

# Kirton & Falkenham Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Recreation Ground Pavilion on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs M Paul (Chair), J Fothergill, P Lickert, D Jacobs, J Durrant, J Shaw, A Colvill, L Bullard, D Ward; G Walker (Clerk); Cllr M Ninnmey (ESC); 12 members of the public.

Item No.	Comments	Action
1.	<p><b>Apologies</b> Cllrs, J Cade; T Hatrick (PTO); District Cllr L Reeves; County Cllr P Mulcahy</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 having been previously circulated were taken as read, approved and signed.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters arising</b> Nothing to record</p>	
4.	<p><b>Presentation: Archaeology of the EA One Cable route</b> The presentation by Claire Halley of Cotswold archaeology (Suffolk). Claire explained that the archaeological study was limited to a few metres either side of the planned cable route, from Bawdsey to Bramford, which was deliberately planned to cause minimal disturbance to historic sites. Nevertheless, there was evidence of significant human activity, including buildings, trackways, ditches, a tannery and a cremation site. The timeframe spread from Bronze and Iron Age, Roman, and Anglo Saxon onwards. Claire also presented some Suffolk “finds” which elicited some interest, although she explained that finds from the cable route had not yet been fully catalogued and had therefore not yet been released for viewing.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Police Report</b> No report received</p>	
6.	<p><b>Emergency Plan</b> Mr Lickert reported that the Emergency Plan was fully up to date</p>	
7.	<p><b>Annual Report of the Parish Council</b> Mr Paul gave the Parish Council report for the previous year. In particular he thanked Colin Shaw, who stood down as Clerk this year, for his many years of service. He also noted the sad loss of Richard Brunt during the year. Richard was Tree Warden to the Council, and Mr Paul noted this post remained open should anyone wish to apply. Mr Paul remarked on the unusually heavy autumn/winter rainfall which has resulted in major road flooding and which is still proving a challenge to Suffolk Highways. He also noted that the EA One project had finally been completed, and that plans are underway for EA Three, however that this should cause less disruption as a lot of infrastructure is already in place.</p>	

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<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Presentation of Reports/Accounts</b></p> <p><b>a) Parish Council</b> Reporting on the Accounts, Mr Walker began by highlighting that over successive years the Council had now recovered the amount spent on legal advice during 2019/20 contesting the proposed logistics park in Innocence Farm. However it remains a key objective of the Council to continue to grow the Legal reserves where possible, currently standing at £14,000, in order to mount similar challenges in future. In terms of significant spend on items in excess of the budget, these included funding support for the Kirton &amp; Falkenham Review (£900), and the Village website (£144). A complete breakdown is available from the Accounts section of the PC website.</p> <p><b>b) Nassau Charity</b> Mrs Harvey, reporting for the Nassau Trust , said that they held approx £42k of funds. The interest from these funds, plus income from allotments etc, is available to support those in need. She reported there had been no significant requests for help over the last year.</p> <p><b>c) PTLO</b> Mr Hatrick, Public Transport Liaison, reported the recent cancellation of the 79 bus service. A more complete report will be included in the K&amp;F Review</p> <p><b>d) Tree Warden</b> No report dure to vacant position</p> <p><b>e) Recreation Ground</b> Mr Beer submitted a written report covering the Recreation Ground. He reported that the Pavilion (now 20 years old), together with the playing surface, remain an attractive venue for both Kirton Kestrels and opposition teams. Nevertheless improvements are continuing, with the floodlights being replaced by LEDs (paid for by £3k grant from Suffolk Norse), and a projected saving of 50% in energy costs. Going forward the Football Foundation is funding a 5 year programme of pitch improvements to the value of just over £6k, this includes verti-draining, fertiliser, re-seeding etc. Mr Beer also commented on the problems caused by excessive rainfall on pitch maintenance. The Children’s Playground continues to attract significant numbers and various other regular/repeat users also continue to enjoy the facilities: Pilates; Parish Council; Kirton 5m run; Suffolk Day; Tractor Rally; Village Fete; Car boot sales.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>School Governor's Report.</b> No report received</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>County Councillor's Report</b> No report received</p>	

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<b>11.</b>	<p><b>District Councillors Reports</b></p> <p>Mr Nimmney, ES District Council, reflected that the East Suffolk “Rainbow” coalition was working well together. A particular area of focus locally is to seek to improve resident consultation and involvement in planning for the more significant prospective developments locally. He highlighted the Felixstowe Garden Village and re-siting of the Leisure Centre as two examples, where he felt insufficient thought had been put into the desired outcomes, nor the necessary infrastructure required to support them.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Reports from Local History Recorders:-</b></p> <p>The local History Recorders (Mrs Colvill – Kirton, and Mrs Shaw - Falkenham) reported on the increasing impacts of climate change (flooding) and poor infrastructure investment (pot holes). Mrs Shaw talked about the changing street scene in Falkenham as a result of modifications to houses and the addition of cart lodges. Mrs Colvill also noted the passing of a number of villagers over the past year, including recently, Margaret Condick who had been a Parish Councillor.</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>To consider any Resolutions received</b></p> <p>No resolutions received</p>	
<b>14.</b>	<p><b>Any other matters to bring before Parish Council</b></p> <p>No other business brought forward</p>	
	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Date.....</p>	