



Meeting Minutes

Mattishall Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 24th April 2023 at 7pm, Poultec South Green Park

Parish Councillors present: Richard Turner (Chair) and Anita Rose (Parish Clerk), Paul Claussen and Paul Plummer (District Councillors), Lorraine Varney (Community Enabler, Breckland District Council) and 23 members of the public.

Mr. Turner opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Wendy Flew (Community Car Coordinator) and Rector Mark McCaghrey.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2022

The minutes of the 2022 meeting were signed by the meeting Chair as a correct record without amendment.

3. Report from Richard Turner on the Council's year

The Chair read out his report covering recent projects undertaken by the Parish Council. The report features as an appendix to the minutes (Appendix 1).

4. Anita Rose on the Council's draft finances for 2022-23

The Clerk gave an overview of the Parish Council's finances which are subject to audit. A copy of the draft finances can be viewed on our website or by clicking here.

https://www.mattishallpc.info/files/ugd/287e4e_3f8876bf324748b19d43d202ae5351f4.pdf

5. Speaker Lorraine Varney Community Enabler, Breckland District Council

Lorraine Varney spoke about her role as a Community Enabler and what they offer. The communities team deliver many valuable services to residents through the Inspiring Communities initiative, many of which are unknown to most people, such as Social Prescribing, Community Funding, Mental Health Training, Breckland Mobile Food Store, Cup-O-T, Silver Social, Holiday and Food Programme and the Community Car Scheme.

They also have a team that supports residents who have been discharged from A&E as well as another team who calls on residents in socially deprived areas to see if they can assist them in any way.

More details can be found on their website <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/community>

6. Statutory Bodies

PC Austin Clarke Beat Manager Norfolk Constabulary spoke about Anti-Social Behaviour and reported that compared to last year he is pleased to report that crimes committed within Mattishall have decreased, he even reported that according to the crime stats Mattishall is one of the safest places to live.

However, he advises residents to continue to report any anti-social behaviour or crimes committed by calling 101 or report it via the Report It portal, <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/contact->

us/6-report-it. In an emergency please always call 999. The Police can only act if these crimes are reported and urges residents to notify them as soon as the crime is happening.

He also reported that they carried out a Crime Prevention Survey in Mattishall back in the Autumn and are pleased to see that some recommendations have already been put in place.

PC Austin Clarke is always happy to help, please contact either by telephone 101 or via the report it portal or email us on SNTWatton@norfolk.police.uk

Councillors Claussen and Plummer gave a report of the work of the District Council for the past year. Their report has been scanned and can be viewed on our website or by clicking [here](https://www.mattishallpc.info/files/ugd/287e4e_c4a5d1053d244e21ac4324da38fc83a8.pdf).

7. Village Reports

Reports were received by the following organisations.

Mattishall Burgh Charity, YMCA, Mattishall Bowls Club, Community Car Scheme, Barlow Charity, and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

YMCA

The Youth Club reported the following.

- Attendees for the senior group are predominately ages between 11-13 years. The group has a maximum of 30 spaces available. They have received highs of 21 and lows of 11.
- Attendees for the junior group are predominately ages between 5-10 years. The group has a maximum of 20 spaces available. They have received highs of 13 and lows of 9.

Both groups continue to thrive. The club initiated a consultation with the children giving the young people the opportunity to talk about what they want; this seems to be working well. They also have the seniors taking charge of the tuck shop – why not! It is a great experience for them and a great achievement.

Presented reports for the senior and junior groups can be viewed on our website or by clicking [here](#).

https://www.mattishallpc.info/files/ugd/287e4e_84baf16a8872458d9c1ab85852e2a148.pdf

https://www.mattishallpc.info/files/ugd/287e4e_f1c13c6a14ed42249c4972c4ba137f28.pdf

Bowl's Club

The club has been running since the 70's and has up to 40 members. They have 12 matches a month and 14 events per season.

Mattishall Burgh Charity

This charity receives income from small parcels of land that are rented out. This income is then used to help the vulnerable (eligible criteria must be met). Please ask for an application by contacting Marjorie Ward on drawbackjw@aol.com.

Starting balance	£1165.81
Income	£9144.48
Distributed to 33 people	£9250.00
Expenditure	£ 325.36
Closing balance	£ 734.93

Barlow Charity

The Barlow Charity is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. Mattishall Parish Council is its sole member. The Parish Council appoints the trustees, but the Charity operates

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Page 2

independently from the Parish Council. There are three trustees, unchanged throughout the year, Richard Norton, David Piper and John Rockliff.

