

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY 1ST APRIL 2021

Present :

Councillor S. Boyce (Chairman) Councillor J. Baldwin Councillor P. Metcalf
Councillor R. Richmond Councillor T. Scott

15 Members of the Public.

Apologies for Absence.

County Councillor Mark-Kiddle Morris

Minutes of last meeting

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Baldwin seconded that the minutes of the 4th April 2019 where true and correct.

Chairman's introduction and report.

Councillor Boyce welcomed everyone present at this zoom meeting in these strange times. He hope that everybody was keeping well and safe during this lock down period. The Parish Council have continued to meet via zoom as allowed by law and have conducted all business as openly and as transparently as possible. This meeting is a chance for Parishioner's to ask any questions that they have of the Chairman and Clerk.

Community Car Scheme.

The Co-ordinator reported that there had been little use of the Car Scheme due to the lockdown and hoped to resume normal service as soon as the Government allowed.

Club reports (attached below)

Beetley Scout Group

As we all know the last 12 months have been like no other in living memory and after a long period of online Scout meetings, we managed to get back to face to face meetings in May. All our young people were welcomed back to a completely new look to the HQ and grounds and this was only achieved through the hard work of the leaders and numerous individuals.

We have had many trees removed to free up camping space but in place of them we have planted some 400 saplings on Beetley Meadows and Garvestone Scout campsite. We have also had a second hedge planted, and this will over time thicken our current hedge.

Our HQ was given a new coat of plaster and then the whole HQ has been fully painted, we have had a lot of plumbing work carried out including the fitting of a new outside sink with hot and cold water. There has also been lots of other work on the grounds including putting up fencing, re-landscaping, and revamping the fire pit.

1st Beetley Scout Group is currently the largest group in the district with 74 young people across 3 sections. The group also hosts the District Explorer Unit which means that there is nearly 100 young people enjoying scouting every week at our HQ. To achieve this, it would not be possible to do so without all the hard work of the leaders.

We still have a lot to do including in the near future extending the building so that we are able to offer even more places for young people to experience scouting.

Report from St Mary's Community Primary School, Beetley for Beetley Parish Council Annual General Meeting

Thursday 4th April 2019

It is again with regret that I am submitting this report without being able to attend. We have a class of children on a residential and I am with them this evening.

St Mary's CP School continues to thrive and pupil numbers are still growing. We currently have 196 pupils on roll.

We have welcomed families from out of catchment as well as families local to Beetley and Gressenhall. We are attracting much support and recognition for our work with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and are working closely with the Local Authority as they try to improve provision across the county in this area.

School headline data 2018

- Our youngest children achieved above national expectations in the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- In Year One, our pupils achieved above national expectations in the phonics screening check.
- Most pupils in Year Two achieved in line with national expectations but we do have some work to do in developing early maths skills.
- Pupils in Year 6 achieved well above national expectations in all areas which means we have been able to send them on their journeys to high school filled with confidence.

School Development priorities

In terms of whole school development, we continue to focus on our curriculum, ensuring our pupils access a full and varied learning programme that meets all aspects of the National Curriculum. In September 2019 OFSTED will be introducing a new framework which will steer schools away from measuring pupil data and will instead be looking at curriculum content.

At St Mary's, we are committed to putting children at the heart of everything that we do, ensuring that we provide exciting learning opportunities. This year Years 5 and 6 have been to the Space Centre in Leicester; Year 4 are currently on a residential stay at Whitwell; Year 6 have spent a week at Hill Top near Cromer. All of our classes are privileged to be able to make great use of the facilities at Gressenhall Museum and we are very grateful to the staff there for always making their resources available to us. Year 1 spend time enjoying the outdoors every week and we are very grateful to Mr Boston for allowing us to use his woods so freely.

Years 3 and 4 have visited Norwich Castle; there have been author visits and a performance at Norwich Cathedral and a whole host of sporting events that our children have taken part in.

Before Christmas our youngest children performed the nativity and our choir visited Bilney Hall and Woodstock Residential homes to sing carols.

This term years 3 and 4 performed an amazing version of the story of Oliver Twist with many children singing solos and next term we will enjoy another action packed show being prepared for the Year 6 class to perform with year 5 before they move on to high schools.

While we want our children to have fun at school, we do still need to ensure we are enabling them to make the expected progress across all aspects of learning. To reflect this, our school development plan continues to focus on progress in maths across the school, and on ensuring we support all our children to become fluent and confident readers. We are committed to ensuring we hear every child read every day in school. This may not always be one to one with an adult, but we are always looking for volunteers who may want to come and help with this (DBS checks permitting!). Other areas of focus, in line with the national agenda, are ensuring the most able pupils are challenged in all areas of learning, and ensuring those pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant (disadvantaged pupils) are appropriately supported and make good progress. These too continue to feature on our development plan.

St Mary's is a wonderful and happy place to work.

This is due to the families who work so well with us, supporting us as a staff so we can do the best for their children; it is thanks to the dedicated staff who work so hard to ensure we do the best for our children; and it is down to everyone who is a part of the team supporting our school within the local community and more widely. We are also lucky to have a very supportive governing body. At this point I would like to express my sincere thanks to Rebecca Howard who has been such an integral part of the school's governance since I joined the school in 2012. Her time and support have been invaluable and I am extremely grateful for all that she has done for St Mary's. After 8 years Becky has handed over the gauntlet and we welcome three new governors in Tim Handley (our new chair), Linda Talbot and Jean Johnson.

Another invaluable part of our school team is the dedicated and hard-working PTA. Rosie Smith has been Chair since September but has recently had to step aside. The rest of the team are pulling together to run things so we continue to benefit from the much needed fund raising events that they are instrumental in organising. You are no doubt aware that schools across the country are finding finances are being stretched beyond capacity, and we are no different. Thanks to the PTA, we have been able to continue to subsidise costs of trips for the children, to support learning within school with additional resources and we are hoping to raise enough money to be able to buy some much needed IT equipment so that we can effectively teach this critical area of the curriculum.

This year our summer fayre is on Saturday 22nd June. We do hope many of you from the local community will come and support us.

We are very proud of our school and of the progress we continue to make. If you are interested in getting involved in the school, perhaps to hear readers or to support in one of our classes, or if you would just like to come and visit, you are always very welcome!

Jessica Balado

Headteacher

The Meeting Closed at 7.47.