



Loddon Parish Council

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Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Loddon Parish held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 7.00pm in the Library Annexe Rear Hall

Present:

Chairman of Loddon Parish Council: Kay Mason Billig

Loddon Parish Council: June Strickland, Arthur Morris, Jane Hale, Margaret Wallace, Jessie Powell, Stephen Jones, Liz Marsham and Daniel Scott.

Loddon Town Estate Charity: Ann Lumley

Holy Trinity Church: David Owen (Rector)

In Attendance: Emily Curtis (Parish Clerk), Georgina Hirst, (Responsible Finance Officer, RFO), Jo Leonard (Administration and Allotment Officer, AAO) and seven members of the public.

Absent: Jeremy Rowe.

1. Apologies for Absence

Colin Gould (Loddon & Chedgrave Playing Field Committee), Laura Bolderston (Jubilee Hall Management Committee). LPC Cllrs Alan Wildman and Colin Binfield.

2. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 14 April 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2021 were **approved** as a correct record with no amendments.

3. Chairman's Annual Report:

The last year has gone so fast, it seems like only yesterday that I took over the Chair from June Strickland, a very hard act to follow. I would like to thank June for being my Vice-Chairman, she has been a great support to me.

We finally have a full team of staff members; with Emily now a qualified clerk with her recently acquired CILCA, Georgina in the RFO role and the addition of Jo, who is sorting out the Allotments and most recently, Paul, the Parish Warden who is being kept very busy. The Council has also employed Carla who is the Neighbourhood Plan Project Officer and is supporting the production of a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Chedgrave Parish Council.

The pandemic continues to bring us challenges but hopefully, we are now through the worst and we have seen people coming together to help each other during this difficult time.

As a Council we have had challenges to face including; ongoing issues with the public toilets at the Staithe and vandalism on the Kittens Lane children's play area. We have endured parking problems at the George Lane junction and the upheaval in the High Street, caused by the construction works on the A146. We've looked at various planning applications for our village, some more controversial than others and we have represented the wishes of local people in responding to these. It has not been a year without complaints but I believe we have dealt with everything fairly and openly.

In the last year some of the highlights have been; the completion of the roundabout at the George Lane A146 junction. The reopening of the Permissive Path to Pyes Mill. We have launched our collaboration with Chedgrave, to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. We have adopted the Broadland Meadows play area and public open space. We saw the Centenary of the War Memorial and its rededication. Many thanks to Cllr Margaret Wallace for providing the narrative for the information board on its history. We've seen the completion of the dredging works in the Chet, so that we can look forward to the reopening of the Wherryman's Way next year. We've upgraded our Christmas lights and tree wraps on Church Plain car park and we took part in the Big South Norfolk Litter Pick. It's all helping towards keeping our village looking tidy and welcoming. Finally, we have identified who owns the Footbridge over the River Chet at the Staithe, so now we can do something about bringing it back into service.

I have very much enjoyed my year as Chairman and serving our community. I have done my best to bring other agencies to Loddon to help us improve our local community, including Youth Workers, who met with local youths at the Skate Park and taking regular walks around the village with the Police, Highways and District officers.

We have seen some councillors retire in the last year and I would like to thank them all for their service. We have also seen new members join us and I would like to thank all Councillors for their dedication and voluntary service for the good of Loddon. It's not many parishes that can boast a full complement of Councillors, which must say something about the ambitions of this Council and the sense of community that exists in our village. With this team of Councillors and with our dedicated staff, we can look forward to the future and putting in place new projects, events and improvements for Loddon and its residents.

4. Annual Reports

4a County Councillor: None.

4b District Councillor: None:

4c Loddon Town Estate Charity

The global pandemic sadly continued through 2021 and the charity expected to receive a higher volume than usual of grant applications. However, despite continued publicity and raising community awareness, applications remained low. Of those received, some were ineligible due to the restrictions placed on the charity by the constitution, but help was given to those eligible. Now that we appear to be in the closing stages of the pandemic, many families face increasing costs as the cost-of-living rises take effect. The charity once again expects requests for assistance and will continue to maintain its visibility within the community to, hopefully, be able to help. Following publicity online a few applications have already been received in 2022 and help provided where possible.

