

MINUTES OF THE CULWORTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Andrew Wilby (AW)	Chairman
	Stuart Rolt (SR)	Vice Chairman
	David Mumford (DM)	Councillor
	Martin Rowling (MR)	Councillor
	John Mullins-Blyth (JMB)	Councillor
(8 total)	Rebecca Boasman (RB)	Parish Clerk (emailed notes provided)
Public:	Alison Eastwood (AE)	WNC Unitary Councillor
	Jenny Howse (JH)	
	Maddy Green	

Welcome to members and the public from AW.

1. Apologies received – Cllr Nancy Guinness
2. Parish Council report offered verbally by AW.
3. Culworth Charity report offered verbally by MR.
4. Culworth Village Hall report offered verbally by JMB, included in APPENDIX A.
5. St Mary's Church report offered by JH, included in APPENDIX B.
6. Culworth School report was prepared by Sandra Prewer, Head of School, read by RB.
7. The Hill Field project report was read aloud by AW. It is noted that the new car park is not being used: can this be encouraged by the use of cones? It is hoped that upon completion of this project, £16,000 might be returned to the Parish Council as surplus to requirements.
8. The Culworth Community Park report was given by Maddy Green.
9. A verbal HS/2 update was provided by SR. There is an on-line meeting every couple of months.
10. A report from the Culworth Snappers was prepared by John Emmet and read out RB.

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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Chairman

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Date

APPENDIX A: CULWORTH VILLAGE HALL REPORT FOR 2022 BY JULIE TINN

Culworth Village Hall has been used more over the last year for regular fixtures such as Coffee and Chat, the monthly Village Café, Hot Shots, Film Nights and for one off bookings. We have lost Snappers to Forge Coffee owing to there being no wifi in the Hall but we have gained a class for British Sign Language.

Jenny Howse organised a Shrove Tuesday quiz last March and again this March, both well attended and the takings being shared by the Village Hall and the Church.

Sarah organised an evening in May with Richard Blacklee, author of the recent book about The Culworth Gang which was well received.

The village hall looked resplendent with bunting for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in June. The village hall committee co-hosted a drinks party in the Forge Coffee after the church service on the Friday and the hall hosted the jubilee cake competition on the Saturday.

John Mullins Blyth has organised two Bingo nights in the Hall (last July and this April) which have been well attended and have made much needed funds to go to the proposed Playground and Village Hall.

At our AGM in November Julie Tinn (Chair), Mark Izzett (Treasurer) and Sarah Powell (Secretary) agreed to continue in their roles and were re-elected unanimously. All the other Trustees agreed to continue on the Committee excepting Joan Oxley who tendered her resignation as bookings clerk. She was thanked for her long commitment to the Village Hall. Darryl Timmins was welcomed to the Committee in January this year to take over the role of bookings clerk.

The film nights continue to draw a good number of people. Over the last year we have shown West Side Story (March 2022), The Electrical Life of Louis Wain (May) Belfast (September), Operation Mincemeat (November), The Duke (December) Mrs Harris goes to Paris (January), Top Gun Maverick (February) and Fisherman's Friends One and All (March). The Red Lion has prepared the suppers for many of the film nights. We introduced bridge nights in the Hall but after a couple of evenings and only managing to get one or two tables full we decided to stop.

Phase One of the project to build a new Community Centre on the cricket field is almost complete. This provides much needed parking for the Village. Discussions regarding the next phase are ongoing. The Village Hall Trustees were happy to donate £14,000 towards the cost of completing Phase One.

Although we are now receiving more from letting the Hall and film nights and donations, our profits are still down since Covid. We were able to apply for and receive the Omicron Business Support Grant and we received the energy grant of £400 from the Government. However, the cost of electricity and water has gone up considerably.

The Trustees have continued to look after the Hall. We have recently repaired part of the roof and are now looking at more cost-efficient ways of lighting and heating the Hall.

The Trustees decided at the AGM not to increase the hire rates for the Hall.

Julie Tinn
Chair, Village Hall Trustees

APPENDIX B: St MARY'S CHURCH REPORT 2022 BY JENNIFER HOWSE

Culworth Church continues to maintain its position as the centre of the village. There are regular services and we continue to have a service every Sunday.

The church is well maintained and always looks splendid. As usual Martin Rowling takes care of all the day to day maintenance but the churchyard is maintained by a group of willing mowers in the summer and a working party which clears the conservation area in August, which has resulted in the past few years in an absolutely magnificent display of snowdrops and primroses in the Spring. The flower arrangements in the church continue to be expertly organised by Diana Langdale and she manages to bring in many others to help with the magnificent Christmas, Easter and Harvest displays. Christine and John Emmett continue to maintain the ever increasing number of books in the library at the back of the church. We have a rota of cleaners for the year. Thanks to everyone who helps.

We had hoped to have some alternative overhead heaters installed by the end of 2022, but as with the church roof, the DAC have been dragging their heels and we have yet to receive the permission to have them installed.

We started 2022 with the news that our rector, Rev Mike Chesher, would not be staying in the parish for as long as we had hoped. He did stay until the end of the year but we ended the year in yet another interregnum. During this year Mike took a number of memorable services including a wonderful pets' service and the Platinum Jubilee service in June.

8 children were baptised, there were 2 weddings and 7 funerals in 2022. One couple, having decided to have their reception at Crockwells in Eydon, then looked round for a local church they really liked, and chose us. We were very honoured. The church was used to display a time line of events in the village from 1952, still there on display.

We have sadly lost several of our most faithful members this year. Gill Nunn, for many years a member of the PCC and Mary Whittingham, Margaret Field and Anne Crawford, all whom worshipped regularly in our church and who supported us in so many ways.

Several regular events have taken place organised by members of the church community, including the Lent Quiz, Lent lunches, village cafes and plant sales. We have continued to raise money for various good causes, including Water Aid, The Children's Society, the British Legion and Macmillan Nurses.

The church is a place where villagers turn to in times of need, for weddings and funerals. The building is a Grade 2 listed building in a most beautiful setting overlooking the cricket field. The church belongs to the village and as such is much loved but with the congregation dwindling we desperately need the support of people from the village, not necessarily regular church attenders, but people who feel that can give just a little time to help maintain it for future generations.