

Draft (until approved at the next annual parish meeting)

WEREHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 21 May 2024 6.30 PM, Wereham Village Hall

Present

Cllr Jo Wellington-Bruce

Cllr Annie Bruce

Cllr Stephen Bradsell

Cllr Jackie Hitching

Cllr Sandra Calvert

Cllr Sue Lintern, Borough Council

Cllr Martin Storey, Norfolk County Council

Public: Nil

1. Apologies for absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Gail Koopowitz and Cllr Jonathan Marsh (personal reasons) which were accepted.

2. Last Annual Parish Minutes May 2023 and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting May 2023 were approved as a correct record. (Proposed: Cllr Sandra Calver; seconded Cllr Annie Bruce, all were in favour)

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairs Report – Cllr Jo Wellington-Bruce

I wanted to use this year's chairman's speech to mark my exit. I was elected onto the PC in May 2010 & have been chair since May 2012. A lot has happened in those 14 years both in the village & for me personally which is why I've decided to stand down as chair tonight & will not stand again at the next elections. It's someone else's turn now. Over my time on the PC I've worked with many different councillors that have come & gone. All have brought their own experience, skill set & enthusiasm to their post. All have been dedicated to serving this wonderful village with no personal gain. Just a sense of community spirit.

It's a thankless task. Barely do you get recognition for the good that you achieve only criticism. Remember we have to make decisions for all & not the individual so of course it's not always popular.

I've seen grit bins installed for the winter months, dog waste bins added to all the most used routes. Safety railings & a crossing installed at the Church Rd/The Row end of the A134 along with the SAM2 speed camera.

The ponds been dredged, the beach area overhauled, a life saving buoy

installed. We've sadly lost the willow trees but replaced them with other species that should be easier to maintain. We changed our disused telephone box into a defibrillator unit & offered training sessions for all villagers in our old village hall. The village sign had a major refurbishment last year & will look fantastic for many years to come. We helped support the village hall through their various grant stages, financially with the support of the whole village as well as professionally whenever needed.

The play area has been refurbished & new items added to help keep it current & used.

In the last year alone we've finally made the cemetery entrance safer & tidier. The new garden space will soon be opening on the play area thanks to Gail & her team.

With such a strong team around me this control freak finally feels like the village is in safe hands to continue without me at the helm. Like any responsible chair I'm standing down now but remaining in the background until the next election to help & support my successor. Anyone who knows me will know that's going to be an uncomfortable seat for me but I appreciate it's the right thing to do. I wish my successor all the very best & encourage the whole team to get behind them & support one another. I'd also ask our parishioners to be kind especially on social media. Let them have a chance to settle in.

Many thanks for allowing me to serve in this role for so long. I've enjoyed my time in post.

The Parish Council, Cllr Sue Lintern, Cllr Martin Storey and the Parish Council joined together to thank Cllr Jo Wellington-Bruce for her long number of years served on the Parish Council as Chair. Her guidance and wealth of knowledge was something that had been essential to the running of the Parish Council and the success of so many projects that had been undertaken, as well as the mindfulness of finances that were always at the forefront of decisions. The Parish Council were pleased that she would continue to serve on the Council for the remaining of her election term of the next three years.

4. Resident Concerns of Anything in Relation to the Parish of Wereham

There was none.

5. Date of Next Meeting – To be confirmed May 2025 at 6.30 pm

Noted.

Meeting Close 6.45 pm