From an income perspective, the charity had a quieter year in 2021 than 2020, with donations down. However, any donation, whatever the size, is greatly appreciated and every penny will help the charity in its efforts to assist those in need within the community.

As we head into what could be another difficult year for many, our hope is that the charity can reach those in the community in need of support and can continue the wonderful work it has done for many years now.

4d Loddon & Chedgrave Playing Field Committee

Colin Gould, Chairman

The committee has met on three occasions since April 2021. In June following legal advice apparently the Committee should be run as a joint committee of both Loddon & Chedgrave

Parish Councils. It's Terms of Reference (ToR) were discussed and the advice of Community Action Norfolk (CAN) was to be sought regarding drafting the ToR's.

Agreements from the Jubilee Hall (JH), Loddon United Football Club LUFC and Loddon Parish Council (LPC) over the proposed CCTV were obtained and TPI Security were instructed to install the system.

L&CPFC are now members of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and the tennis courts have been registered on the LTA website. The ClubSpark website for court bookings has been set up. Negotiations with the Jubilee Hall over power supply and Wi-fi are under way.

LUFC received a grant of £30 K from the Football Association (FA) for pitch maintenance and have to raise a further £15 K over next 6 years.

The committee met in October where we were told that the CCTV had been installed and was working well. Signage had been ordered but not received and dog fouling on the pitches had reduced.

The tennis courts gate power supply was proving problematic as were the flood lights and their power supply. An electrician was to be employed to resolve these issues, meanwhile the flood lights would be disabled and the courts only used during daylight hours. The ClubSpark system for court bookings was working well with few glitches.

The budget was discussed with the treasurer's figures and the budget was set at £11,975 with the parish split still set at 27/73. There was a large increase in the contributions from the Councils primarily because of the inclusion of sinking funds for the tennis courts, floodlights, CCTV and staff costs.

The ToR were raised again and it was decided to have another meeting to finalise the document and to clarify the committee's legal standing.

The committee met again in February this year where falling trees had caused damage to property. The costs of getting annual tree surveys was discussed and further investigations were requested relating to cost.

The tennis courts have been moss treated but the flood light issue was still to be resolved. Several requests to use the field were considered and a draft terms of hiring were produced by the secretary and are to be ratified by the committee at its next meeting.

4e Loddon & Chedgrave Jubilee Hall Management Committee

On behalf of the board of trustees -Alex Bridge, Acting Chairman

Loddon and Chedgrave Jubilee Hall Trust Trustees Report Year Ended 30th September 2021

The trustees present their report and the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2021.

Reference and administration details

Registered charity name: Loddon and Chedgrave Jubilee Hall Trust

Charity registration number: 285015

Principle office: Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon, Norfolk, NR14 6JY

The trustees who served the charity though the period and to the date of this report:

Alex Bridge (Chair)

John Lurkin

Kevin Williams

Sylvia Randal

Richard Shearing

Jane Hale (appointed 15th February 2021)

No trustees were paid any remuneration or claimed expenses in connection with their duties in the year. The wife of the Chairman is employed by the charity; the Chairman is not involved in decisions made concerning her employment.

Accountant: Headspace Accountancy Ltd, 2 Yarmouth Road, Hales, Norfolk, NR14 6SP

Structure, governance and management

The charity is an unincorporated charity governed by a charitable deed. Trustees are individually voted at the AGM. The trustees are responsible for the running and the maintenance of the facilities. This currently consists of 1 Acting Chairman and 5 other trustees. They are supported admirably by 3 paid employees. Loddon and Chedgrave Parish Councils are also permitted to have a representative on the Management Committee as are all user groups. Currently there are 6 trustees which is woefully too few and we actively look to encourage more trustees to help making decisions and to raise funds.

Objectives

The charity provides and maintains a community hall to be used for meetings, lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation, with the objective of improving the condition of life for the inhabitants of the parishes of Loddon and Chedgrave.

Review of activities

The hall was well used and supported by the community in the year until Covid 19 pandemic. Since then the hall has had to be closed for long periods due to the various Government guidelines. When lockdown was partially lifted many of our regulars did not return due to fear and

confusion. We are grateful to the local inhabitants who, when guidelines allow, provide income which ensures the hall can run efficiently and costs to the service user are kept to a minimum.

