit for purpose. A long-term settlement has been promised and postponed for many years. Along with other council leaders, I have called on the government to address the local authority funding crisis.

And finally...

Babergh, along with most county and district councils, was 50 years old on 1st April. Created by the Local Government Act 1972, the new councils came into being in 1974. Some, of course, have since undergone further reorganisation with the abolition of the short-live metropolitan county councils and the on-going formation of unitary councils. It will be interesting to see what the future brings for us. The previous local government structure lasted 80 years so change is probably inevitable at some point.

For all its perceived shortcomings, Babergh does work extremely well for our residents in increasingly challenging circumstances. So, it was wonderful to see our staff and councillors recognised by Babergh and Mid Suffolk being named UK council of the year 2024 at the prestigious IESE Public Sector Transformation Awards. I was delighted to represent Babergh at the ceremony at Church House, Westminster, last month. More glamorous than the opening of a toilet!

John Ward
Babergh District Councillor
Brett Vale
john.ward@babergh.gov.uk

Raydon Parish Council

Chairmans Report

April 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting

2024 has been a year of engagement and growth.

Engagement with many parties affecting the village and growth in the number of councillors providing their time to council matters.

As a Parish Council we have at our core the duty to expend to the benefit of the parish, funds raised through the precept and community infrastructure levy. We also have a key role as the first tier of local government to bring the community together to air and bring about solutions to key issues within the parish. We also have the role of representing the views of the parish on key matters of Town Planning, Highways and other key issues.

In terms of engagement some highlights of the year include hosting public meetings to air sometimes strong views on subjects including planning applications for the Golf Course; electricity cabling and pylons; water pipeline and airfield parking. On each of these occasions we have had good village attendance at the meetings in the pavilion with sometimes strong views expressed. There has also been an opportunity to engage with the proposers of these matters.

We have also had representation from builders of the fibre broadband roll out and most recently the water pipeline works. With the pipeline in particular we have been able to make clear the issues affecting the residents concerned and to hear how these concerns are to be addressed.

In terms of expenditure we have for example, purchased benches to celebrate the Coronation and placed these in the playing field. Other support to the King George Field includes covering some basic costs. We have also actively supported the start up costs for KGF to develop its proposals for the building of a replacement for the pavilion.

An initiative of the council in conjunction with KGF has been to place a fence around the play area. This had a key benefit in keeping dogs away from the play equipment. We have installed dog and litter bins on the field and also next to Country Covers to be emptied by Babergh DC.

The parish council also provides ongoing support of the maintenance of the church grounds and war memorial which is owned by the parish council.

Highways and road safety is a very strong concern in the village. Speeding brings a great reduction in quality of life experienced and we have pursued some key initiatives to counter this such as the Quiet Lanes in Lower Raydon. We now own a speed indication device which through radar and a large display, reminds road users of good and bad behaviour on the road. Through active lobbying of Suffolk County we have been provided with three street-side posts to carry not only the SID but also an ANPR device. Whilst the SID is only advisory, the ANPR provides data which can be used to prosecute wayward motorists.

For the future we can rotate the SID around the posts. We also are working towards applying for a 40mph limit to be introduced on the roads from Layham and Holton St Mary in conjunction with their parish councils. We are also investigating the 20isPlenty initiative.

For the coming year we have been developing plans for minor landscaping works to the council maintained verge in Lower Raydon on Sulleys Hill. Here we propose to place two benches and table and relocate the signs to allow a rest point and view across the valley.

We also plan to play a key supporting role to KGF in their proposals to build a replacement pavilion.

We continue to receive strong support from our County and District councillors which is greatly appreciated. Our thanks must go to all in the village who take an active role in attending meetings and supporting our activities in whatever way they are able.

Keith Lovering

Chair

Raydon Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT – KING GEORGE’S FIELD, RAYDON

The last 12 months have proved a busy period for KGF with the Trustees juggling their efforts between routine maintenance of the field and pavilion, or organising annual village events whilst, at the same time, looking to progress longer term plans to replace the pavilion.

In addition to the annual Farmer’s Market in July and the Bonfire Night event in November the Trustees put on a new event this year - Oktoberfest - held, as is the German tradition, at the end of September. Each of these events were well supported by the village and helped to raise much needed funds for KGF. The Trustees would like to thank Raydon Sports and Social Club for their help organising and running the bar for each of these events.

