



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021 at 7.30 PM

Present:

Parish Councillors: I Parr, K Barker, D May, G Birbeck, R Casson and W Shirley

Ward Councillor P Marshall, L Gibbon, N Wright

Parish Clerk N Morris

Before the formal meeting, a public pre-meeting forum, was held, but not minuted.

A member of the public consulted the Parish Councillors.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted virtually, with the public invited to log on to watch and listen.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Morgan and Unitary Cllrs Marshall, Gibbon and Wright and PCSO Wiggins

Resolved that the apologies be accepted

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Barker

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Annual Assembly Meeting on Wednesday 21 April 2020.

Resolved that the Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr Parr

Seconded Cllr May

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting.

No reports were received.

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Ian Parr thanked his fellow Councillors for showing resilience and commitment during the pandemic. Restrictions had slowed down or temporarily halted Parish Council projects, but enthusiasm and determination remained to carry on and achieve results.

In addition to COVID-19, there had been several other unexpected problems which had contributed to a testing 12 months:

- *The dramatic increase in crowds visiting Pickmere Lake;*
- *The new damage to the boardwalk making it beyond repair;*
- *Unprecedented flooding*

It was a shame that Parish Council events, such as the Picnic in the Park and the Unsung Heroes celebration had had to be abandoned, but it was pleasing that the Scarecrow Trail and the Christmas Lights Competition had brought welcome pleasure to many residents. Cllr Parr thanked those involved

in organising these events, especially Cllr May. It was to be hoped that the usual events would be able to resume within the coming year.

Cllr Parr thanked all the volunteers who have helped the village and its residents over the last year, mentioning in particular: the litter-pickers, those who compile and distribute the newsletter and all the additional volunteers who have helped the community during the pandemic. All these people deserve especial thanks for carrying on in adversity.

Cllr Parr ended by hoping that that the next year would see progress for the Parish Council, rather than further fire-fighting of problems.

The Councillors present responded by extending warm thanks to Cllr Parr and Cllr Barker for their work as Chair and Vice Chair and for agreeing to continue for another year.

*Naomi Morris
Parish Clerk 1.5.21*