

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held 18th May 2022

At 8.15 p.m. in Nowton Village Hall, Nowton

Present: Councillor - Mr Henry Hopking (Chairman)
Councillor - Mr David Flatt
Councillor - Mr Mike May
Councillor - Ms Abigail Smith
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

Also in attendance: Andrew Tucker, Cllr. Karen Soons (for item 6), representatives of Nowton Cricket Club, Linda Balaam and Simon Cruse. Five members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Pc Lee Andrews-Pearce, Community Engagement Officer, and Cllr. Nick Wiseman.
2. **To ratify the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 19th May 2021**, as approved at the meeting held 7th July 2021. Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by the Chairman, all in agreement.
3. **Annual Report of the Parish Council**, by the Chairman of the Parish Council. The Chairman gave a brief overview of the work Councillors had undertaken on behalf of parishioners during the past year. He thanked County Councillor Karen Soons and West Suffolk Councillor Nick Wiseman for their continued help and support, and Andy Tucker, Area B Safer Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, for his tireless work in keeping everyone so well informed.

The entire report can be seen in Appendix 1.

4. **Annual Report of the Village Hall Committee**, by the Chairman, Abigail Smith. The Chairman began her report by outlining some exciting developments which have already taken place at the Village Hall and its surrounding grounds, and the further plans and development of the facilities in the near future. She highlighted the events taking place in the Village Hall to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and thanked the Committee and volunteers who were making this all possible.

The entire report can be seen in Appendix 2.

5. **Annual Police Report** - Apologies had been received by PC Lee Andrews-Pearce. No annual report was given.

Annual Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Report - Mr Tucker began his report by recapping on networking and local crime statistics, advising that he was now electronically reaching more than 3,000 people. He reported that Nowton was a very safe place to live and that the County as a whole had the tenth lowest crime rate in England and Wales. It was noted that cyber-crime was on the rise and Mr Tucker encouraged everyone to report such incidents. He suggested that a link to the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association's website be placed on the Nowton Parish Council website, and that pertinent and basic advice, from the regular reports and information that he sent out, be included in the village newsletter.

Security at Nowton Cricket Club was discussed and Mrs. Balaam outlined the additional measures being implemented. It was hoped these measures would also deter, or at least identify, the culprits that were utilizing their commercial waste bin.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Tucker for his report, who then left the meeting.

The entire report can be seen in Appendix 3.

6. **Annual Suffolk County Council Report** – Cllr. Soons Highlighted the very useful recent meeting with the Community Highways Engineer and members of the Parish Council. The Chairman outlined the work which was to be carried out and Cllr. Soons reiterated to everyone the useful on-line tool for reporting concerns with, or repairs needed to, footpaths, drains, roads, etc. (suffolk.gov.uk/roads)

The Chairman updated the meeting on the provision of a litter/dog waste bin within Nowton Park in the vicinity of Oakes gate. He had spoken to the owner of the property near where the bin would be sited and, as long as the bin was regularly emptied, they had no objections.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Soons, who then left the meeting.

An electronic copy of the 40-page Annual Report can be obtained from the Clerk.

7. **Annual West Suffolk Council Report** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Wiseman. No report given.

Nowton Cricket Club - The Chairman welcomed the attendance at the meeting of representatives from Nowton Cricket Club and thanked the Club, on behalf of the Village, for offering Honorary Membership to all residents of Nowton. Mr Cruse, 1st Team Captain, reported that the team had been very successful on the pitch so far this year, presently ranked second in Division 4. The Club was proving very popular and had many players, plus children, youths and women, including a women's soft ball team. Mrs Balaam informed Councillors that the Club has a friendly atmosphere and tried to be inclusive; everyone being welcome, regardless of ability. A regular newsletter from the Club would be circulated, in the hope that this would inform and bring communities together.

Ways of how the Village and Cricket Club could help and co-operate with each other were discussed and it was agreed to keep communicating. A game of cricket with Nowton village was offered, and the Chairman welcomed representation from the Club at future Parish Council meetings.

8. **Financial Report of the Parish Council**, by the Responsible Financial Officer. A detailed Income and Expenditure paper had been previously circulated to Councillors and given to all members of the public present. The total income for the year amounted to £3,113 and the total expenditure £3,357; very similar figures to the previous financial year.

The Notice of Public Rights and publication of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return would be published on the Council's website (nowton.onesuffolk.net) from the 11th June 2022. **Action: Clerk**

9. **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022** – The Chairman reported on the events being organised, invitations that had been sent out and the responses being received. It was agreed that a letter from the Parish Council, on behalf of the parishioners of Nowton, be sent to HM The Queen conveying congratulations on the occasion of her 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne. The letter, having been prepared in anticipation of approval, was signed by the Chairman at the meeting.

10. **Any Other Business or questions from the floor** – none.

The meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.

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Signed

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Date