

Minutes for the Annual Parish Assembly held at the Old School Rooms  
at 19:30 on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Over 40 people were present at the meeting with many community groups represented with tabletop presentations in the small hall.

In attendance: Chairman Ann Hooks, District Councillor Paul Euesden, County Councillor Graham Butland and Chairman of Braintree District Council Councillor Mrs Susan Wilson.

Chairman Cllr Ann Hooks opened the meeting by welcoming the guests and residents to the first Annual Parish Assembly able to be held since 2019 as during 2020 and 2021 Annual Parish Assembly meetings had been postponed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. It was lovely to be meeting in public.

Apologies were received from: Cllr Pickton, Cllr Wilsdon, Cllr Agutter.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Assembly were available to attendees at the meeting and were resolved as a true record of the meeting for that the year and the minutes were signed.

The evening began with Year 6 Rayne Primary School Pupils and teacher Sam Hutchins.

The children gave a very interesting talk about the how they learn at school and the many interest groups and sports groups that they have when the formal lessons are over.

It was explained that 20 questions had to be answered when finishing a reading book which made sure that the pupils understood what they had been reading and had learnt the extra vocabulary to be able to move onto the next grade of books.

To learn tables the children play a game called 'Times Table Olympics'. In preparation for STATS covering math there were tough questions including multiplication, fractions, decimals, and percentages.

The curriculum included learning about WWII improving on reading and writing. As well as learning important lessons about History.

Clubs at lunchtime and after school included: Dodgeball, netball, football. With other clubs including colouring if the weather was inclement and games had to be inside. Wellbeing was popular as taking time to be kind to other pupils was rewarded by extra play or a picnic.

Ingrebourne Valley were next to give a report on the gravel extraction site. The site was originally owned by Tarmac who passed it to Ingrebourne Valley. Representatives Victoria Harris, Minerals & Environmental Planner, and Andy Clark, Managing Director, came along to explain that 2 years have

passed while they have been doing advanced works, taking samples to be sure that the wash plant will be correct for the minerals being excavated. There are dust monitoring gages, but there should be no dust as yet as there is only a wet operation taking place with the wash.

There had been some archaeological finds; buried pots had been unearthed but had nothing inside of them. A skeleton of a young roman male had been found and taken to Cambridge, with a roman rubbish dump located at the entrance to the site. Finds are not generally shared with the community, but artifacts will come back to the site once studied.

Restoration of the site will be done in stages and trees have already been planted with bird boxes. Once the plant is operational schools and other groups will be able to book tours.

A question was asked about having more trees for screening, but EEC won't allow any more trees to be planted.

Roman Kudiewicz & Richard Bale came along to talk about the Heritage Trail.

Roman mentioned the memorial walls which were created by the Parish Council on behalf of the residents of Rayne and praised the fantastic project.

The Trail is a visible initiative brought about by gaining the lottery grant funding to restore the church. There are 67 listed properties within the area of the trail, and this includes: a children's trail, a church trail, the Website and an App. There has also been the training of volunteer guides. Covid meant that work had to be continued on-line and with a great amount of ingenuity! The Trail was entered into the East of England Tourist Awards. Now that covid restrictions are easing tours will commence this year. New things are ongoing and are put added to the website as new stories come forward.

The Platinum Jubilee Committee gave everyone an update on the celebration events planned for the beginning of June. This is to be a village event with many of the houses being decorated to mark this unique milestone in history which no other monarch has achieved. 1500 beacons will be lit, with Rayne will be one of them, including each of the capitals of the commonwealth. The programme is extensive starting on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> with the Town Crier giving the proclamation. Included are all elements of the village with events at both public houses and the Booking Hall Café. Culminating on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> with a picnic at the village hall with games, side shows, maypole dancing, and dog show. The organisers asked for volunteers to help over the weekend or if you can supply a prize.

Police constable, Paul Draper, gave an update on the latest crime figures: Anti-social Behaviour cases - for the whole of March there had been just 1 call, and one report of an abandoned vehicle.

