

# **CLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Cley Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Attending:** Cllr Holliday, Cllr Allen, Cllr Meadows, Cllr High, Cllr Williamson, Cllr Holman and Parish Clerk Gemma Harrison.

There were 11 members of the public present.

### **1. Welcome and to Consider Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

1.1 Cllr Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting, due to Cllr Holliday putting herself forward as a District Cllr candidate in the forthcoming election, Cllr Allen chaired the meeting.

1.2 PC Jason Pegden sent his apologies.

### **2. To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations by Councillors in any of the Agenda items listed.**

2.1 None received.

### **3. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to be approved.**

3.1 Cllr Meadows PROPOSED the minutes as accurate and correct, and these were SECONDED by Cllr Williamson and AGREED by all.

### **4. Receive the Chairman's Report for 2019-2021**

4.1 The Clerk read the report which can be seen at Appendix A.

### **5. Receive Accounts for the year 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

5.1 The Clerk stated that it had been a busy year for Cley, despite Covid 19 with 112 payments made totaling £43,470 and 88 Receipts received totaling £28,435. Cley Parish Council ended the year with £ 11,353 in the bank.

5.2 The Clerk shared the allotment finances with Cllrs, stating that the allotments had cost £ 2390 in payments and received £1716 in receipts with the difference of £673.55 being met out of the Parish Council Precept. This is a vast improvement on previous years where in February 2019 the council had paid the deficit of £1457

and in 18/19 £1782. The improvements were being made due to additional plots being rented out and the additional contributions which have been received towards the water bill.

5.3 The Clerk shared the Cley Loo finances with Cllrs, stating that since the build had been completed, the toilet has cost £4215 to keep open (cleaner salary, consumables, utilities etc) and made £3770 in receipts (donations). There is a budget of £1200 for the Cley Toilet which is taken from the amount paid out on the portable toilet previously, with this taken into consideration the toilet is in credit by £755.

## **6. Public Opportunity for Questions to Councillors**

6.1 None Received.

**Meeting Ended 18.43**

## APPENDIX A

Cley Parish Council

Chairman's Report

2019 – 2021

Due to the Covid -19 pandemic Cley Parish Council did not hold an annual meeting in 2020 and as such this Chairman's Report reflects all the work undertaken by the Parish Council since 2019.

The Parish Council's biggest achievement in the last two years has got to be fundraising and building the community toilet. This project would not have been the success it was without the full support of the local community, who got behind the project from the start and helped us reach our fundraising goal. The toilet has never been needed more, with the North Norfolk Coast inundated with visitors during 2020 and 2021 looks like it will be the same again. Visitors have told us that the toilet is often the reason they choose to start their walk from Cley and for many the toilet has enabled them to visit and spend more time enjoying Cley. The Toilet is certainly popular, and donations are still being received to help with its upkeep which is very much appreciated.

The allotments have been transformed over the last couple of years, back in 2019 the Parish Council were struggling to let plots, whereas fast forward to today and we are letting new plots every month. The Parish Council have invested in the allotments by installing 3 additional water taps and have planted up the hedges to enhance and secure the site. The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to Cllr Holman and Cllr Williamson who put in many hours of work maintaining the allotments, showing prospective tenants round and offering help and advice to existing tenants. Their hard work for the allotments is very much appreciated.

Cley Parish Council has also had huge success in securing faster Broadband speeds for the village of Cley, with Government funding secured and work has already started to deliver fibre to the premises (FTTP). With many residents working from home this cannot come quick enough. The project required pledges from residents to sign up to the scheme, thank to you everyone that signed up so promptly which allowed the

project to move along at the pace it has, completion is expected in the Autumn this year.

We have all had to live and work through a really difficult 12 months, this has been made a little easier with the amazing support from the community of Cley. At the start of the first lockdown it soon became clear that the pandemic was going to affect those elderly or vulnerable in the parish and as such a volunteer group was set up to get shopping, prescriptions and generally provide help and support to one another. The Parish Council secured a £1000 Covid Grant and provided hot meals or Covid Hardship gift vouchers to help those suffering as a consequence of the pandemic. Volunteers contacted the Parish Council in their droves and volunteered for a couple of hours a week to run errands for those in need. The elderly and vulnerable were quickly identified and regular calls were made to ensure they had support, whether that was just a weekly friendly phone call from a volunteer, or someone delivering a prescription or shopping firewood, the community were there for one another. The Parish Council partnered up with the Spar in Blakeney and offered food deliveries, something which still continues three times a week. The demand for our services has decreased but nevertheless we still have a handful of dedicated volunteers running errands 3 days for those in need. Our efforts were picked up by the EDP and Cley Parish Council were nominated in the Stars of Norfolk and Waveney Awards 2020.

The Parish Council continued to work throughout the pandemic and projects such as the Newgate Green Restoration were looked at, the schedule of works amended and the final fundraising achieved to ensure the project, which has now been fully paid for will be delivered this Spring. Thank you to everyone for contributing towards the project, we look forward to seeing this area of the parish repaired and enhanced.

Improvements have been made to the area of Parish Land at the bottom of Old Womans Lane to allow school children to be picked up and dropped off safely by the bus.

The Parish Council has been working closely with the Environment Agency who are currently delivering a new footpath link for the parish, an exciting project which will be completed in the coming weeks.

The Parish Council have been working hard over the last two years on traffic management in Cley. In 2019 yellow cones were placed in a number of identified and

agreed locations in an attempt to prevent unsafe parking and improve traffic flow. The scheme was initially a huge success but then last year the cones started being moved or went missing altogether. The Parish Council have just launched a Traffic Management Consultation to look into what other methods can be used to improve traffic flow and look forward to sharing the results with you shortly.

Cley Parish Council have set up a Community Speed Watch team, who are currently undergoing the necessary training and will be hitting the streets of Cley in the next few weeks capturing the all-important data needed to address any speeding concerns. The Council have also successfully campaigned to get on the rota for using a SAM2 (flashing speed sign), the sign will be moved around the parish at 6-week intervals to warn drivers of their speed. Both these initiatives have been started after feedback from residents regarding speeding in Cley.

A large proportion of the Parish Council's time is taken up on planning matters, with Cley situated in the AONB, it is essential that important factors, such as the impact development may have on the dark skies, is considered in all planning responses. As such Cley Parish Council wrote its own Dark Skies Policy which uses guidance from CPRE to highlight the important measures needed to protect the special landscape in which Cley sits. The policy has since also been adopted by Blakeney.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council did not succeed in its campaign to register The George as an Asset of Community Value, Cllrs believed The George would benefit from the additional protection of becoming an ACV. The Council will continue to keep an eye on the legislation to see if the opportunity arises in the future to further pursue the application.

Looking ahead the Parish have already started working on other projects such as installing electric car charging points in the Village Hall Car Park, campaigning for a toilet at Cley Beach, protecting the flint walls in Cley using Article 4 Directions and continue to campaign for Holt Hill to be gritted during the winter months.