

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish for 2021

Held online Thursday 8 April at 7.00 pm

Being present Cllr. Rainbow Chairman of the Parish Council took the chair and welcomed those present at the meeting.

Apologies received from: Mark Tubbs.

Present: Cllrs. Daw, Humphreys, March, Powell, Preece, Straw, Bailey (Rushcliffe Borough council and eight parishioners.

Introduction: Cllr. Rainbow opened the virtual meeting which was held online using Zoom because of COVID 19 Step 1 restrictions on public gatherings indoors.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish for 2020: The agenda directed readers to read the draft minutes for 2020 on the Parish Council website before the meeting.

No public gathering was held in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic but it was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the reports received from the various groups in the parish.

Matters Arising: None.

Reports were received from the following groups within the parish:

Parish Council - Cllr Rainbow.

Local Matters

Although COVID 19 has currently spared most of our community, its short and long term consequences have affected all of us. Tragically, one of our community died recently as a result of this virus and we offer our condolences to her family and friends for their loss. Throughout the past year the help offered through social media and neighbourliness within our community has to be congratulated. Now that we are in Step 1 of the National Plan, it is time to move forward together and ensure that no one in our community is left behind in the recovery process.

The closure of the Village Hall for club and society meetings including the monthly coffee mornings, has separated many from their regular social gatherings. The Parish Council has encouraged all the groups to make use of its online Zoom subscription at no cost, so that regular meetings could continue and speakers used from beyond the local area. The opportunity was taken to replace the surface underneath the children's swings and play area with one more suitable that required less maintenance. This was arranged by Cllr Straw and funded by the National Lottery. Renovation to internal areas of the Village Hall are planned to be complete before it returns to full use, subject to government review from 21 June.

Elections for County and Borough Councillors in addition to the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) will take place on Thursday 6 May 2021 when the Borough will use our Village Hall under current COVID 19 restrictions. Do make sure that you are registered and vote.

The parish footpaths, bridleways and a bye-way open to all traffic, have remained open during the lockdown for daily exercise supplemented by a downloadable map on the parish website for those wanting to walk further when the conditions underfoot improve.

December was brightened when Advent was celebrated, involving the co-ordination of 26 volunteer households to illuminate a themed daily window or two by Cllr Powell. Other households in Sutton and Granby added to the festive season with creatively decorated outdoor lighting. On Christmas Eve, it was felt that socially distanced singing would not be possible on Granby Green, however, there was a well attended, socially distanced, singalong on Sutton Green.

A planning application to construct a solar farm using Main Street and Plungar Road in Granby as the route for a high number of 40ft HGVs and stone lorries during the construction phase was submitted to Melton Borough Council. Several residents objected and one supported the application, which ignored the environmental weight limit of 7.5 tons in Granby, when alternative unrestricted routes bypassing the village are available. We lobbied Nottinghamshire Highways who subsequently also objected to the submitted Transport Plan. The planning application is expected go before the full Planning Committee in Melton at the end of April.

A request for the temporary loan of a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign under the control of Nottinghamshire Highways was granted and two subsequently installed. The Parish council has asked for the signs to be randomly moved to the entrances at Sutton and Granby so that the effect can be measured and used to support future requests for permanent installation where the Highways criteria has been met.

Despite the aspiration of local Members of Parliament, Natural England confirmed at the beginning of this year that the Vale of Belvoir is not, and no consideration was underway, for the Vale of Belvoir to be an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Parish Council

Granby cum Sutton Parish Council is the lowest tier of local government positioned below Rushcliffe Borough and Nottingham County Council. It has responsibility for maintaining local services such as the village greens, play areas, cemetery, church tower clock, churchyard, war memorial, defibrillators and the village hall. We are invited to comment on planning applications in the Parish, but recent changes to planning laws make it more difficult to preserve the character of both villages and the surrounding area.

The annual Precept, which is a charge to parish ratepayers to fund Parish Council expenditure including the salary of the Parish Clerk, has not increased however, major expenditure on the village hall later this year is likely to require an increase to the Precept next year.

Your Parish Councillors are elected every four years by this community unless a volunteer is co-opted to fill a vacancy until the following election, as could happen after May to fill a vacancy on the Parish Council. Diversity is encouraged as Councillors from different backgrounds better represent the whole community and possess different enthusiasms, skills, attitudes and interests. Some Councillors work with ideas while others are very practical; some like accounts while others

prefer reports. The Parish Council needs a wide range of skills to successfully work as a team.

Occasionally there will be a conflict of interest requiring sensitive judgement, and the need to take difficult decisions in an open, honest and reasoned way. Councillors are also required to act in an ethical way and to declare an interest when necessary.

