

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Partney held on 16th May 2023 at 6pm in the Victory Hall

Present: Cllr Risi (Chair of Partney and Dalby Parish Council)

9 members of the public, County Cllr Davie

Also present: J Slaymaker, Parish Clerk

1. Welcome and introduction by Partney and Dalby Parish Council Chair

Cllr Risi welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were not available.

4. Annual Report of the Parish Council

Cllr Jacqueline Oliver presented the Annual Report which thanked two cllrs of long-standing; Neil Blanchard and James Boulton, who both decided not to stand for re-election. An update of recent events and activities was reported and the decision to increase the precept was explained.

County Councillor Davie reported on County issues, the increase in solar windfarm applications and proposed electrical infrastructure projects. Cllr Davie is determined that Lincolnshire would not become a dumping ground to serve the requirements of London. Cllr Davie felt that the planning function of the District Council did not serve the community as it should. He would like to see local housing needs being met. He stated that the highways budget is having to be met from County Council reserves due to a reduction in central funding. Cllr Risi encouraged residents to report highways issues on the FixMyStreet website.

5. Reports from local Groups

Richard Jones representing St Nicholas Church PCC reported that there are 6 PCC committee members. They are responsible for the upkeep of the church and churchyard. The upkeep costs in the region of £5-6,000 p.a. to maintain. They are grateful to receive funding from the Parish tote, Christmas Fayre and Gift Day. It was reported that building work to the church tower, roof and guttering would start soon. The church would remain shut and the clock stopped whilst work was being carried out. It was confirmed that the PCC has no responsibilities for the Rectory or its garden, which are dealt with at Lincoln.

6. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

There were no comments made.

7. Vote of thanks to all participants

A vote of thanks was given to all participants.

8. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 6.50pm

Partney and Dalby Annual Parish Meeting Chairman's Report 2023

Firstly, thank you to everyone attending tonight's meeting, residents, fellow Councillors, and representatives from the Church. For those people who do not know me I am Jacqueline Oliver and I am Vice Chair of the Council.

The aim of the Chairman's annual report is to highlight some of the achievements and priorities of the previous year and share some possible areas of development for the year ahead. Before I do that, I would like to share some information relating to three Councillors who have represented Partney.

Sadly, a few weeks before this meeting we received the resignation of the Council's previous Chairman, James Boulton. James has served on this Council for sixteen years and has been Chair for the past four years. James' expertise in issues relating to planning will be greatly missed. James has contributed to this annual report. I would like to formally thank him for his many years of service and support to Partney and Dalby. As you are aware, all Parish Councillors are volunteers who give up their time freely to support their local area. Zoe Chapman, after some thought decided that the role of a councillor was not for her but will continue to support the community in other ways.

Neil Blanchard, having served on the Council for 20 years, has made the decision not to stand again as a Councillor. Neil was born in Partney, we will undoubtedly miss his knowledge of the community, his expertise in areas relating to highways and footpaths, and his common -sense approach. He will continue, for the time being as Chairman of the village hall Committee. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his many years of loyal service.

In September 2022 the Council was fortunate in recruiting Jane Slaymaker as our new Parish Clerk. Jane has completed the Introduction to Local Council Administration and is hoping to work towards the Certificate in Council Administration. She has already made a positive contribution by ensuring that all the Council's responsibilities and legal duties are adhered to and met. Councillors and residents will look forward to working with Jane in the year ahead. Jane is in Partney daily, attending the Friday Coffee morning and has strong links with Partney School. We are very lucky in that she has excellent knowledge of the local community.

The principal role of your local Parish Council is to improve the quality of life for the electorate, addressing local needs, listening to, and making decisions on behalf of residents. All Councillors are very approachable and know the community well. All matters relating to the council is subject to scrutiny, including all minutes and agendas, financial information, outcomes of extra meetings.

One issue that Councillors have had to decide on is the village Precept (this is the money we receive from the council payers in Partney and Dalby). This has significantly increased this year. Last year, the sum the council received from residents was £2,500 and this year it has more than doubled. Whilst this is a huge increase the reason, we must ensure our income matches our expenditure. This has

bought us more in line with other councils. The Council has several financial commitments, some of which are mandatory.

The cemetery, at the eastern end of the village is the Council's responsibility. We were fortunate in receiving a Covid grant, and this has enabled refurbishment to the railings. The council covers all costs relating to its maintenance, including the grass cutting. The Covid grant also has allowed some other capital expenditure, including refurbishment of the signs and planters in Partney. The council also has responsibility for the defibrillator and costs relating to its servicing. Some other costs include the clerk's salary, insurances, auditing, and subscriptions. Along with everything else these costs have continued to increase.

Achievements

Throughout the year there have been several achievements.

As a Council we have part funded the village celebrations for two historic Royal events, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, and the King's recent Coronation. On both occasions the Council organised, alongside the Victory Hall Committee, a village dance, supper, and entertainment. These events have been wonderful opportunities for residents to come together and socialise. Both young and old attended and both were memorable occasions.

The Council also funds the printing of the village magazine, the Navigator. The magazine, published quarterly, this enables the sharing of information relating to Partney and Dalby. It is particularly important to those who may find it difficult to get out or have difficulty accessing the internet.

The Council recently coordinated a village tidy up day in March this year. Residents joined Councillors in cleaning village signs, removing the old shed from the cemetery and pruning overgrown vegetation. Litter continues to be a problem; however, thanks to the persistence of Councillor Risi and a few other volunteers the local area is now a litter free zone. We have involved the school in the initiative to keep the area litter free. Fly tipping has also been reported promptly. Thanks to the tenacity of Councillor Sue Sargaent, Partney now has a second dog bin! This has made a huge difference with significant number of dogs in the village. We also now have three new signs on Harding's Lane. Some issues have taken a long time to resolve, and the council will continue to be the voice of residents by raising issues with the relevant authorities, including ELDC, Anglian Water and landowners when necessary.

The East Lindsey Pride team (a dedicated team to support local neighbourhoods in enhancing the appearance of their area by providing a cleaning response) have been involved in clearing the pavements of vegetation in Partney. The Council hope they will continue to support us in the future.

Areas for development:

Issues that are very much ongoing are the deterioration of the public highways and pavements, including pot- holes, and subsidence.

Providing a suitable resolution to the Highway issues, including the gates at Dalby and speeding at Dalby.

Continuing with a coordinated approach to littering and fly tipping and ensuring that these are high priorities for ELDC.

Looking at the feasibility of a local play area or an area of lane for recreation.

Community engagement and continuing to ensure that there are opportunities for residents to engage and make their views heard.

