

ICKLETON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 in the Gordon Woolhouse Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall.

Present: Parish Council Chair - Sian Wombwell, Parish Council Clerk - Leanne Smith, 10 Electors

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the electors to the meeting.

Apologies from:

District and County Councillor - Peter McDonald

Patrick Bloomfield - St Mary Magdalene Church

Glynis Hammond – Neighbourhood Watch

Terry Sadler – Speedwatch and Parish Council

Tim Pavelin - Parish Council

Lucy Davidson - Parish Council

Steven Heaney – Parish Council

Caroline Foster – Urban and Civic

2 To approve minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021 are signed by the Chair.

3 Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

See Appendix A.

In addition to her report, Cllr Wombwell made reference to the A505 congestion analysis that has just been circulated to local Parish Councils. Ickleton was not included, but the Parish Council has been told it was a preliminary study and assured that Ickleton will be included in the proposals for the Committee in July.

4 Report from District and County Councillor

Report received from Cllr Peter McDonald and summarised by Cllr Wombwell. See Appendix B.

5 To receive reports requested from:

• Village Hall Management Committee

Report by Madelaine Smith.

The village Hall re-opened in Spring 2021 and by October was back to normal levels of use. Blood donation sessions started last autumn and have been well attended. The Hall is in a sound financial position, however extensive maintenance is required in the coming year. Installation of wi-fi is ongoing and a joint committee with the Parish Council was established to investigate the possibility of solar panel installation. An open morning for Parishioners was held in the Hall in April 2022.

• Speedwatch

Report read by Cllr Wombwell on behalf of Terry Sadler.

Ickleton Community Speedwatch Group has about 15 active volunteers, and according to Cambridgeshire Constabulary is one of the two most active groups in the County (the other being Wisbech, so the most northerly and southerly communities in the County are the most active!). The Police are strongly supportive of our efforts.

In 2021 1535 speeding vehicles were reported to the Police. Recently we began receiving feedback about uniformed officer visits to third-time offenders.

We have witnessed a decline in the numbers of speeding vehicles as well as a decline in total numbers transiting the village since starting Speedwatch activities. Together with physical measures, notably the give way feature in Frogge Street, Speedwatch is having a positive impact.

New volunteers are always welcome. It can be more fun than you think!

Special thanks to Penny Fletcher who organises the roadside sessions, and who is currently convalescing at home following an operation.

• Ickleton Society

Report read by Madelaine Smith on behalf of Rachel Radford.

Ickleton Society have held a good selection of mainly outdoor events over the last year. An Easter event was held in April 2022 in which parishioners enjoyed a walk across local private farmland along with an easter egg hunt, picnic and barn visit. Cambridge Archaeology Field Group had been carrying out a dig intermittently over the last few years at Abbey Farm, Ickleton that was completed in the late summer of 2021. Also in the summer, a talk about the church wall paintings was given with a display of photos of the aftermath of the fire and the discovery of the wall paintings, and a walk round the centre of the village to have a look at the exteriors of some of the Grade 2 listed properties. The 40th Annual General Meeting was held in 2021. The next Annual General Meeting will be held on the 19th of May 2022 with an accompanying talk about 'The David Parr House'. Photos continue to be uploaded to the Facebook page. The next big event organised by the Ickleton Society is the Jubilee bonfire.

- **Ickleton Allotment Association**

Report by Lizzie Molloy.

The allotments are thriving with all plots occupied and a short waiting list. There has been a noticeable increase in families using the allotments. The hedge planted last year is looking healthy.

- **St Mary Magdalene Church**

Report read by Jenny Duke on behalf of Patrick Bloomfield. See Appendix C.

- **Scouts**

No report received.

- **Froglets**

Report read by Cllr Wombwell on behalf of Anne-Marie Hoare.

Froglets is slowly growing again after lock down and the parents, grandparents and carers have very much appreciated the group. We are putting up our prices to cover the increase in the hall fees.

We are opening the group to Ukraine families when they arrive in the village so they can have a meeting place each week, ladies have volunteered to come along and make refreshments.

In addition to the report read, there was a brief discussion about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Refugees have arrived in Ickleton and more are due imminently. It is not known at this time if any children will be homed in Ickleton.

- **Ickleton Cricket Club**

Report by Edmund Harcourt. See Appendix D.

- **Neighbourhood Watch**

Report read by Cllr Wombwell on behalf of Glynis Hammond. See Appendix E.

- **Age UK Community Warden**

No report received. Cllr Wombwell briefly spoke about the Warden Scheme.

