

GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Grundisburgh
on Wednesday 27th April, 2022

NOTICES had been posted according with regulations.

Present: Parish Council Chairman Mrs. Ann Willetts, District Councillor C Hedgley, County Councillor E. Bryce, 10 Parish Councillors and approximately 70 parishioners.

1. Apologies for absence Mrs & Mrs.J.Dunnett, Mr & Mrs.D.Higgins

2. Parish Council's Annual Report The Chairman summarised the report which had been circulated to every dwelling in Grundisburgh & Culpho with the invitation to the meeting. A copy is attached to these minutes.

She welcomed parishioners to the meeting and reminded them that this is the first Annual Parish Meeting since 2019 and the first in our New Village Hall. A Hall we were still only talking about at the last meeting. To me the very essence of Grundisburgh came out in the pandemic, the caring, the can do, will do spirit. Admittedly we were not here, but even 11,657 miles away we heard all about, the parish pantry set up by Colin and Clare at break neck speed, the shopping done for people isolating, the telephone calls just to make sure people were OK. Then came pictures in May of the dancing in the street, bunting out, wine in hand for VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations. All so Grundisburgh. When we arrived home thanks to the wonderful service of John Broad so many people offered shopping etc as we quarantined. Golly aren't we lucky! So many stories of help and assistance.

The wonderful new facilities,

- The extended and revamped children's play area on the Playing Field.
- The church extension making things a little more convenient.
- And our wonderful new Village Hall

All of which you will hear about in more detailed reports later. Our Village is just the right size for people to care for each other.

So that brings me to Chapel Field. I am so sorry I do feel I let the village down. I had hoped never to have to say this BUT on 21st December 2021 Patrick Hanna, an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State, allowed the appeal and planning permission was therefore granted for the erection of 70 dwellings etc on land at west of Chapel Road, Grundisburgh, Chapel Field.

The whole community fought hard to prevent the inclusion of the site in the Local Plan. But we found ourselves up against Suffolk County Council Highways Officers, East Suffolk Planning Officers, the developer Hopkins Homes and the landowner. All seemed determined to include the site at any cost, common sense played no part. This continued through the planning application stage, our lived experience of the narrow country lanes, now designated and signed quiet lanes, the safety of the existing residents living along those lanes counted for nothing. The projected increase in the traffic generated by 70 dwellings was waved aside. We were assured that the new residents living on Chapel Field would not use Lower Road, but would turn right coming out of the site and right again through the village on their way to Woodbridge. How can such a statement be made by a Government Planning Inspector and highway and planning officers, and carry such weight.

We, the electorate need to put pressure on our elected representatives to change the balance away from the developers. Ensure that in East Suffolk Philip Ridley, the chief planning officer, and Stephen Baker, the CEO, stop the accepted practice of twin tracking which distorts officers' workload. Twin tracking is when a big developer like Hopkins Homes submit 2 identical applications on the same site to run concurrently. We learnt that local planning authorities can refuse to accept, tactical 'twin-tracked' planning applications and have been able to since legislation in 2009, but ESC never does and our District Councillors had not been made aware by officers of that ability.

Parish Council's Annual Report cont...

Hopkins Homes admitted at the inquiry that they always submit 2 applications for their sites, that says much about their working practices. The developer can appeal a non-determination of the first planning application to the Secretary of State, whilst the second application proceeds through the Local Planning system. The practice certainly gives developers a huge advantage over the democratic process because of time constraints and pressure of the extra workload. This certainly happened with Chapel Field.

But the fight is not over Hopkins Homes must be made to keep to all the agreements they have signed up to. There were 29 conditions imposed on the application which are now in the process of being discharged. There is to be an archaeological dig which is estimated to take 35 weeks, nothing else can happen on the site until that has been completed. We as a community must not allow wriggle room and further lowering of standards particularly where the safety of existing residents is concerned.

The planning system in East Suffolk as it stands, works very well for landowners and developers with their well-oiled and resourced machines but not for communities like ours, villages, that would like to remain as villages because they work. People who are not content to see our green fields covered in concrete, our carbon footprint increased and our children bused to school, all unnecessarily. Something has to change.

What has come out of this fight is again the terrific amount of talent that is available in this wonderful village. I would like to thank all those who worked so hard, the tenacity shown over what has been a 4 year fight has been amazing. Thanks are also due to our two District Councillors, Colin Hedgley and Tony Fryatt and our County Councillor Elaine Bryce who have never stopped asking questions on our behalf.

