

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Friday 13th May 2022 at Hardy's Barn, commencing at 6.00pm

In attendance

Cllrs Hinves, Hutson, Herring, Mann, Gillespie, Chamberlain, Bell, Clerk Lorraine Lloyd and 7 members of the public.

Chairman's Welcome and report over the past year

The chairman welcomed everyone. He said it hardly seems a year since the last one. The council is still here and working, which seem a major achievement in itself. We have sadly lost Cllr Sayer who we thank for her contribution during the time she served as an appointed Councillor and we welcome Celia Bell who was elected during the year. As always we need to thank Lorraine for keeping us on the road.

During the year we discussed planning applications:

Yarn Hill Covert

Alde House Variation

The Boot

Iken Canoes

Wayside

Potters Row

Sizewell C

With the Village Hall we took the decision to refurbish. We had received an offer to pay for it but unfortunately the donor, Andrew Page, has changed his mind on that but is still prepared to donate £40K. If we proceed we would have to raise the rest. We have received an enabling grant to cover the initial costs and have received quotes for asbestos removal. Cllr Gillespie has carried out some market research.

Cllr Hutson has prepared an Emergency Plan and, with the clerks help, got the website up and running with the help of an enabling grant.

We have discussed the River Defences and have representation on the Alde & Ore Association. There has not been much change from this time last year. It may be possible that the Environment Agency may agree to separate the work from the ongoing investigation, in which case work could start early next year.

Highways are a constant on our agendas and we have been keeping on top of the pot holes.

Governance Policies have been produced and we intend to keep ahead of the updates as advised by our governing bodies.

We have collected the Jubilee Tree and Cllr Mann is keeping it healthy and will plant it near the corner of village hall ground as had been decided.

Minutes of the APM 2021

Agreed a true record and duly signed by the Chairman

County Councillors Report

County Councillor Andrew Reid had sent written report which had been put on the website. The Chairman also read it out to the meeting.

District Councillors Report

Cllr Ray Herring gave his report which is attached. He addressed the meeting and said that he has enjoyed being on the parish council. He thinks it is important to refurbish the village hall with a modest upgrade and emphasised the importance for the community.

The demand of housing was queried and it was asked if it would this be in this area. Cllr Herring explained the need which he considered would be all over.

It was asked that if the parish council wanted to support social housing in Iken how it would go about it. Cllr Herring explained that smaller villages are protected from too much building and spoke of green field development. The planning process would be diligently followed.

It was asked what the District Council's proposal is for addressing the cost of living crisis. The response was that a great deal needs to be done on a national as well as local level. More thinking is required on that.

There was a discussion around the building of a new power station before securing the river defences. It was asked if the District Council have a policy. Cllr Herring explained the partnership with other Environment Agency authorities to refurbish coastlines. The problem with the Alde and Ore estuary project is not necessarily funding. All projects end up costing more. The Environmental Agency has come up with another £12.5M. It does seem strange that billions of pounds are put into energy projects when river defences are so urgent.

It was thought that maybe the council/environmental agency doesn't really care. Cllr Herring gave some other examples. It was asked what the delay was in the investigation.

It was asked whose role is it to progress things. The key is the Alde and Ore partnership. On top of that it is contact with a member of parliament. Four or five months ago Cllr Herring had a meeting with Stephen Baker, East Suffolk Council, at officer level and it was not clear how long a legal investigation should take or the process involved.

If all four projects go forward there will be an influx of people so it was asked what is the council doing about accommodating them. There will be pressure on housing. It was not thought they will all need housing in this area. It was asked if there will there be more doctors. Cllr Herring explained that Sizewell have their own medical staff/centre.

Reports from village organisations

Annabel Chamberlain gave a report from the church which has been put on the website. There were discussions around income from visitors and running costs.