Finally, there are currently vacancies for the two paid positions of Parish Clerk, who is also the Financial Responsible Officer, and the Village Hall caretaker.

Report for Bellringers - Mark Tubbs read by John Daw

Rather sadly, I have to report that there is no report from the Bell Ringers this year. There has been no bell ringing since Covid restrictions came into force in March last year. I have not been able to discuss with the other Ringers when we might reassemble, but I suspect it might have to be after the final restrictions are lifted, hopefully on 21 June.

Report for All Saints Church - Maureen Wright

Between January and March 2020 there were 4 services, after the Communion service in March the church was closed due to the covid 19 restrictions. In August after a risk assessment, the church was thoroughly cleaned and sanitised in preparation for a weekly opening for Private Prayer. Face masks were worn, hand sanitiser provided with instructions for use, and seating was indicated at 2 metres apart. The church remained open until October when it re-closed.

We were asked if we would host the Parish Christmas Eve Holy Communion service as is our tradition. The church was cleaned and sanitised, the congregation making prior reservations to keep seating within the rules of social distancing. There were 27 attendees from Granby and the wider parish. The church has been closed since.

Granby Home Group was suspended as two members are unable to access zoom, we may start to meet outside again through the summer. Two members have temporarily joined another group via zoom.

The annual Ride and Stride took place in September, raising funds for Notts. Historic Churches charity. There was no church access.

We have maintained our monthly charity giving via donating on line, supporting Christian Aid, Water Aid, Self Help Africa and The Children's Society.

There were no baptisms or marriages. Sadly Mary Moulds died in June 2020, her family chose to have a graveside funeral, all the family were allowed to attend, whilst the villagers lined the road to pay their respects.

From March 2020 the services have been on the Parish web site and zoom. Sunday morning service, Pause for Prayer and Reflection, is pre-recorded and available on U-Tube from 10.30 onward, following on from that is a zoom social

meeting "Time for a Cuppa" . Morning Prayer on Monday and Friday at 9am is live on zoom.

The weekly notices have also gone on line, but for those who do not have access to technology hard copies have been delivered.

Maundy Thursday 2021 Rev. Canon Keith Turner took a live service of reflection. Good Friday the parish was invited to join the Area Dean, Rev. Stephen Hippersley-Cox and his parish to follow the Passion of Christ concentrating on the Stations of the Cross reading from St. Mark's Gospel.

Approaching Christmas the parish supported less advantaged families whose children attended the local schools. It was suggested that any donation to make Christmas a little more memorable would be suitable. The response was overwhelming, the head teacher from Langar Primary made a video of thanks from both herself and grateful parents. The overflow of gifts was shared between Cropwell Bishop and Bingham schools, the generosity of the whole parish was shared widely. A huge Thank You to all who donated from Granby. A similar much smaller project was repeated at Easter, again Thank You to our Granby donors.

Although the church buildings have been closed, the church community has remained active throughout. We would like to record our thanks to the worship team for organising the live and on line services and especially to Nick Perry who puts all the pre-recorded parts of the service together, to make a free flowing service we enjoy every week.

All Saints is up to date with the routine maintenance. The flood lights were eventually renewed and a new timer installed, after sourcing an electrician who was eager to help us.

I would like to thank our Home Team for their help, support and patience as there has been many emails and phone calls during this difficult time.

As the lock down rules are relaxed we look forward to meeting together in church for worship. This is starting using the larger churches only so social distancing can be maintained, and to accommodate people without prior reservation. The services are for everyone, wherever you live. Remember to bring your mask.

In-church Holy Communion Service resume on 18th April. 18th April : St. John's, Colston Bassett at 9am
25th April : St. Andrew's, Langar at 9am.

The on line Pause for Prayer and Reflection at 10.30am will continue for the foreseeable future. All the church diary is published in the weekly notices , available to all, on the church web site (wivertonintuevale.co.uk).

Granby and Sutton Garden and Allotment Club - StanTaylor

During the past year the Granby and Sutton Garden and Allotment Club has continued to meet on the First Tuesday of the month. Membership of the Club has been maintained at around 30 despite the COVID restrictions.

A programme of local Garden visits arranged for the summer months had to be abandoned and was replaced by virtual garden visits to members gardens and gardens we had previously visited.

This proved a popular way of keeping the club functioning and members keeping in contact.

In August we were able to make a visit to a garden in Burton Joyce. Despite very wet weather during the day and a heavy storm just before the visit time the rain stopped and a large group came along. This was a fascinating garden and was enjoyed by all after being locked down for many weeks.

The September Home Produce Show was cancelled but members submitted photographs of entries they would have made and these are published as a gallery on the village website. Thanks to John Rainbow for his work on this and our entry on the village website.