I would like to explain that we in Grundisburgh and Culpho hold two very different Annual Meetings. The Parish Council's Annual Meeting is like an AGM and will be held on the 9th May in St Mary's church. There we elect a chairman and a vice-chairman, appoint committee members and representatives to other bodies. Members of the public can only speak when allowed to, during a public open forum.

But this is our Annual Parish meeting, a meeting of Parish electors a public meeting. We will hear reports from our District and County Councillors, and leaders of various local groups who have much to tell of their activities and achievements over the past 3 years. It is an opportunity for you to ask them questions on past and current issues, at the end of their reports. This is your meeting please raise your hand and we will try to get a mike to you so we can all hear your questions

4. District Councillors Report

District Councillor Colin Hedgley said that the District Council was very proactive in helping vulnerable residents over a very difficult period and established a Hardship Fund initially £100k which was later boosted by an additional £100k. Several Grundisburgh residents received help.

East Suffolk Council was one of the better councils in organising help and assistance and disseminating information. During the time the Parish Clerk was kept informed of all the help available.

Mr.Hedgley was bitterly disappointed in East Suffolk Council's approval of the planning application for 70 houses to be built on Chapel Field. We fought long and hard and lost by only one vote but the battle is not completely over.

He was pleased that the restoration of the Meeting Lane Verge is going ahead with grants from his and County Councillor Elaine Bryce's locality budgets.

He attended a site meeting on The Old Forge Stores forecourt and is able to offer some financial help in its restoration and was pleased to see that several potholes in the vicinity have been marked for repair.

Mr Hedgley, with District Councillor Tony Fryatt have 19 Parish Councils in their care and have only £7.5k each to spend from their locality budgets.

The District Councillors full Report is published in the Important Documents section of the Parish Councillors Web Site <https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud/>

5. County Councillors Report

County Councillor Elaine Bryce said that it was difficult to believe that it's been almost a year since she was elected as our County representative for Carlford Division. The role is a huge honour and privilege and I am incredibly proud to represent our communities across Carlford.

As we have continued to learn to live with Covid, our communities have been resilient and once again, the kind and generous spirit of people here in Suffolk has come to the fore, as it is doing so again now with the first families fleeing the devastation and conflict in the Ukraine preparing to settle here in Suffolk.

As your County Councillor, I work closely with your East Suffolk District Councillors, Colin Hedgley and Tony Fryatt, covering some 26 Parishes across the Carlford Division. It's fair to say, certainly in my role, that highways issues are a clear priority and I have supported Grundisburgh Parish Council with a number of key issues since my election in May 2021.

I am proud to say that the long awaited issue of the poor verge on Meeting Lane will now be reinstated and improved with the installation of oak bollards to deter drivings from causing further damage. This has been made possible through funding from my Locality Highway Budget, alongside grant funding kindly donated by Cllr Colin Hedgley. I also continue to work on resolving wider issues around highways and most recently met with your Chair, Cllr Ann Willets to look at highways flooding and condition of the road and forecourt outside the Old Forge Stores. As a direct result of that meeting, I have pressed highways and they have already marked out the road for repair. The surplus materials from the highways repair will be used to back-fill the immediate forecourt area. It's impossible for highways to resurface the forecourt itself, as it is in private ownership, but highways have also agreed to look at any improvements that may be able to be implemented when the entire road is resurfaced in order to mitigate against the current flooding which occurs. I hope to have positive news on this soon. I have also been pleased to support the Parish with a donation from my locality budget to assist with the cost of the solar panels for the wonderful new village hall and I have also donated money from my locality budget to support the village playground and new sensory garden – it was lovely to attend the grand opening just last week and to see so many local families enjoying the fabulous equipment in the sunshine!

As we look ahead to the once in a lifetime event with Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and our very own Festival of Suffolk, I'd like to congratulate our hardworking Parish Councils and community volunteers – so much hard work goes into planning our own celebratory events and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming weeks and months.

In closing, I'd like to thank you for your support over the last year. I look forward to continuing to work with you and supporting our communities, and in the meantime, my door is always open - do please drop me an email and I will always do my very best to try and help.

