



## ARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of The Annual Assembly of the Parish held on Saturday 11 March 2023 at 6.25pm Ardleigh Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Tim Barrott (Chair of Ardleigh Parish Council and chairing the meeting)  
Rachel Fletcher (Clerk) Minutes  
11 voters and residents of the Parish of Ardleigh

#### **1. Address and welcome by the chair**

Attendees were welcomed by the Chair. The meeting was held at the end of an afternoon Community Showcase where local groups and businesses provided information, activities and opportunities for local residents to get involved. The Showcase had been well -attended and thanks were recorded to those involved in supporting the event including set up and running and provision of refreshments.

#### **2. Minutes of the last Annual Assembly meeting 9 May 2022.**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

#### **3. Local groups and issues.**

##### **a) Summary of groups present, and issues raised at the Ardleigh Community Showcase event earlier in the day;**

The following groups, campaigns and businesses had been represented, and various issues had been raised.

- Ardleigh Parish Council
- Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society
- Community Ambitions- from the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan
- Age Well East
- Ardleigh Pre-School
- Community Speed Watch
- Cribbage
- Village Archives
- Ardleigh Church Bell Ringers
- Guide Dogs for the Blind, Stour Valley Branch
- MOMs Plus Me Charity event
- Debbie Millar School of Dance
- Dolby Ear Care Clinic
- 1st Ardleigh Scout Group
- Ardleigh Cricket Club
- Skylark Social & Jackrabbit Brewing Co
- Pylons and Substations campaign
- Crockleford and Elmstead Action Group

##### **b) To receive and note written reports submitted by local groups.**

Written reports received by the deadline were noted and outlined below. In addition, some groups had made written information available at the event.

#### 4. Any other business.

Thanks were noted to Ardleigh Parish Council. It was clear to see how much had been done in the past few years.

Meeting closed 6.35pm

### Appendix- reports received

Copy of notice for event



## **ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

### **ARDLEIGH PARISH ASSEMBLY SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

The aim of the Society is to encourage all forms horticulture by way of evening talks, plant sales and the annual flower & produce show.

Members of the Society are entitled to free admission to the Society's evening talks and the show. Members can also participate in a seed discount scheme with a major seed company (orders usually qualify for a 50% saving).

The evening talks are mainly gardening or nature related, although some may be of a more general interest topic.

Our popular Annual Flower & Produce Show takes place in August at the Village Hall and is still one of the largest Horticultural Shows in North East Essex. Last year's show, after a 2 year break due to Covid, attracted 440 exhibits. Show schedules for this year's show, giving details of the classes, are now available from our website and will be available from Craft Nurseries and the Ardleigh Convenience Store in late April/early May. The Society is most grateful to Percival Engineering, Jubilee Restaurant, Debbie Millar School of Dance, Ardleigh Garden Maintenance and seven individual members of the Society who provide sponsorship for the various classes at the show. Special thanks must go to our major sponsor Craft Nurseries for their continuing generous support.

Last year the Society provided St Mary's Primary School Ardleigh with plants, seed potatoes, pots and compost for competitions that were judged by Committee members at the school at the end of the summer term. It is hoped that the Society will be able to organise these competitions at the school again this year.

All our talks and other events are held at Ardleigh Village Hall

Our Plant and Cake Sale will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 9:30-11:30

The Annual Flower and Produce Show will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August from 14:00-16:00

Details of all our events and contact details can be found on our website (<https://e-voice.org.uk/ardleigh-horticultural-society/>) and our Facebook page.

## **Ardleigh Archivist's Report**

I continue to act as Parish Archivist, filing historical material as it is found and helping to answer queries from near and far about family histories, the history of houses, street names or indeed anything to do with Ardleigh's long history. There has been an increase in telephone and online queries asking for help tracing relatives and house histories, I have also received more documents and photos relating to the Girl Guides in Ardleigh; these had been collected by Alison Swinscoe. In this role as Parish Archivist, I have also contributed an historical article to each month's 'Ardleigh Advertiser'; there have been many appreciative comments about these, but I must once again thank Sarah, as editor and producer of the Advertiser, for all the hard work she puts into the Magazine. Old editions of Ardleigh parish magazines already prove an invaluable source of information. I also continue as the Secretary of the Tendring Local History Recorders. Local history recorders record events as they happen now, for they are tomorrow's history. The archives house quite a large collection of photographs as well as a plethora of written material. The photographs document village events, such as the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as well as recording changes in the village, from the building of new houses to the latest crocheted figure to adorn the post box. I comb the local press for mentions of Ardleigh, so that the newspaper cuttings books now contain

many articles about the National Grid's proposal for putting pylons in the village; articles about Surya Foods' proposal for a huge warehouse on the Old Ipswich Road; articles about people in the village and so on. I do welcome additions to these modern archives from anyone who cares to send material to me.

Historical work, both in researching the past and in recording the present, is an ongoing project in Ardleigh and I must thank the Parish Council for its continuing support which makes all this possible.  
Jill Hamblin MA(Oxon)

## **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

In the last year Ardleigh Community Speed Watch has gained another volunteer, which has increased our numbers to four. With the dedication of the volunteers, we have through most of the year undertaken two sessions a week. If we could increase the number of volunteers, we would be able to do many more sessions. We were joined on a couple of sessions by the Police who came to offer their support. They have also encouraged us to report any abuse to them and they will contact the person to address the issues. During the very hot weather we had to suspend the sessions and again during Christmas and the cold weather. The reducing light both morning and evening prevented us being out during the rush hour. We cannot operate in the dark, bad weather or icy conditions.

We are now doing a car count and the number of cars coming and going through Ardleigh has risen. We work closely with our neighbours, especially in Dedham who have seen huge numbers of speeding cars through Dedham. We coordinated our sessions during the summer months, in an attempt to encourage drivers to reduce their speed. The numbers of motorbikes coming through Ardleigh at very high speed attracted our attention. Antics by the riders by covering their number plates with their hands, prevented us from being able to report them. The bikes' speeds were up to 80mph and above, very fortunately there were no accidents reported.

Our aim is to educate drivers to reduce their speed and whilst we reported high numbers of speeding cars, since our return to undertaking sessions, the speeds have reduced. However, over the year we have reported 693 cars, 212 LGV's, 7 HGV's 15 motorbikes and 1 Coach. We have had 53 repeat offenders. 44 were caught twice, 7 three times and 2 four times.

We were delighted that the school also undertook a session, supported by the Police. They caught 10 cars speeding, opposite their school and the cars were stopped and the drivers given a choice of either answering questions by the children or taking a fine. One took the fine the other nine were asked questions by the children which were very thought provoking.

We will continue our sessions during 2023 and hope that we see the reduction in speeding continue.