From November our winter programme of talks took to Zoom and we started with a very well received talk by Jeff Bates on Clematis and other Climbers.

We have continued to have monthly talks with speakers joining us from farther afield since no travelling is required.

In December we held our Xmas Party on Zoom with a Quiz from John Daw and virtual tours of several designers' gardens.

We have had a varied programme and thanks go to Derek Stone for arranging the speakers.

We hope to be able to return to holding the Home Produce Show again on Sunday 5th September.

Details have been delivered to homes in both Granby and Sutton in anticipation that it can go ahead.

Granby and Sutton History Group - Philip Straw

There is very little to report as no meetings were held during the last year due to Covid-19 and the group has been dormant. An exhibition of the villages during WW2 had to be abandoned.

Sadly, long term Granby resident Mary Moulds passed away last year. Her family very kindly donated much of her Granby memorabilia which included her newspaper cuttings scrapbooks and many old photographs. These will be retained in our archive.

It is hoped that that activities will resume in the Autumn.

Granby Ladies Thursday Club - Elaine Walsh read by John Rainbow

Our Granby Ladies Thursday Club (GLTC) have enjoyed another year of social events and continues to build friendships and goodwill within the group. Although a couple of ladies have not renewed their membership, we have gained several

new members including ladies who were fairly new to the village. The meetings have been a great way for them to blend into the village and meet new friends.

Our meetings are fairly informal and always fun. During 2019/20 we had, what have become, our regular foodie evenings. Sausage Mash and Skittles, Summer Supper, Halloween Supper and Christmas meal – once again at Paul's in Bottesford.

In between eating we learnt about....making Kefir, life as a Community Artist, and the life of women ambulance drivers during the first world war. We had fun painting pottery and in April 2019 some of our members became models for the evening of our fashion show. A special mention to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain who kindly hosted our visit to their Aslockton garden on our lovely sunny July 2019 meeting.

The last meeting of our 2019/20 programme (March) had to be cancelled due to the Corona Virus lockdown.

Royal British Legion - Andrew Charlett

Granby, Barnstone & District Branch of the Royal British Legion has, like many other local organisations, been affected by the covid-19 regulations imposed by H.M. Government over the past 12 months. The Branch would normally host 4 events during the year. None of these planned events were able to take place during 2020. Furthermore, it is likely that the earliest that the Branch might be able to host an event in 2021 will be September.

During this time of restrictions, the Branch committee continued to ensure that all members were kept informed of the restrictions imposed and the recommendations for staying safe. They also provided channels of communication whereby members or local beneficiaries could contact the RBL should they require help throughout this difficult period.

Branch members were able to participate in a shortened and covid-19 secure Remembrance Sunday Service, held at St. Martins church, Colston Bassett on Sunday 8th November 2020, and wreaths from local organisations were also laid at a ceremony held at the Parish War Memorial in Granby churchyard. On Armistice Day, Wednesday 11th November 2020, a short service and wreath laying was also organised and attended by members of the Branch at the Memorial to 207 Squadron on Langar Airfield. The Branch hopes to be able to return to normal operations once the current restrictions are fully lifted.

Singing Group - Isabel Daw

The last meeting of the Singing Group was Monday 16th March 2020. We decided at that meeting to suspend rehearsals for the time being but the national lockdown was announced the following week so it would have been the last anyway.

We were rehearsing a concert to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. As we know, all events around this celebration were cancelled. We still hope to

put on this concert at some point but because of current restrictions it won't be for the 76th Anniversary!

Although there have been no rehearsals the group has kept in touch via email and some of the ladies have been working on costumes.

We hope that the situation allows us to perform a Christmas Cheer concert – only time will tell.

Walking Group - Andy Betts

'The long walk to freedom'

The past 12 months has consisted of a year of inactivity for the local walking group. We have been unable to meet for collective outings because of covid rules. Those muddy fields and pub lunches fade to distant memories for us now. Alas, 'zoom walking' was not a practical option; so most of us have been restricted to individual short walks around Granby and Sutton.

Even as our walking boots gather dust it is time to dare to think of meeting up and exploring some of our old haunts. I have penciled in my diary Sunday July 18th as a tentative date for our first group venture. This will, of course, be dependent on the situation continuing to improve and Boris making the right decisions. Assuming that both of these are the case, details will be sent out via email nearer the time.

The walks will continue to follow the usual format i.e. a circular walk, between four and five miles with the option of Sunday lunch in one of the nearby pubs. Most walks are relatively local with many situated in the Vale of Belvoir. We meet for a 10.30am start and lunch at 1.00pm.

We welcome new members to any of our walks; contact Andy Betts to be added to the circulation list.