Rayne was one of the top twenty best beats in the Braintree area. The police had completed a walk around the village with the Clerk and Parish Councillors, attended the school fete and been to the Booking Hall Café to do some cycle marking. And thankfully not in the top twenty for incidents happening in Rayne although speeding continues to be an issue.

In the UK it is our roads which present us with the most danger with 28,000 people killed or seriously injured so resources have to be targeted where accidents are happening and not where an accident is waiting to happen. The police urge residents to report things on-line, use the CrimeStoppers number if you want to report issues anonymously – give the police as much information as you can and keep on reporting if it keeps happening.

There followed a presentation of Citizen Awards, awarded by the Parish Council, and presented to the nominees by Dist. Cllr Susan Wilson and Cllr Ann Hooks to:

Colin Payne for the long service to the Football Club

Martyn Phillips, service to the village Speedwatch Group

Josh & Grace Meehan for services to the Village, especially during lockdown

Graham Dalby who was pivotal in setting up a team of litterpickers during lockdown

The Village Hall Committee for their dedicated work in keeping the village hall open to residents

Reports from Councillors:

Cllr Celia Murton updated the audience with the work of the village hall. There are 8 members of the Village Hall Committee.

Together we are responsible for the village hall on behalf of the Parish Council and the village. Over the last few years we have extensively updated the building during the pandemic we renewed the floor without affecting the hirers, repaired and replaced the flat roof, toilet cisterns, hand basins with electronic sensitive, self-turn-off taps. Some of this has been possible with grants from the government, Essex County Council, BDC, RCCE and from Paul Euesden, our local District Councillor allocating to the village hall grant funds.

Not only do we look after the hall, but we are responsible and manage the playing fields and playground. With the aid of grants, some benches and tables have been replaced with brightly coloured recycled park benches and tables, which used over 20,000 2 pint plastic milk bottles. The Benches also bear the names of two departed, long standing committee members.

Just to recap some of our achievements over the years are :

- New floor
- Added a trim trail and outdoor gym
- Replaced and repaired flat roof
- Repainted interior of the hall
- Replaced toilet cisterns
- Replaced hand basins and taps
- Replaced kitchen doors
- Replaced cooker
- Replaced boilers
- Replaced curtains
- Replaced fixed stage with movable stage
- Replaced windows and fire doors
- Replaced playground equipment
- Replaced lighting with new low energy lighting
- Installation of a new sound system
- Installation of CCTV inside and out
- Repaired concrete steps
- Plans to continue with future improvements.

Fundraising events for the village are held throughout the year including Bingo, Quiz nights and the very popular Christmas panto.

All the committee have worked to achieve the above. We are looking for new members, so if anyone is interested in joining, please contact me or any committee member or attend our next meeting on 4 May.

And finally, Mike and Tony who were our Chair and Treasurer, after over 10 years in their roles, have decided to step down and are replaced by Rob and Russell respectively, which happened at last week's AGM.

Cllr Trevor Ripplingale reported to the meeting on the work of the groundsmen. The village is beginning to look very tidy for the summer, with grass and hedges being cut back. We are now employing two groundsmen once again and welcome Dave on to the staff. The groundsmen are well trained to enable them to be efficient in their work and the Council are looking forward to the purchase of more machinery to help the work run even smoother.

The Chair, Cllr Ann Hooks, talked us through her report, which has been published as part of the Annual Report for 2021/22, which had been printed and delivered to every household. With the aid of visuals on the screen the work of the Council was highlighted and included:

- The telephone box was moved and officially opened

- The Duty Councillor scheme continues to run
- There has been the installation of new litter bins
- There has been the installation of two benches
- The Parish Council have been able to take back the 'Eastlight' contract
- The building of the Ashes Walls has been completed.

The meeting ended with a short speech by the Chairman of Braintree District Council, Cllr Susan Wilson, who said it was a joy to be part of an evening which showcased such a close community with many hard-working residents making life pleasant for everyone in the village.

The meeting closed with Cllr Ann Hooks once again thanking everyone for making the effort to make it such a successful evening and especially to Grace and Josh for bringing along their coffee machine and cake to provide refreshments. The meeting closed at 21:10

Attached:        Report by District Councillor Paul Euesden  
                      List of groups in attendance