

THE 2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WAS HELD ON

17th MAY IN THE VILLAGE HALL

AT 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors, R Housley, P List, M Booth, S Fuller, representatives of village organisations and a few parishioners.

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Hicks and K Guthrie, D Ferguson.

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting 2019 were agreed by all, signed and dated.

Reports were read to the assembled villagers of Bedingfield.

Bedingfield Parish Council

Report by Ray Housley (Chairman)

St Mary's Church

Report by Mrs Jean Housley.

Bedingfield Land Charity

Report read by P List

The Land Charities were thanked for the donation towards the repair of the church bridge.

Village Hall Report

Report by P List

Bedingfield Bowls Club

Report by James Glasse and read by the chairman.

County Council

Report by Cllr Hicks was summarized by the clerk.

There are still potholes not getting repaired despite registering them online in Hall Road.

Road signs used when repairs are made are being left discarded in the village.

Mid-Suffolk District Council

Report by Cllr Kathie Guthrie was read by the clerk.

The Debenham Road bin collection has been missed several times this year.

Footpaths

Report by V Booth and read by the chairman.

D Scott will tidy the footpaths around Bedingfield House if he is notified of the problem.

Horses are being ridden with dogs alongside them not on leads.

It is an offence for a dog not to be on a lead on the highway.

Public participation

There has been a burglary at an unoccupied property in the village recently.

Copies of all the reports are at the end of the minutes and paper copies are filed with the minutes.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2021

I am sure there is no doubt in anyone's minds that the past year has had a major impact on all our lives and we are not out of the woods yet. We have sadly lost a number of residents in the last year or so and our condolences are extended to all their families and friends. To those currently in ill health we wish them well and a speedy recovery.

There has of course been major disruption to all aspects of our Village life and many of our normal activities have had to be restricted or suspended. However, the Parish Council has maintained a close watch on all aspects of life and whilst there has not been a requirement for any formal intervention, individual Councillors have maintained a close relationship with residents in their area and provided any assistance requested. In addition, it is known that other residents have also provided help and support to their neighbors and this is to be commended. It would be wrong and unnecessary to single anyone out, but they know who they are, and we are all extremely grateful to them. Having said that, the Council could not function without the continued support and guidance from our Parish Clerk, Mrs Pauline Debenham who has held the post for more years than it would be prudent to declare and we are extremely grateful for this.

Parish Council Meetings have continued through the past year using ZOOM technology which has been very successful, but by no means a substitute for meeting in person. We have maintained a close relationship with our District (Kathie Guthrie) and County (Matthew Hicks) Councillors and continued to represent your views to them on issues of concern raised by residents. As stated in previous reports, it is not always possible to meet every request or complaint due to restrictions that are in place, with particular reference to HGV routes, but the Parish Council will do everything in their power to support residents. Residents are urged to play their part in reporting highways issues such as potholes to the County Council on the CC website where all reported issues can be seen. It is no secret that a number of our roads are in need of urgent repair and resurfacing. Patching is a temporary solution and the holes often soon appear again due to the volume of heavy vehicles.

The 2 defibrillators at the Village Hall and Old Phone Box are maintained by the Council and the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) continues to provide a valuable asset for residents in an emergency. Thankfully there has not been a requirement to deploy either of the defibrillators. The speed indicator (VAS) is regularly deployed at the 4 points throughout the Village and it is hoped

that this is having some impact on reducing the overall speed of vehicles. Regrettably a few drivers tend to use them get as high a reading as possible. The police also deploy their speed check team in the Village but they have so many locations to cover in the County that we do not get them as often as we would like.

The Council continues to support the Village Newsletter in conjunction with St Mary's Church and it is hoped that residents find this a useful source of information and advice. Items for inclusion, including advertisements, are always welcomed by the Editor.

Again the PRECEPT has been kept an absolute minimum to cover our known expenses and a small reserve is maintained for use when required.

The Council are extremely grateful to those members of the farming community who provided valuable assistance to the Village during the snowstorms earlier this year. Being out in all hours and weather conditions ensured our roads were kept clear for essential services and allowing key workers to get to their places of work, some having been extracted from snowdrifts.

The Council are grateful to our Footpath Warden Mrs Vanessa Booth for continuing to update us on any issues of concern. One of course remains the thorny issue of dog mess which has regrettably increased again on certain footpaths. We are also grateful to those residents who assist in clearing up roadside rubbish, mainly dropped by passing vehicles. The number of McDonalds boxes and bags is amazing considering the nearest outlet is about 12 miles away.