Looking forward to the next year, plans are already in progress to re-run the Oktoberfest in September and the Bonfire Night event in November but we have decided to replace the Farmer’s Market with a Village Fete in July as it was proving increasingly difficult to get a good blend of stall holders to attend.

Maintenance work on the field has continued throughout the year and the Trustees are very grateful for the effort put in on a regular basis by a small group of volunteers who have tidied up a substantial area around the perimeter. In addition to this, high winds last year created the need for some urgent tree surgery which was kindly financed by the Parish Council. We are also grateful to RPC for funding the fencing installed around the play equipment, for financing the Coronation Benches which have been positioned on the field and for paying Vertas to flail those border areas where there had been significant encroachment of shrubs on to the field.

The football pitches continue to be used on a regular basis by Brett Vale and by youth teams from East Bergholt and Hadleigh, whilst Raydon Sports and Social Club, the Raydon and District Gardening Club together with RPC and the Church PCC remain regular users of the pavilion.

The Trustees have also made important strides with plans to replace the pavilion. A topographical survey of the field was commissioned in March which, following discussions with stakeholders, enabled our architect to produce initial concept drawings for a new building. Again, we are grateful to RPC for funding this survey. A Village Presentation was held in September to showcase our plans with some revisions being made to the initial plans based on feedback from this event. A Consultation Questionnaire has recently been circulated and posted online, to gather input on the revised plans and a further village meeting will be organised in April or May to share the results.

Input from Concertus has provided some initial indication of building costs and behind the scenes, the Trustees have been investigating potential funding sources and beginning early discussions with potential funders. Following the village consultation our next steps will be to begin a pre-planning conversation with Babergh and to take forward discussions with funders based on the preferred building design.

ND

5th March 2024

Parish Meeting 2024

Raydon Sports and Social Club

Good evening, for those of you who do not know me my name is Mick. I am currently the Chairman of the RSSC.

I was asked by Keith if we could provide you with an update on the work we have done and future events in the pipeline.

So, as a committee, we work very closely with the King George 5th Trustees.

Our key focus is supporting the King George 5th Trustees with funding to help maintain the playing fields and current building and moving forward, the new community building for the village.

What have we done, and what do we offer the village

Over the past 12 – 18 months as a committee we have had various personal changes.

We currently have a committee of 7 members from the village. All volunteers who help to run the bar and organise functions.

Over time, we have had discussions on ways of how we can improve the Bar facilities and choices available to the people from the village.

We have actively listened to feedback that our patrons have given us and now offer a varied choice of drinks from the bar.

We now offer Tea, Coffee, Hot chocolate. Soft drinks ranging from fruit shoots for smaller children through to various Coke options and J2O. Snacks such as crisps, nuts, and Pringles are also available.

We have been able to instal a Draft Carlsberg pump; we now offer a very good pint of draft quality Guinness as well as guest ales from various breweries around the area. We also offer wines and spirits.

Recent Function activity:

Guinness 6 Nations Rugby.

We have worked with Chef Neil who has provided food for not only the recent games but various others.

We are supporting the Church with their latest Coffee Mornings by offering to pay for them to use of King George 5th Pavilion. The most recent coffee morning was by all accounts a huge success.

New Years Eve Function

Quiz Nights

We supported a children's Easter Egg Hunt

Private Party's

As I said before, we support and work closely with the King George 5th Trustees and have worked alongside them on events they have organised themselves.

The recent Oktober Fest, the Farmers Market and Bon Fire Night. These functions require a lot of extra support, so we work alongside them at these events.

So, for the future we have plans for further Quiz nights, opening for other sporting events, a Gin tasting event and are constantly looking at different ideas to encourage people to use this village facility.

Our regular opening hours are:

Wednesday evening between 1930 – 2230

Sunday afternoon between 1230 – 1500

As for our Bar prices, we are certainly competitive and we aim to give everyone a warm welcome.

Dog walkers, ramblers, the various football teams that use the playing field, families who come out to use the playground, everyone.

So, if it is your cup of tea, soft drink or drop of ale, we would love to see you.

Fair Trade Coffee Morning

A brief history

Our Fair Trade coffee mornings began about 15 years ago in St Mary's Church in Raydon and there were two main reasons regarding how they actually came about. Also it is linked to the Library van which visits every four weeks, parking in front of the Church.