- **Urban and Civic – Wellcome Genome Campus expansion**

Apologies received from Caroline Foster and report not received. The Parish Council will invite Caroline to a future Parish Council meeting.

6 **Open Forum**

- A parishioner raised the ongoing issue of the parish not receiving the South Cambs Magazine. The Parish Council Clerk contacted SCDC in February 2022 about this issue and was told that it would be passed on to the distributor to be rectified. Cllr Peter McDonald was also aware and was looking into it. The Clerk will make contact with SCDC again and liaise with Cllr McDonald.
- A parishioner wished to thank John Williams and the distribution team for their time given to producing and delivery Icene.
- A parishioner reported that traffic on Butchers Hill continues to be problematic. Another parishioner enquired about traffic management for the Cereals event. The Parish Council Clerk will forward details.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Appendix A – Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

ICKLETON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 4th MAY 2022

Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

FINANCE

The year-end balance is £36,900.36.

The Council agreed to increase the precept by £1,000.00 to £26,500.00. Copies of the draft financial statements are available on request from the Clerk, and will be published on the Parish Council website.

After the elections on 5th May, there will be 3 vacancies on PC which can be filled by co-option at the meeting on 18th May. Please contact the Clerk in the first instance if you are interested in applying for one of the positions. I would like to thank councillors for their input and ideas over the last year, their support is appreciated.

The Parish Council regularly reviews procedures in order to remain compliant with current legislation, and as part of this we recently developed a new co-option procedure which has now been adopted.

I do not think, this time last year, that any of us thought the pandemic would continue to disrupt our lives in some way or another throughout 2021 and into 2022. Despite this, Parish Council were able to continue with routine maintenance work around the village.

As part of our commitment to improving biodiversity and wildlife habitats, another hedge was planted on the recreation ground, and there will be tree planting this autumn to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and to replace trees lost to disease.

The PC were keen to support the No Mow May initiative, but very disappointed that the road verges were then cut in April, and question why this happened!

A major expense was the repair and replacement of the Cemetery Chapel stained glass windows. The work was carried out by Damon MacDonald of Cambridge Stained Glass, and we are delighted with the result. The windows look lovely, and there were many kind comments from visitors to the chapel on Easter Sunday. We plan to open the chapel more regularly so that parishioners can appreciate this quaint little building. The next item is treating the woodworm and replacing the chairs which have succumbed.

The Speedwatch team are back in action, and having a positive effect on speeding through the Village. Of course, rat running will continue to increase as the housing developments in Great Chesterford are built, and when the Wellcome development begins. I thank the Speedwatch Team for their efforts, particularly as I know they have come in for some unpleasant verbal abuse from aggressive drivers.

Unfortunately, we were not successful in our latest Local Highways Initiative Application. We are concerned about Coploe Road because of the number of pedestrians going to and from the allotments. Traffic coming into the village down Coploe Hill is often exceeding the speed limit, and our LHI bid aimed to reduce speed by installing wooden gates on each verge, as they have in Littlebury, and moving the speed limit signs further up the hill. We do not understand why this proposal failed to get sufficient support from the panel when it was clearly about increasing safety for pedestrians.

There is continued frustration with the state of the roads in the village, and the lack of response from Highways, even when the potholes, which are repeatedly reported, are obviously dangerous, eg. at the village end of Grange Road. Councillor McDonald has been helpful but response times are still too slow.

As you are aware, the expansion of the Genome Campus is imminent, and Caroline Foster was due to attend the meeting to give us a brief overview of the development but has given her apologies.

The proposed Thakeham housing development appears to have gone away for the moment, largely because the Government is no longer as supportive of the Ox Cam Arc. However, things can change very quickly.

I would like to thank Martin Woodhead and his team for their hard work putting forward a proposal for the Rural Gigabit Voucher scheme. Their determination has paid off, and we are delighted that the village responded so positively and that Openreach is going to install the infrastructure in November. This is a fantastic result, and will make a real difference to everyone.

I would also like to thank everyone from the village who continues to give their time to keep Ickleton running smoothly. Speedwatch, Neighbourhood Watch, the Village Hall management committee, Clare Driver for the food bank and annual litter pick, Elaine Statham for welcoming new residents, Gerry Birch for looking after Coploe Pit, David Lilly for checking the churchyard and cemetery, and many others who keep an eye on things. We are grateful to Charles Frankau and Dominic Pallet who keep the village looking so smart, and to the Cricket Club for their maintenance of the recreation ground.

I thank Leanne, our Clerk, and all my fellow councillors for their support and assistance during the last year.

