



## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – DRAFT MINUTES**

**Thursday 11th May 2023 at 6.30pm**

**held at The Hub, Wroxham.**

1. **Welcome & Apologies from Cllr Malcolm Allsop, Council Chair.** All Councillors present.
2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**  
The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
3. **Chair's report - Malcolm Allsop**

The past year has been an eventful one with many successes for this council. It was also a year of highs and lows. First the highpoint when we staged the biggest event seen in the village in a very long time - the Wroxham celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee at Wroxham Football Club's Ground. It was a wonderful coming together for the village with over 500 people attending as we enjoyed performances by the Taverham Band, The Broadbeat Choir and our very own piper who heralded the lighting of the official beacon marking the 70th Jubilee celebration of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This duty performed by three generations of Wroxham residents. Our grateful thanks to all the council team who pulled out all the stops to make the event such a success and our thanks to Wroxham FC for generously hosting the celebrations. In stark contrast - the low point of the year came on Thursday September 8th when just as we were to begin our monthly meeting news came in of the death of Her Majesty The Queen and we abandoned the meeting as a mark of respect.

This last year saw a successful example of local democracy in action when we fought and defeated a plan by the Broads Authority to create a sludge lagoon equivalent in size to three football pitches on land off Nobel Crescent. The parish Council mobilised local opposition and secured press coverage which along with support from our two district councillors Fran Whymark and Martin Murrell embarrassed the Broads Authority into withdrawing the plan. It is important for this council to represent the needs and concerns of people from all parts of the village - not just the part we live in and I'm sure the new council will be mindful of this responsibility.

In the early summer plans to refurbish and update the Agnes Gardner King children's playground came to fruition with the previous prison-style fencing being removed and brightly coloured child-friendly gates and fences put in place. A new path was also installed and the official opening ceremony was conducted by the great, great niece of Agnes who cut the ribbon and declared the newly upgraded playground open to all the children of Wroxham. Thanks are due to a small team of fellow councillors for their hard work in bringing about these improvements to the playground which will now be fit for future generations. Later in the year a flowering cherry tree was planted in the gardens by Wroxham Women's Institute members to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and to bring shelter and colour to all users of the gardens, both young and not so young.

This past year saw the completion of the final stages of the Wherry Gardens development. The Parish Council has received a sum of money from the developer for the maintenance of the public open spaces on the site which have now been adopted by this Parish Council.

This past year has also seen the establishment of the Caen Meadow Working Group - volunteers who work to support this council in managing this important village asset. Our thanks to them for their hard work.

Finally, to one piece of unfinished business - the battle to save the Parish Hall. This council has repeatedly over the past four years tried to engage with the Rector of Wroxham and the Parochial Church Council to try and find a way forward to keep the hall open. These overtures have sadly been ignored and the Rector has made it clear that it is their intention to sell the hall to raise funds to maintain St Mary's Church. Now a village protest group has been formed and petitions circulated. As a council we have begun the process of registering the hall as an asset of community value which will at least create a window at some stage for the community to try and raise funds to buy the hall. There is also the considerable hurdle relating to planning permission for a change of use for the hall site which I personally hope this council will oppose in a bid to keep the hall open as an important asset for this village. When it's gone....it's gone.

Finally I would like thank my fellow councillors over this past year for their tireless work and dedication Peter Mantle who underpins so many practical projects in the village including the cemetery, Ian Joynson who single handedly maintains the playground and is the guardian of our village trees, Philip Everett my vice chairman who has done exceptional work in so many fields including planning and governance, Barry Fiske my predecessor as chair and the outgoing chair of the finance committee who has given a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the running of this council to Elaine Allsop who masterminded the Jubilee celebrations and many other projects and Sylvia Holyoake who charms all visiting dignitaries. Our thanks also to our two hard working district councillors Martin Murrell and Fran Whymark who have given us such tireless support over the past year. And finally, to our clerk Clare Male who is the backbone of this council and who has done so much to make things run smoothly. My thanks to all and my best wishes to the new council.

#### **4. Questions and comments.**

No comments.

Clare Male, Clerk & RFO to the Parish Council  
07341 873375

[clerk@wroxhamparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@wroxhamparishcouncil.org)

*All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June.*