Firstly, when going to the library van to collect my books I met with some older people who had walked from the other end of the village and were pretty much out of breath for the walk back. So they were invited to come and sit for a while in the Church to get their breath back, I made them a cup of coffee and hey presto the Fair Trade coffee morning was born.

Secondly, as well as trying to buy as many food items as possible which are produced locally, or travel as fewer miles as possible I support the activities of Fairtrade. Fairtrade is about choosing products that change lives, and is a simple, powerful way to make a difference to the people who grow the things we enjoy. For example, the coffee, tea, sugar, chocolate, biscuits, kitchen rolls etc.

As you can imagine it is very difficult to warm the Church in the winter, but nice and cool to escape into during the heat of the summer, also to sit outside under the shade of the trees.

Having held our first event of 2024 in January when the Church was at it's coldest we had a surprise invitation from the sports and social committee to hold our Fair Trade coffee mornings in the pavilion during the colder months. The library van is also able to come and park there as well, so a wonderful opportunity which we gratefully accepted.

We moved our location for February and March and it was a huge success, we had many customers who had not been before, and holiday makers who found us as well, also the team working on the playing field joined us. It was such a wonderful community get together, being able to catch up and chat with everyone in a lovely warm environment.

It was so successful that our Fair Trade coffee mornings and library van visit will be held in the pavilion for April and May, having the permission and agreement of the sports and social committee to this request.

A huge thank you to them for such a kind offer and many thanks for inviting us

Wendy Mumford

Annual Parish Meeting April 2024

Raydon & District Garden Club.

The club was founded in 1980 by a small group (8) of local gardeners in Raydon and Shelley, and once set up it was then affiliated to the Suffolk Horticultural & Produce Association known as SHAPA. The club's name in those early days was known as *Raydon and Shelley Garden Club*. We attracted a membership of 28 members in the first year with increased numbers in the following years. Meetings were held in Shelley Hut, close to the church. As Membership grew the hut was not large enough and in 1985, we decided to move up to Raydon (ex-primary school) which closed in 1984 and partly converted to a Village Hall, with the other half sold off. We also changed the name to Raydon & District Garden Club. In 2021 the village hall was sold so we moved the club to the King George V sports pavilion. We hold 10 monthly meetings in the fourth week of each month. Normally two of these meetings are outside local garden visits as daylight increases and warmer weather allows. The November meeting night is the social evening including a 30-minute AGM when voting for the committee takes place, followed by a cold buffet and wine, tabletop quizzes plus a grand raffle to finish. The committee 7 in number at present endeavours to provide each year with a very missed programme of meetings of interest mainly with gardening themes. Our guest speakers, some travelling 40-50 miles, give us illustrated talk presentations lasting approximately 60-90 minutes followed by question time. Refreshments and raffle finish off the evenings. We hold two flower shows each year, springtime (April) and summer (August) both now held in the pavilion. In the early years shows (much larger events) were held around the two villages on different sites in 3 very large marquees which required a minimum of 12 people to erect and of course dismantle afterwards. It was hard work for all concerned. The marquees had to be collected from Kersey, tables and chairs from several other village halls. Our maximum number of entries was 500 whereas nowadays it's 300 because these shows are held indoors so they had to become small but much less work setting up. These are still open afternoons. Our paid-up membership has held around 48 in number for most years and we enjoy several on-the-night guest visitors as well.

Up until 2020 (When covid disrupted everything) including our Ruby year celebrations which had to be cancelled, we also ran summer coach outings to large gardens, houses, castles etc on average maximum distance of 3 hours driving and most years we took 45-50 persons made up of members and guests. These were great days out, enjoyed by

many, but sadly since covid the uptake has dwindled, as costs have increased so no longer viable. Perhaps in the near future it can be started once again.

Many clubs have fallen by the wayside and closed, partly since COVID, but mostly because they could not get volunteers from their membership to take on the responsibility of being committee members etc to run the clubs.

Next year we celebrate 45 years since this garden club started (a great achievement) so if you're not already a member please join and keep this club going for many more years to come.

Geoff Horrex, Chairman.

RAYDON VILLAGE HALL REPORT

APRIL 2024

The sale of Raydon Village Hall turned out to be a quite complicated affair but was eventually completed in September 2021.