The Charity manages the 12 houses at Old School Green, 10 of which are shared equity affordable houses. These houses are sold at 75% of their open market value to qualifying people (which includes criteria on their income level and a local connection). The Barlow Charity owns 25% of the leases of the 10 affordable houses, and the freehold of all 12 houses. It also owns and manages the car park at Old School Green and it owns the village green and the children's play area that the Parish Council manage.

The houses pay a modest rent that is intended to cover the Barlow Charity's general expenses and its costs in maintaining the outside areas (the car park and shrub beds), and to redecorate the outsides of the houses periodically.

One of the affordable houses changed hands during the year.

The trustees met once during the year. However, they are very frequently in contact by e mail and phone between meetings. The minutes of our meetings can be found on the PC website.

The house leases allow for the rent to be increased in line with the RPI. The trustees reviewed the rent early in 2022 and increased it from £31.07 to £34.31 per month from 1st April 2022. The rents give the Charity an income of around £4,900 per year.

The Charity's accounts for the year to 31st March 2023 have not yet been finalised but its bank balances at 31st March were £11,080 (£16,796 at 31st March 2022). The reduction in funds reflects a deficit for the year due mainly to paying £9,490 for exterior re-decoration in July 2022.

The trustees are of the opinion that reserves need to be built up in order to be able to fund the expenditure on exterior redecoration (next due in 2027), miscellaneous unplanned expenditure, and an eventual major refurbishment of the car park.

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Mike Onassis has been the coordinator for the Neighbourhood Watch since October last year and reports that it is an National Charity to help reduce crime. He encourages all residents to sign up to the mailing list, he said it contains lots of information to help reduce crime and keeping our village safe <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/become-member>.

Community Car Scheme

The coordinator for the Community Car Scheme was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report.

Volunteer run scheme where driver takes Mattishall residents to medical appointments, time is given for free and small payment from passenger and rest of mileage claimed from Mattishall Parish Council.

We currently have 7 drivers but are always looking for more if anyone would like to volunteer.

It ranges from 4 drives to 10 or more per week, sometimes some weeks can be more.

Booking a week in advance is always advisable, but if a short notice appointment is given, I will do my best to find a driver.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.43 pm.

Appendix 1 Chair report

Parish Council Chair Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to our longest serving councillor, Richard Norton, who has decided not to stand at the election next week. The combined years of service of the remaining 8 councillors don't exceed by much the 40 years given by Richard.

This level of commitment to providing the essential background work, that keeps a community functioning, seems to no longer exist. Breckland has 90 parish councils, which have 636 seats. The bulk of elections are uncontested, in 2019 there were 526 candidates for these seats, an 18% shortfall. For the election next week there are only 478 candidates, a 25% shortfall. This means there will be an increase in the number of councils that can't operate, due either to a total lack, or insufficient number, of candidates.

Planning – Comments on all planning applications continue to be submitted to the local planning authority. However, these are only comments, whether they support, object or are neutral. The final decision is made by the District Council, or in some cases the Planning Inspectorate. As you may have noticed from the displays in this room, the Neighbourhood Plan, being over 5 years old, is being reviewed to ensure it continues to receive maximum weight in planning decisions.

Anti-social Behaviour – We suffered from an increase in both frequency and intensity of ASB. The council working with the police, residents and other relevant authorities, and an increased police presence for a while has resulted in an improvement in this situation for the time being. A more detailed report will be given later by a police representative.

Flooding – Last year, as with the previous year, the heavy rainfall, and its associated problems, of late 2020 weren't repeated. We continue to work on this with Norfolk County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, Anglian Water and others. Unfortunately, while the desire to address our problems, and those of many other parishes, seems to exist, the funding doesn't.

Open Spaces – We had hoped that the area designated as community space at the Denbury site would have been transferred to our ownership but the time of this meeting, but it's still currently wending its way through solicitors hands. The orchard and allotments at the site are due to be transferred later this year, along with funds to cover maintenance costs for the first 10 years of ownership.

Youth Club – The club continues to be popular and well attended and has been expanded with an additional session to cater for younger children. A more detailed report will be given later by a YMCA representative.

Events – we participated in the Remembrance Service, and had the annual Xmas tree lighting event, unfortunately this was not as well attended this year due to the world cup.

A very successful **Platinum Jubilee** celebration was held. A commemorative bench was purchased, with the help of a generous donation from a resident. A time capsule, supplied by a resident, was buried under the bench, the school participating in choosing the contents of the capsule.

A **Coronation** event is planned for 7th May, in partnership with the Sports & Social Club, and other community organisations.

General – We are pursuing the possibility of extending the 20mph speed limit to cover the Burgh Lane/Church Plain junction to include the narrow part of Mill Street where there is no footpath. We are working more closely with the other parishes within the Mattishall ward, and beyond, as necessary, on the problems that we have in common.

We are also endeavouring to work more closely with other parish/village organization.

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Page 4