And finally, the Parish Council is elected to represent all residents and maintains an approachable and supportive brief. Please engage with your Councillors and Clerk and ensure they are aware of your views on any issue of concern. Let us hope we will soon be back to some sense of normality (whatever that be) but in the meantime please follow all the existing guidelines and keep our Village safe.



R J HOUSLEY

Chair

17th May 2021

St Mary's Church ,Bedingfield ,
APCM 7May 2021.

Churchwarden Report .

This Church has been affected by COVID pandemic .

Services have been reduced to 2 per month with the church opening for private prayer twice per week when it was considered safe to do so .

Little has changed in the fabric of the church this year.

A grant to fund the repair of the porch was applied for but sadly we didn't qualify .Many hours of work went into preparing the application for this grant and it was much appreciated,so Thank you to those who were involved .

As picked up in the Quinquennial report ,the large window to the left of porch ,has glass missing ,and a temporary repair is in place but it this tends to blow in when the wind is strong and is therefore the window is badly in need of repair .

The new pump on the boiler ,which was fitted within the past 2 years is working well .We are looking into getting the programmer in the boiler house updated .

Heartfelt thanks go to the men who keep our churchyard so well cared for .At this time of the year it looks particularly attractive .We have received many compliments from visitors who appreciate the opportunity to sit and rest in a very pleasant environment . Thanks also to those of us who provide flowers and regularly clean the church ,especially with the extra requirements brought about by COVID .

Jean Housley
Church warden
26 April 2021

BEDINGFIELD PARISH MEETING 17TH MAY 2021

BEDINGFIELD LAND CHARITIES

Report for the year ending 31/12/2020

We are very happy to confirm that Mrs. Glenda Goddard has joined us as a Trustee to give us more cover and depth for the future.

The Trustees are now Mr Derek Scott Mr Steve Jacques Mrs Jean Waddell Mrs Glenda Goddard and Mr Peter List.

We are pleased to report that the land has been farmed to a high standard and we have had no problems. We await what changes we may see in the future with us leaving the European Union.

Our income over the year has been approx £1992.00

We were very happy this year to give some money to the Fund Raising appeal at Occold Primary School. This year has been very difficult for everyone and we made the donation on behalf of the 11 pupils from Bedingfield who attend the School.

The Annual Return has been sent to the Charity Commission.

Again we would remind Parishioners if they know of anyone in the Village needing support from the Charity to contact one of the Trustees

BEDINGFIELD PARISH MEETING 17th May 2021

Annual Report for Bedingfield Village Hall - ending 31st December 2020.

We had a difficult year due to the covid-19 epidemic and were only able to rent out the Hall on 5 occasions.

However we are very fortunate that over the last 2 years we were able to renovate the Hall with donations from the Mid Suffolk Locality Budget, the Land Charities, the Parish Council and monies given to us by local residents. We also renewed the kitchen work tops and purchased a new fridge, cooker, microwave and dish washer. The Total cost of these was in the region of £4700.00

We have also received a grant from the government for covid-19 relief in the sum of £10.000 pounds. This money was given to many local Village Halls in the area and we plan to use this for the long awaited Car Park Improvements which should be completed by the middle of July.

The Village Hall is now in a very good state and we hope for more bookings in the future

Bedingfield Bowls Club Annual Report May 2021

I apologise for not presenting this report in person but I have been diagnosed with a heart valve trouble and waiting for various test results.

Last season, as you will understand, the Bowls club was not able to play any games at all, however the playing area and surround was maintained by a couple of us, and my thanks go to Ivan for all his hard work throughout the summer season, so the club's grounds were kept reasonably neat and tidy.

As you may remember we have been short of players and still are, but I understand that a league has been found which requires nine players instead of twelve, so that it is a possibility for the future. Last Monday people who wished were invited for a roll up, a lot of work had been done in preparation for that evening and the whole place was in very good order. I went up there, only to watch, sadly, there were two games going on, eight players and one more who would play in future games or matches. Our Captain and his wife could not be there, due to death of his father that morning, and they will play in the future, so we have a minimum of eleven players to enter that league to which I referred so we live to fight another day.

The club officers remain the same except our President who, sadly passed away a few weeks ago.

That ends my brief report to the Annual Parish Meeting

FOOTPATH REPORT MAY 2021.

Overall, the paths have been fine. The dry weather has obviously helped the really muddy bits, particularly at the entrance to "little lane" off Hall Lane. This is still wet in parts but far more manageable.

There has been some dog mess on some of the footpaths.

With warmer weather, however, I can see the nettles and some branches are going to take off and cause problems. This will certainly be the case at the entrance to the footpath at Bucks Green which cuts across to the Red Lion on the main road.

There is also a low-lying branch over the bridge linking the Bedingfield House field to the adjacent field and bridleway. The branch will need pruning back.