Then all the proceeds, after Solicitors and Estate Agent fees, were lodged in a Charity deposit account.

Due to level of income in the year ending 31st March 2022 from the sale of Hall, the Charity Commission required a full set of accounts laid out in a specific way and audited by an external Auditor. This task was satisfactorily completed.

The intention is to utilise these funds from the sale of the Hall towards a new Community Centre on the Playing Field. This use of the funds complies with the requirements of the Trust Deed

All the funds, except for a small float for any upfront costs, are now in a Charity Savings Account.

Money will only be released against an authorised bill or quote (if payment is required in advance).

Communication is ongoing with Steve Coe and Mark Smout on cash flow requirements so that funds can be sensibly invested so that they can be released as and when required whilst still taking advantage of better investment rates.

David King

Chairman, Raydon Village Hall Management Committee

Committee Members: David King (Trustee), Geoff Horrex (Trustee),
Greta Mason (Trustee), Phil Banyard (Trustee),
Darren Andrews (Committee Member)

Annual Parish Meeting April 2024

St Mary's Church, Raydon.

St Mary's Church in Raydon became part of the benefice of Higham, Holton, and Stratford known collectively as 'The Four Marys' on 1st December 1993 in accordance with the provisions of the pastoral measure of 1983, The benefice is in the archdeaconry of Sudbury and the deanery of Hadleigh.

The Revd Manette Crossman is the rector of these parishes and whilst we are grateful that the rectory these days is in Raydon, it's not exactly in the centre of the benefice. Sunday services apart, pastoral care becomes more difficult and time-consuming. This position is 50% part-time, and Revd Manette is also assistant Rural Dean to Hadleigh.

The Parochial Church Council known as the PCC are either *ex-officio* or elected by the annual Parochial Church meeting known as APSM. In accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules. All are welcome to come to these meetings.

Members at present:

Chair Rev Manette Crossman, Churchwarden Geoffrey (Geoff) Horrex, Assistant Churchwarden Simon Tennent, Secretary Ann Davenport (co-opted), Treasurer Neville Davenport (co-opted) Deanery Synod Representative Simon Tennent, Elected PCC members: Maureen Tennent, Wendy Mumford, Margaret Luggar, Ivan Boyd, Trudi Bishop and Nicolas May.

The PCC operates through four full meetings of the council unless special events require a smaller sub-committee known as The Standing Committee. This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business between meetings, subject to any direction given by the PCC. The members are Churchwardens, the Treasurer and PCC secretary.

The Church Electoral role comprises 37 and is fairly constant.

Average attendance for morning or evening Church services is 25 with higher attendances at special services, such as Christmas, Easter, Baptisms, and Funerals.

It has been a great joy to be led by Revd Manette again this year and her support of all church activities has been much appreciated by all. The renewed strength of the church and the wider community is recognised by increased commitment within the parish. St Mary's PCC was fortunate to receive a substantial grant from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust which enabled us to commission a painting of the royal coat of arms of his majesty King Charles III. A dedication service was held on its official hanging on the west wall. Believed to be the first one certainly in Suffolk.

The extensive fund-raising programme continued throughout the year with donations to the fabric fund (not just to buy new curtains as somebody asked). We also support overseas charities including toilet twinning (Uganda & Mozambique), Tear fund in Africa (twin a tap and earth toilets), feeding faith in Guatemala led by Julian Crisp (ex Raydon Boy), Tools with a Mission, Royal British Legion, D.E.C Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and the Salvation Army.

Monthly coffee mornings held in Church, and during winter in the Pavilion were well attended. Church Bric-a-Brac and Plant Stall still provide good financial funding, but sadly over the last 12 months, many items have been taken with no monies left.

The four Sunday afternoon teas held in June, July, August and September are also very well supported and raise considerable funds. Local cycle groups help boost numbers to around 70-80 each time.

We are lucky to have a large group of volunteers whose hard work and dedication help to make this community in Raydon active and positive. The Churchwardens are satisfied that the church fabric is in good order. We have been privileged to have continued support and our thanks go to flower arrangers, church cleaners, and PCC members who help make sure the church remains a valued part of the community.

We are also blessed to have wonderful musicians and choir singers who provide this wonderful music throughout the whole year.

The churchyard is maintained to a good standard that reflects a country churchyard.

Geoff Horrex. Churchwarden.