The County Councillor's Annual Report is published in the Important Documents section of the Parish Councillors Web Site <https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud/>

6. Baptist Chapel

Mr. Colin Grimwood said that closing the chapel has been a heart-rending decision. It has brought to an end a long history of Christians meeting to worship and sharing the good news of Christ.

It all started with a cottage meeting in 1796 (Stephen Lawrence). A little chapel was built on the side. When John Thompson came the congregation grew to 100+. The current building was constructed in 1798. Sunday School hall 1810. He baptised 650 people and the congregation reached 800.

8 churches were planted: Otley, Tunstall, Charsfield, Sutton, Woodbridge, St Helens, Ipswich, East Bergholt, and Rishangles. Samuel Collins was the longest serving pastor (nearly 50 years).

But over many years there has been a steady decline. When I came 28 years ago the congregation was only about 15. Quite a number have come and gone - about 60 different people have worshipped with us on a regular basis.

Baptist Chapel cont...

The Lord has blessed us here. It has been a very active church – children, young people, mid-week ladies' and men's meetings, coffee mornings, guest services, open-air services, Easter Egg Hunts, etc.

How did we come to close? Our active membership had fallen to 7 (including 3 Grimwoods) and the regular congregation to single figures. There were a number of factors contributing to this, but disunity was certainly not one of them. We, as a membership, considered the options and felt that we had no choice. We are finding other churches to join. My future is uncertain, but gradually getting clearer.

The chapel has to remain empty for a year, and then the Trustees will put it up for sale. We are busy trying to empty it and find good homes for things. There may be other things people in the village could use. We are also working on replacing the bench on the Alice Driver Road junction. The chapel has to remain closed for a year and then the trustees will sell the building. Unfortunately they have no control over who buys it; they are legally obliged to obtain the highest price. The Parish Council are trying to get it listed to ensure that at least the appearance will be preserved.

Our task has been to preach the Lord Jesus Christ as the glorious Saviour and King. Our greatest sadness is for the village, that so few have received Christ and found the blessings he brings. It saddens us that so many are still spiritually lost, without Christ and without hope. It may be too late to reopen the chapel, but it is not too late for anyone here to come to Christ and be saved.

7. Children's Play Area

Mr. Richard Garnham, Chairman of the Grundisburgh Playing Field Management Committee said that 12 months ago the Committee made a decision that a sum of money that was earmarked for the village from East Suffolk Councils Play Space Fund should be spent before it was withdrawn. The Committee recognised that additional play equipment was required to meet the aspirations of older children together with the present apparatus and safety surfacing needing to be refurbished.

After consultation with Andrew Jolliffe our local communities officer from East Suffolk Council the committee were extremely fortunate that Emma Dixon and Frankie Nixon offered to assist the committee with a complete upgrade of the area. Emma has had vast experience in the planning and management of play areas and assisted by Frankie embarked on a fund raising exercise combined with the local community as to the type of play equipment required.

In less than 9 months £72k of funding had been secured, a design drawn up and a play area manufacturer appointed to carry out the work. The committee are indebted to Viridor who were our main funders with £50k but also to the many local organisations and individuals who very willingly contributed to the funding. Part of the remit for the main funder was that the area had to include a planting scheme which included trees and shrubs together with colourful plants. The Horticultural Society have become very involved not only in funding for the planting but also their knowledge and practical input alongside Susie Davis from Katy's Garden who kindly provided the many various plants at a competitive price.

Construction of the new equipment, laying of safety surfaces, painting and fencing all took place in February in less than ideal conditions, however the area soon recovered to allow the community to start to enjoy the facility in mid March. The official opening by Letitia Smith, East Suffolk Councillor for Leisure and Tourism took place on April 19th which was enjoyed by hundreds of people during the day.

The committee would like to express their thanks to everyone who has been involved with this venture.

8. St.Mary's Church

Church Warden Mr.Robert Fletcher said the year began with the country once again in a full Covid lockdown. Interviews for a new Rector were held on Zoom and Rev'd Katrina Dykes was duly appointed. Katrina moved into Grundisburgh Rectory in April with her husband Phil, the newly appointed Mission Enabler for the Diocese. Katrina was licensed on 10th May in a service which took place on Zoom with Bishop Mike Harrison.