Granby Wine Group - Michael Headland

The Group is now in its 11th year and currently has 35 members. The members mostly live in Granby and Sutton, but 4 members live in surrounding villages.

The last twelve months has been difficult for everyone because of the Covid pandemic and whilst we have continued to meet every month all but one meeting was virtual using Zoom. The first virtual meeting was in April when apart from everyone familiarising themselves with the App, we each tasted a red Rioja and a white Sauvignon Blanc from Laithwaites and discussed their thoughts with the rest of the Group.

We followed this with two virtual meetings in May. At the first the members produced their own favourite wine and recommended it to the Group. The second repeated the format with each member present discussing and recommending their favourite Italian wine. The format was repeated in June with South African wine.

We managed between lockdowns to have a face to face socially distanced meeting in July in Keith and Sian's garden. It took the form of a picnic and we tasted a selection of wines from Majestic. The weather was reasonable, and everyone present enjoyed being together again.

Unfortunately, back to lockdown for the remainder of the year. In September we had a virtual meeting tasting Alsace wines selected by Simon. October members chose their favourite South American wine and discussed it with the Group. We had an Advent Calendar selection in November with Lathwaite's wine followed in December with a secret Santa which involved leaving bottles on door mats and running off.

In January we tasted a bin end selection of wines from Majestic at a virtual meeting and then discussed them with the Group. February was back to members discussing their favourite French wine and March was tasting a new Australian range of wines from Laithwaites.

We have a full program going forward and hope soon to be able to move back into the Village Hall and resume a more normal wine tasting format. I am sure we have all enjoyed the social interaction over this difficult year but are looking forward to face-to-face meetings resuming (and the wine). We hope to be able to rearrange the people who had to cancel twelve months ago.

The subscription rate has remained at £10 but was suspended when Covid struck last April. It remains suspended and will not restart until the Village Hall reopens. We are always open to new members.

Granby and Sutton Women's Institute - Angela Sinclair and Lois Hamson

It was with much pleasure, and surprise, that Lois and Angela accepted the nomination to share the Presidency of Granby and Sutton WI for 2020/21 and we both left the AGM in March 2020 with excitement and some trepidation at to what lay ahead.

Little did we know that the first lock down would be announced soon after the AGM and our first task was to cancel all our planned meetings and activities for the summer. We were ever hopeful that the pandemic would only last till the Autumn but as we are all to aware this was not to be. Fortunately many of the speakers we had planned for the year were willing to transfer to our 2021 programme.

However, we quickly turned to what we could do to help the national effort and responded to an appeal from the Nottingham Hospitals Trust. Pillow cases and old sheets were turned into laundry bags for NHS staff scrubs and uniforms so that, with the help of some extra volunteers, we were able to donate approximately 300 items and received a delightful letter of thanks from the Trust.

Our thoughts also concentrated on making sure we supported our members in as many ways possible- including using technology wherever we could. We held, within the guidelines, outdoor coffee mornings and tea parties, kept in touch by telephone and group zoom calls and sent out regular Newsletters in order to keep members updated.

Missing our usual Christmas celebration we hatched a plan to deliver to every member (even as far afield as Ingoldsby!) a Christmas 'goodie bag'. Everyone seemed to enjoy this little surprise and it was good to make face-to-face contact on the doorstep with most of our members.

Undaunted by the restrictions after Christmas we decided to go ahead with our annual Hyacinth competition (having delivered the requisite bulbs to everyone the previous October). Despite being one of the coldest Saturday mornings in February the Bus Shelter on the Green was duly decorated with bunting and members invited to deposit their entries. Stan and Shirley Taylor from the Garden Club kindly agreed to adjudicate and Pat Bannister declared the winner.

In March Brenda Straw kindly organised a photographed 'I-Spy' hunt round the village and those who took part enjoyed a warm and sunny afternoon strolling round Granby and a suitably distanced chat on the Village Green, providing some very welcome contact.

We were so very sad last Summer, to lose Mary Moulds. Although Mary had not been a member for the past couple of years or so, due to difficulties getting to meetings, she had been a loyal member and supporter of Granby WI for more years than can be remembered. Such a lovely lady and so much missed.

Now that vaccines are well under way and restrictions are to be lifted in June, we propose to hold our first meeting, a Social, on July 14th when we shall be delighted to be able to get together again and commence with a resounding rendition of 'Jerusalem'.

May we thank all members for their patience over the past difficult year and particularly the Committee for their support and guidance. We look forward to a more settled year ahead.

Any Other Business.

Andy Betts asked if there would be any form of parish social activity to mark the end of lockdown and return to normality. The chairman agreed that this would be put before the Parish Council as an agenda item.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.42 pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.