Sian Wombwell, Chairman

Appendix B – Report from District & County Councillor

Annual Parish Report 2022

I have represented Duxford Division since February 2020 which includes Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford, Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow, Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford.

The key change in Cambridgeshire occurred in May 2021 with a change to a new Joint Administration. The Council has an inherited gap of £80m+ over 5 years in its budget which it is now addressing. The JA agreement is here

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cambridgelibdems/pages/5179/attachments/original/1620984611/County_agreement_2021_FINAL.pdf?162098461

The Joint Administration proposes in 2022/23 to raise the County Council share of council tax by 4.99% (3% council tax plus 1.99% for Adult Social Care). That will mean an extra charge of £1.04 per week for a Band B, and £1.19 for a Band C household. More than half of all homes in Cambridgeshire are in these two bands.

In Highways the JA priorities are stated as:

- “We will focus on modal shift to encourage more residents out of their cars, along with infrastructure development, the encouragement of sustainable travel, and securing safe routes and connections for pedestrians and cyclists.
- We will consult communities openly and transparently on highways projects that affect them We will seek to invest more in road, footway, and cycleway maintenance and routine gulley clearance, and end the freeze on residents’ parking schemes.
- We will continue to work on ways in which we can limit HGVs rat-running through villages and urban communities.
- In partnership with local communities, we will make the option of 20MPH zones more widely available, and easier to obtain.”

Outside of Highways the focus is on an evaluation of ‘This Land’ – the Council property company which has been loaned £120m. It is also bringing forward a report on the award of a County Council farm tenancy to the Previous Deputy leader Roger Hickford who resigned and left the Council.

My responsibilities are serving on:

- Highways Committee as Chair,
- Strategy & Resources,
- Fire Authority and
- County Farms Group as a member

Currently we are working on 20 mph implementation, Civil Parking Enforcement and HGV strategy to mitigate impacts of HGV on local villages.

Peter McDonald

May 2022

Appendix C – Report from St Mary Magdalene’s Church

ST MARY MAGDALENE, ICKLETON CHURCHWARDEN’S SUMMARY 2021-22

Ministry

- Lydia Smith joined us as Priest in Charge for Hinkledux in 2021. Lydia is settling in well and having an immediate positive impact.
- Lydia is a ‘house for duty’ priest, meaning she works 2 days a week + Sundays. This is a significant reduction from our previous full-time priest (but carries a significance cost saving).
- Phil Sharkey retired from Hinkledux in 2021, having supported us for many years.
- We have a good network of priests and readers to call on to lead services, supporting Lydia.
- Many of the key services through the year needed special arrangements (like holding Christingle in the churchyard), but we are now returning to normal and singing without face-coverings!

Hinkledux

- We are working ever close with friends in Duxford and Hinxton, which positive for all.
- Moving to a ‘house for duty’ priest led us to appoint a parish administrator, to maximise Lydia’s time for ministry. This is working well and helping us have a more organised diary.
- The best place to find information about what’s going on is: <http://www.hinkledux.com/>
- A positive from covid was that zoom services brought our congregations closer and this is carrying through into more people being willing to travel to services in other villages (something that was stubbornly hard to achieve before the pandemic).
- Rebuilding congregation numbers in Duxford continues to be a focus.

Fabric

- We are conducting the Quinquennial Inspection this year, after it was delayed by covid.
- Our QI report has the usual ‘to do list’, but mercifully nothing too onerous or expensive needs immediate attention.
- Two longer-term areas we must plan for are more efficient and environmentally friendly heating and maintenance of windows, both of which could cost tens of thousands of pounds.
- The QI report was complimentary of the excellent condition of our churchyard, for which the Parish Council is responsible. Our sincerest thanks to you for keeping us in good order!
- We will need to discuss what to do with the church gate, which is at the end of its functioning life and needs replacing.

Wall paintings and Friends of Ickleton Church

- The restoration of our historically significant wall paintings is a current priority.
- The estimate cost is over £200,000. Significant financial support has been arranged, but is contingent on us raising 20% (£40,000). Over c£27,000 has been raised so far, boosted by two generous individual donations of £10,000.
- Lots of fundraising activity are being organised to meet the gap.
- A ‘Friends of Ickleton Church’ has been set up, for community members who value the church as an historical building, but are less keen on worship. All funds will go to the wall paintings to begin with and once restorations are done it will support the fabric generally.