The benefice community owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Ministry Team of Mark and Sandra Cresswell, James Hall and Jane and Fred Woods. Together they led the benefice through the vacancy under hugely challenging and unprecedented circumstances. They adapted to working in new ways to keep in touch with the worshipping community, supporting those isolating at home, providing worship online and holding the benefice together. Fred's illness meant that first he and then Jane needed to step back from active ministry and we miss not seeing them so regularly. They are in our thoughts and prayers and many of us still benefit from and appreciate the support and care they give in a more personal way.

In January the funeral of Bishop John was held in the Cathedral and streamed online. Bishop John is very much missed as a member of the ministry team in the Benefice.

From the start of the year to Palm Sunday worship continued online led by members of the ministry team. These services were well attended and, combined with views of occasional offices, reached a peak of over 900 views/month in January. During Lent the benefice ran LiveLent discussion groups by video link which, together with after service social groups proved popular.

In person worship returned for Easter, with socially distanced benefice services. As the year progressed we slowly opened up for more activities across the benefice as well as trying to sustain opportunities for online worship and meetings for those who did not feel ready or were not able to return to gathering in person.

Throughout the year, most PCC meetings, Wardens and Ministry Team meetings and discipleship groups in Advent, have been conducted on Zoom. This enables people to attend from their homes, with some appreciating not having to travel, especially on winter evenings. However, many do miss the social interaction of being together in the same space.

Messy Church re-started in July and has continued monthly since then, in Grundisburgh. We initially met outside, which had the benefit of passing families joining in. As temperatures dropped and the weather became more unsettled we moved inside to St Mary's church, Grundisburgh. The service is currently regularly attended by families from Burgh, Clopton, Otley, Swiland as well as Grundisburgh and is growing month by month.

In September we held an in person meeting for Wardens and Ministry team, facilitated by Rev'd Phil Dykes, to consider our priorities going forward as we emerge from the Covid Pandemic. Many areas were identified as needing attention including connecting with our local communities, and children and families in particular. There was also recognition that in order to expand our capacity for mission, we need to have a simpler and more coordinated approach for governance as well as sufficient administrative support for The Rector and Ministry team.

The PCCs have all participated in a consultation with Katrina and James Hall to shape a scheme for a Benefice Joint Council to support the work of the PCCs. The scheme is being brought to the annual meetings in Spring 2022.

Funds raised from sponsorship of Katrina for the Ride and Stride Historic Churches Trust in September enabled the purchase of a video camera to stream live services. This has been used very successfully for Sunday morning worship, as well as for the occasional funeral. Whilst people had greatly valued the recorded services provided by the ministry team throughout the pandemic, the opportunity to participate in a live act of worship from church has been much appreciated

St. Mary's Church cont...

In September, we learnt that we had been offered a stipendiary training curate. Gail Minter will be ordained Deacon on 2nd July 2022 and will come to live in the benefice with her family and share in ministry with us, full-time for three years.

In November the Ministry Team went away together for twenty-four hours on retreat to prayerfully consider the values we believe should shape our ministry together across the benefice. We benefited from the opportunity to get to know one another better and are enjoying discussing and developing our ideas at regular meetings.

We continue to enjoy the ministry of Rev'd Bill Herbert, Archdeacon Sally Gaze and Rev'd Phil Dykes who, whilst not members of our ministry team, do support the worship across the benefice. At the end of the year an opportunity came to partner with Lightwave and in December Church@5 began in Burgh School Room. This is a service for younger teenagers and their parents. It is informal, interactive and fun and includes contemporary worship songs and reflective prayers. We look forward to seeing how this develops in the coming months.

Throughout November and December, Brian Williams undertook the training to be an Elder and worship leader. The licensing took place in January and more of that in next year's report.

An increase in Covid infection rates in the late autumn, led us to plan for some Christmas services to take place out of doors. Some of these were very well attended and appreciated by those who attended and we will seek to build on the positive experiences in Grundisburgh, Hasketon and Otley in particular.

A second year of pandemic turbulence has also seen the phenomenal role out of a vaccine programme and improved treatments for Covid 19. We look forward with hope to 2022 and to growing in our Mission and Ministry across the benefice.

9. Scouts

Mrs. Pat Ross, Group Secretary for 1st Grundisburgh Scout Group, for the last 30 years commented on this "beautiful hall" and was not sure if our new Scout HQ will be like this, that is, if and when we manage to get one!