Volunteers

The hall does not have enough volunteers to play a very important part in running and maintaining the facilities provided.

Future plans

The charity is currently fund raising for an improvement project which will provide good disabled access and facilities. Several music events were scheduled but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We plan to hold these and many more events such as jumble sales and seasonal events which will appeal to a broad cross section of the community. Bookings obviously have decreased in the current year and we need more of the community to make use of the facilities.

Financial review

The financial statements show the current state of affairs, which the trustees consider to be in need of more revenue and are seeking to create more funds via various avenues.

Reserves policy

It is the trustees policy to retain funds to cover at least 3 months of operational expenses and save for significant future repairs. Free reserves at the year end stood at £36,067 which equates to approximately 13 months of running costs based on these results. This amount is because of generous grants given by the government to cover losses due to the pandemic. The Trustees and staff are currently seeking more Trustees and volunteers to assist with various fundraising events. They are advertising for more community groups to use the facilities and are in the process of trying to reinstate a Saturday market twice a month.

Public benefit

The trustees make decisions with due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Principle risks

The trustees monitor risks and uncertainties facing the charity and plan accordingly.

Future plans

The trustees intend to continue the work of the hall to provide a sustainable financial future for this multi-use facility for the local community.

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Holy Trinity Church

David C. Owen (Rector)

In 2020 the global pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus brought about a lockdown of activities across society which most of us had never previously experienced. As I look back now at 2021 it has been an equally unusual year.

Over the past two years we learnt to adapt and embrace a different way of being church.

- We have worshipped in our church buildings when regulations and sensible precautions allowed, and have provided online worship throughout the year.
- It was good to celebrate Easter in church in 2021; as we will this year on 17th April.
- Xtra! - is our after-school church - with a regular gathering of youngsters and adults
- The partnership with the Roman Catholic congregation remains strong. In the summer we bade farewell to Fr Pdraig and welcomed Fr Andrew as their parish priest. Sharing the use of the building is a tangible sign of our Christian unity.
- We minister to Saxon House and Beauchamp House was maintained as much as possible. The greatest sadness surrounding Covid-19 has been the imposition of regulations surrounding visits. In addition to services in care homes when these have been allowed, Holy Communion at home has been taken to those who requested it.
- A weekly Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection, led by Jill Haylock, has been made available online as well as in person. Prayer, both corporate and individual, is the powerhouse of the Church.
- Noah's Ark - overseen by Reverend Alison is well received by parents and carers.
- Another frustrating aspect of the year has been that visits to school were severely restricted. School assemblies in the Infant and Junior schools were offered online and in person when allowed.
- I'm privileged to be a Governor of Loddon Primary Federation
- The church is a satellite to Norwich Foodbank, this is co-ordinated voluntarily by Barry Gibson. During the year we have distributed numerous food parcels to families, couples and individuals in need.
- The other week the church community ran a Food in School Holidays lunch
- We have had architect's drawings for the west end of Holy Trinity Church displayed to the public. Favourable comments have been made locally by those who frequent and visit the church. This is being progressed with the relevant authorities.
- We are grateful to those who assist in maintaining the churchyard of Holy Trinity and for the financial contributions we receive for its mowing.
- Generally people abide by the legal regulations for what is permissible to be introduced on to graves in the churchyard.
- Inconsiderate parking in St John's Car Park by those doing so without permission sadly causes distress to those who need to use it to access services or activities in the church building or lecture hall.
- The Church's finances are solely provided for through generous giving, legally authorised fees and grants for specific issues. Maintaining the fabric of two listed buildings, and their curtilage is a significant financial responsibility.

5. Public Forum

A Parishioner mentioned the need for a food bank in Loddon. The porch of Holy Trinity is always open for food donations.

A Parishioner mentioned the curve of the roundabout as you leave George Lane and could there be some reflectors.

6. Date of the Next Meeting

Annual Meeting of the Parish - Wednesday 12 April 2023 at 7.00pm.

The meeting ended at 19.27pm.