

DRAFT Minutes of the 21ST Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday 15TH May 2019 at 7.00pm at Exning Community Church Hall

PRESENT: Councillors T Wood (Chairman), J Gowing, E Needham, G Robinson, R Stubbs. Mrs Cathy Whitaker (Clerk), N Chapman (Newmarket SNT), Cllr S Cole (WSC), 16 residents of the parish

Item 1: Welcome by the Chairman: Chairman, Cllr T Wood, welcomed everyone & thanked them for their attendance.

Item 2: Chairman's Report for the year 2018/2019

Chairman's Report May 2019

2019 has been a good year as far as I am concerned for the village. There have been a number of major improvements to the village as outlined in the Clerks report & I would like to thank our County Councillor Rachel Hood for using her locality budget to fund many of these projects. We commenced two initiatives in 2018 such as Exning in Bloom & the Advent window displays at Christmas. Both of these were well supported by villagers & we will aim to continue with these events in 2019 & hopefully have even more support. The Parish council is also considering the possibility of arranging a village fete in 2020, but we can't do this alone, if we can get support from enough villagers who are prepared to give their time & energies to this I think it will be another step to making Exning more of a community rather than just a village on the outskirts of Newmarket. It is intended that a working group will be set up & we will be asking for volunteers from the village to sit on this group. Further details will be published in the Exning news. Exning Parish Council has very little power when it comes to issues such as planning & development of the village. There have been developments in the village which the Parish Council has objected to, but these have mostly been ignored by Forest Heath district council. This is bad enough in itself but when these developments have taken place some of them have not conformed with the planning that has been granted. We now have a new council; West Suffolk District Council & my concern is that Exning could become a back water on the edge of Suffolk. However we will look to our very able district Councillor Simon Cole to ensure this does not happen, as well as looking to him to ensure that where planning permission that has been granted has been contravened that the enforcement dept of West Suffolk District Council does its job, & enforces the any planning breaches. With the formation of West Suffolk District Council, council tax will rise by around five pounds a year for the next seven years, on top of any other increases which may be applied. We need to ensure we get value for money for this increase such as a public utilities & recycling site in Newmarket. The Parish council will continue to put pressure on our elected representatives to ensure this happens. I would like to thank our retiring Parish councillors, Richard Bye, Sue McGuinness, Roy May, Andrew Burton & Simon Cole for sitting on the Parish Council & for the contributions they have made over the years. Finally I would like to thank Cathy Whitaker our Parish Clerk without whom many of the things which we take for granted in the village would not happen. **Terry WOOD. Chairman Exning Parish Council May 2019**

Item 3: To agree & sign the Minutes of the 20th Annual Parish meeting, held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018, as a true record: The minutes were agreed & duly signed, with no amendments. (proposed Cllr R Stubbs, seconded Cllr J Gowing)

Item 4: Local group & organisation reports:

Friends of Exning School: represented by A Sheasby. An introduction of FOES & what it does for the school community was received. Fundraising this year has provided the school with a much-needed bike rack/shelter for the schoolyard. The members are grateful for the grant received from the Parish Council which enables it to provide Christmas parties for the children.

Exning Branch; Royal British Legion: represented by M Lovegrove (Chair). This is a group of 12 that meet quarterly, providing comradeship. The annual poppy appeal is run locally & raises in excess of £10,000 p.a. It is important to maintain this activity. Last November, on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, there was a production in St Martin's Church which was well attended. There were approximately 100 people & the event was free of charge. Thanks were offered to the Parish Council which gave a grant to hire a projector for the event.

1st Exning Scout Group: run by Bryony Rothwell on term-time Monday evenings at Exning Primary School. The group is in its second year, with Beaver & Cub sessions are now in place (currently 21 Beavers & 15 Cubs). The group is grateful for the Parish Council grant to pay rent of the school rooms for the sessions. They are active in the community, taking part in events such as the Duck Races, Exning in Bloom, their first St George's Day Parade, Exning Remembrance Ceremony. The group also provided a Christmas Concert in December.

Item 5: Open Forum for Members of the Public: residents spoke regarding the following issues:-

- Church Street – the speed of traffic entering the village from Newmarket – (the Clerk confirmed at Speed Indicator Device is due to be installed to try to address this)
- Lacey's Lane – issues regarding speed of traffic using this as a 'rat-run' from the A14 service area
- Rosery Hotel – many members of the public complained regarding a recent event at the hotel – excessive noise & fireworks at 00:15am. (Noise levels break rules of their licence. Fireworks after 11am & the category of firework used are restricted by law)
- Vegetation overgrowth on the cycle path/footway from Cemetery Hill to Brickfields Avenue – (there is a SCC Highways Report Tool online for this, but this is an on-going issue)
- Question regarding the parish council's conservation activities – (a churchyard wildlife area is being set up)
- Chapel Street – parking issues; with two recent blue-light instances being reported as blocked by parked vehicles
- Junction of Swan Lane/Chapel Street – horse(s) & traps regularly 'parked' on the footway – blocking pedestrian passage & causing fouling with horse waste
- Persimmon; Chancery Park – questions regarding the next phase of development

The meeting closed at 7.30pm