Finances

- The lower costs of a house for duty priest has put our finances onto a solid year-on-year footing for the first time in a very long time.
- It will take us a few years to restore our finances to good health and absorb the costs of wall painting restoration, quinquennial inspection works and longer-term projects, but we feel positive.
- Our costs of ministry is wholly covered by covenanted giving (giving by our congregation members), meaning any discretionary giving is for fabric and good causes.
- A wonderful by-product of a stronger financial position is that we no longer need our fundraising committee to work day-and-night to pay the bills. Once we're squared our books our fundraising will have a more balanced focus, including supporting good causes and bringing our lovely community together to have fun and connect.

Community

- We've a sense of coming into spring after a prolonged winter of covid. Our congregation is in good spirits, with church having been a vital support network for many through tough times.
- Covid took some dearly loved members of our community from us. But it has also brought many new families into our community, whom we're keen to welcome in.
- Our youth work and Sunday School is going from strength to strength. In Ickleton we have a Sunday School on the 1st Sunday every month and All Age Worship (a less formal, extremely welcoming and family friendly service) on the 2nd Sunday every month.
- Our YouthInc initiative focussed on older children and teens continues to run monthly.
- Our WhatsApp group of families is proving a really useful way for people to stay connected. We're keen for others to join this group if they're interested.
- We've something of a generational transition in our Parochial Parish Council. We've been blessed with many very long-term volunteers who are now looking to pass on their responsibilities. Managing this transition and finding new volunteers is important, as is keeping our relationship with you (our Parish Council) strong. We hugely value your support!
- We're all very excited about the Diamond Jubilee this year and looking forward to seeing you at the village events. We're super keen to make the most of the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, welcome new friends to the village and do what we can to keep Ickleton the wonderful place to live that it is.

Appendix D – Report from Ickleton Cricket Club

After dealing with COVID restrictions for the last two years, the club returns to normal service in 2022 and is looking forward to a full season of cricket, including being able to have showers and teas.

The 2021 season brought the club new silverware as the midweek 1st 11 won the Adams Harrison Mid-week League Cup. Also, the Saturday 1st 11 got promoted to the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association Junior League 1, returning to the league that the club used to spend most of its time prior to it closing down.

The club now has a thriving youth delivery programme, bringing cricket training to over 50 children of all ages over the summer. In 2021, the club had more people playing for it than any time since it was reformed.

The club continues to have challenges however, with ageing machinery and unusable practice net facilities, the club is faced with a significant task ahead of itself, trying to match the facilities to the needs of the club and the village and will be looking for significant funding injection to help bring about the changes required. These aspirations include, but is not limited to, installing an all-weather net, re-positioning the basketball court and purchasing a heavy roller.

As always, the club is indebted to the Parish Council for the continued use of its ground. On behalf of the entire club, we wish to pass on our thanks.

Appendix E – Report from Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to create safer places to live and where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen. There is no set Neighbourhood Watch programme - each scheme is run by its community. They are generally led by a volunteer co-ordinator from the local community who takes on the role of linking the community to the police. The volunteer for Ickleton is: Glynis Hammond - glynis.hammond@googlemail.com

Whilst, we know that crime in Ickleton and the surrounding area is low, it is important for all of us to be vigilant and report suspicious behaviour. If you have any concerns or report suspicious behaviour what is the right number to call when seeking Police assistance?

Call 999

For serious emergencies in which human life and limb are deemed to be at risk, or when a crime (this includes antisocial behaviour or act of vandalism is actually in progress or has just happened and those responsible are believed still to be in the vicinity. It is appreciated that many occurrences may fall into this description and situations may change very quickly. But if, in your opinion the above definition fits – call 999.

Call 101

For any other form of police assistance – usually described as being non-emergency. This means incidents NOT involving life or limb risk or where a crime or incident may have happened but those responsible are NOT present in the area - call 101.

Website

The Cambs Police Web Site is simple to use and offers another way of reporting crimes. It is a speedy way of reporting crimes and incidents on-line.

Crime

Phishing and Online Fraud are continuing to increase, it accounts for more than half of the UK's reported crime. Try to report all phishing – any scam email messages or telephone calls which you receive claiming to be from an official body. There is a link on the Police website to the Action Fraud website or you can report it by telephone on **0300 123 2040**

Latest Campaign

Cambs Police have recently launched a campaign **WIDEN** highlighting burglary prevention measures that can be taken in any home on various budgets:

W: WINDOWS: Keep your windows locked

I: INTERIOR: Put inside lights on a timer/smart bulb

D: DOORS: Double or deadlock your doors

E: EXTERIOR: Put outside lights on a sensor

N: NEIGHBOURS: Keep an eye out for your neighbours

Be aware research also shows that if someone has been burgled recently, they are more likely to be targeted again. Criminals have familiarity with the home and may come back knowing new replacement items will likely be purchased.

Glynis Hammond