The Scout Group was formed in 1921 and our Wolf Cub Flag, which is proudly held at Parades, dates from this era and is the only one in the District that we know of. The Group was unfortunately disbanded later but in 1936 re-started although had to cease again because of the Second World War.

In 1956 we reformed having Meetings at the Rectory Stables, Parish Rooms and the old Village Hall, then in December 1963 our current HQ was a wooden building attached to a dwelling in the Village and was moved to its present location on the playing field on the back of a tractor, and now over 66 years ago we are still there.

We have over 100 members with young people and Leaders, including Fynn Valley Explorers, many come from other towns including Kesgrave, Woodbridge and many surrounding villages. We have a waiting list from youngsters asking to join.

The Groups successful Archery Team have won many National Awards.

Our poor old hut has been deteriorating over the years, it has been vandalised many times, all the windows had to be boarded up as nearly every pane of glass was smashed several years ago. There is only one door, one toilet, no disabled facilities, no proper heating and the vehicle access is over the Playing Field which in bad weather is a real problem!

To fundraise we have a Duck Race, a Firework Display and a Textile Recycle Bin.

Scouts cont...

We are now back from Easter holidays and very busy – our Archery Team will be going to Hertfordshire in May for the National Finals, in June we will be celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with campfire and songs on the village green and at the end of June we have our Duck Race with over 2,000 ducks - yellow plastic ones! swimming down the village stream! then hopefully our Firework Display will be in November again. Last year’s Display was the best yet, so many people waiting to get in that we had to delay the start.

We take part in so many events like hiking, camping, cooking, bowling, swimming, clip and climb, many varied Speakers come to give talks and demonstrations and also attend the Church Parades on Remembrance Day and Mothering Sunday.

We would like to thank the Parish Council, the Church, Wood Trust and many organisations and individuals for all their support and donations kindly given to our Scout Group.

10. New Village Hall

Mr. Bryan Laxton, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee said the completion of the building of a new hall was a team effort with many people contributing. He thanked them all.

A breakthrough was the successful application for a £200,000 Big Lottery Fund Grant which together with £200,000 + from the sale of the old village hall site and a £200,000+ contribution from the adjoining housing development provided the major part of the funding of the project. A critical part of the funding was a contribution of £50,000 from a handful of villagers to provide “matched funding”. It gave a tremendous incentive to many people and village organisation who raised money to know that their efforts were being doubled. The total cost of the building was £750,000/

In Autumn 2020 the scheme was put out to tender and the successful contractor was DAB who also purchased the old village hall site.

The new hall is a timber framed building with an amazing near energy zero score of 7/A. It opened for business on the 29th January when two parties were booked and an Open Day was held on the 30th January when over 500 people attended.

860 bookings have been received for 2022 which corresponds to 2.6 bookings per day. Long standing hirers from the old hall have returned and many new classes and groups have formed plus parties and wedding receptions.

A Community Fund will be established to enable charities to use the hall free of charge.

The hall will play a vital role in the village Jubilee Celebrations and a very full day of activities will be held on Friday 3rd June.

11. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Mrs. Willetts said that a very varied and entertaining programme had been arranged with "something for everyone" which will take place on the 2nd, 3rd & 5th June.

Thursday 2nd June

1000 Church Coffee Morning and opening of the Flower Festival
1300 Town Crier – Proclamation on the Village Green
1400 Village Hall – Street Party for older generation
1900 Scouts Campfire over the stream. Campfire sings and entertainment

Friday 3rd June

1100 Playing Field – Games and races
1400 till late Village Hall and Grounds Family Festival, Fairground Games, Food Stalls, Tombola
1430 Grundisburgh's Got Talent – get your act together U12's, U18's adults
1730 – 1900 Ceilidh dance to Skedaddle
1930 till late Local Live Bands – all day bar

Sunday 5th June

1730 Songs of Praise – hymns chosen by villagers born in each decade of the Queen's reign
1900 Barbeque Village Green
John's famous musical fireworks over the Church at Sundown

The Dog Beer Festival to run through the Jubilee Holiday

12 The Year in Pictures - Grundisburgh & District News

Peter Kendall presented a slide show of village events throughout the year while a buffet supper was being served.

GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
1st APRIL 2021 - 31st MARCH 2022

Chairman

Telephone

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Grundisburgh Parish Councillors

| | |
|---|--------------|
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District Councillor

Colin Hedgley, The Coach House, Playford Mount, Great Bealings IP13 6PH 01473-738468

County Councillor

Elaine Bryce, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

Meetings

The Council met bi-monthly. The Council's Finance, and Footpaths & Environment Sub Committees also met during the year. Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic the January and March 2021 meetings were virtual using ZOOM software. The May meeting was held in the Village Hall and all subsequent meetings were held in St.Mary's Church. The Annual Parish Meeting was not held. .

Resignation

The Council were very sorry to receive the resignations of Charles Burch and Peter Kendall and welcomed new members Mike Harris, Mark Rankin and Dr Liz Hodges. .

Web Site

The Parish Council's web site [Welcome to our website \(suffolk.cloud\)](#) continues to grow now with more planning information and information about village life, the parish council and has many useful links. There are sections containing the minutes of council and committee meetings going back to 2013 also Conservation & Environment, Footpaths, Local History, Housing, Village Organisations, Planning, and much more. Please give it a look.

Planning

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in Grundisburgh and Culpho which means that the council is informed of all applications in the parishes and invited to submit comments to the Planning Authority. Planning permission is granted or refused by East Suffolk Council, who consider recommendations from the Parish Council as well as comments from other organisations and members of the public.

Planning Application details are posted on the Old Forge Stores Notice Board, East Suffolk Council's and Parish Council Web Sites and on the site of the application. In certain circumstances East Suffolk Council notifies neighbours.

Planning can be a contentious issue and the Parish Council established a policy in September 2019 which directs how it deals with the diverse types of applications and these can be viewed on the council's web site or a hard copy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Chapel Field Development

To the dismay of a huge majority of villagers and despite a vigorous campaign approval was finally given for the erection of 70 houses on Chapel Field. There are aspects of this application which caused great concern as to integrity of the planning system and these feelings were expressed by the Chairman at a Council Meeting on the 17th January when she said *"The planning system in East Suffolk as it stands, works very well for landowners and developers with their well-oiled and resourced machines but not for communities like ours that rely on volunteers, something has to change for the sake of democracy"*

An up to date report will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Roads & Transport

Grundisburgh Speedwatch Group was active monitoring vehicles speed in Grundisburgh and as the group are members of SAVID (Safer Village Driving) it has access to two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) which were regularly deployed in Grundisburgh and are proving very valuable in reminding drivers to watch their speed. Thanks to a grant from the East Suffolk Community Partnerships SAVID has secured funding for an additional one and a half SIDs. This will enable SID's to be deployed more often.

The Parish Council urges villagers to report road and traffic problems directly to the County Council using the reporting tool on their web site:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/potholes/report-a-pothole/>

The Council will also report but complaints from the people directly affected by the problem are more likely to be listened to in these times when finance available to repair roads is strictly limited..

Footpaths & Environment

The organised walks were cancelled in the early days of the pandemic but have been recently resumed.

The Footpaths and Environment committee carries out essential work to maintain the village surrounds, including litter picking, cleaning signs, cutting grass, restoring benches and generally keeping the village looking spick and span. .

It wouldn't be Christmas without the Christmas Tree on the Village Green together with the floodlit St.Mary's Church and villagers living around the Green who decorate their houses with Christmas lights. This was even more appreciated this year when we all needed a "lift" from the pandemic. .

The Millennium Meadow is a unique and extremely valuable conservation area – a rare example of wet grassland which used to be widespread in the countryside in bygone days. After over twenty dedicated years as Warden John Dunnett has retired and Paul Frankin has been appointed Millennium Meadow Warden.

We are very grateful to Greenways volunteers who provide much needed labour particularly at grass cutting time. However more local volunteers are desperately needed. If you would like to help please phone Paul (01473-735295).

Coronavirus Pandemic

At the end of March 2020 the Government's regulations banned public gatherings meant that the Annual Parish Meeting could not be held and subsequent Council and Sub Committee Meetings held virtually.

The villages were so lucky in having a Church and Chapel already very heavily pastorally involved and many caring people who help their more vulnerable neighbours. These were strengthened by more volunteers. A Helpline Phone Number for those who needed help with shopping, picking up prescriptions, a friendly phone chat etc was quickly installed and a "Parish Pantry" established in St.Mary's Church Porch for those who needed food supplies. With a very successful vaccination programme and the easing of restrictions a return to full normality is eagerly awaited.