

# **ANNUAL PARISH of DRAYTON MEETING DRAFT MINUTES**

held on Thursday 28th April 2022 at 7.00pm  
at The Pavilion, King George V Playing Field,  
Drayton, NR8 6AW

NB These minutes will be formally approved at the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

**Present:** Graham Everett (Chair of Drayton Parish Council), 9 members of the general public

**In attendance:** Sarah Hawken (Parish Clerk) acting as minute taker.

## **1. Welcome from the Chairman**

1.1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## **3. Reports from schools, groups and organisations within the Parish**

**Bob Carter Centre.** Report provided by the Chairman, Mr Jeff Anderson. Read on his behalf by Sarah Hawken.

This was a difficult year on account of the Covid19 pandemic with the Centre closed until April 21 allied to the inability to recharge the Drayton Leisure Club for running costs until they reopened in mid-May. However, by careful management of expenditure together with receipt of various grants, made available by the Government, a surplus of £198 was made which was a good result.

A good recovery has taken place but this did not happen overnight. It was well into the final quarter of the year before becoming well established and currently sports activities in the Centre are not far away from pre-Covid levels.

Again, this year, the charity needs to consolidate its position. A significant sum was spent on improving facilities during the years leading up to the pandemic. Hence there is not an immediate need to incur major improvement costs although there are plans in place to improve the squash courts which will take place in August.

An area of concern is the increasing rate of inflation covering mainly energy costs and staffing. However, trustees are confident steps taken are sufficient to address this problem.

Finally, can I thank the Centre manager, Mr. Ron Halliday, and his staff for their commitment and efforts which have been vital during the year in question.

**Drayton Village Hall.** Report provided by Carl Brown.

- Advertising for long term hirers for the year ahead and beyond.

- Consideration for the refurbishment of the kitchen over the next 12 months.
- Approach the Parish Council to discuss the possibility of a new defibrillator for the outside of the Village Hall. Prospect for training for the community.
- Village Hall Jubilee Celebrations on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.
- Looking to improve energy efficiency of the hall further.

**Drayton WI.** Report provided by Chris Rudling

- Successful year for the Drayton WI despite the impact of Covid. Keen to attract new members. Would like to work with other village organisations to advertise the activities of the WI and encourage new attendance. WI to launch a leaflet campaign to attract new members.
- Looking forward to supporting the Parish Council Jubilee Celebrations.
- Would be keen to help with small scale gardening and 'green' projects around the community of the next 12 months.

**Drayton Parish Council.** Chairman's Report provided by Mr Graham Everett.

The legislation allowing Parish Councils to hold meetings virtually ended in May 2021 therefore Drayton Parish Council (DPC) returned to meeting in person, first at Drayton Village Hall before moving back to the Pavilion at King George V (KGV) playing field as Covid restrictions eased. Over the last year the Parish Council have been able to improve the parking area outside the Florence Carter Memorial Park on School Road. We also had a Christmas tree with lights for the first time, with a switch on ceremony taking place on 1st December. Drayton Junior School choir attended the event which was the first time the choir had been able to perform in public for almost 2 years owing to the pandemic. Despite the inclement weather the event was well attended and DPC will repeat and enhance this event again this year. Nine years after the first public consultation the development at Manor Park has now started at pace with the first house expected to be occupied before the end of 2022. This development for 267 dwellings will be the largest in Drayton since Thorpe Marriott was built over 30 years ago. The Norfolk Homes site off Drayton High Road is moving towards completion probably in just over 12 months time. Development at Drayton Old Lodge, now known as 'The Lodge, Drayton' is progressing well and the first occupants have already moved in. Following staff changes Sarah Hawkins was appointed as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer in December 2021, Sarah has settled in well and has proved to be an excellent choice for this role. DPC is looking to appoint an assistant to the Clerk shortly. DPC has also welcomed 3 new councillors over the last year who will help the Council in their ambition to enhance the village of Drayton further.

**Looking to the future.** To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Parish Council will be holding a special community event at King George V playing field, on Drayton High Road on Thursday 2nd June, starting at 6.30PM. The evening will conclude when we join in with the national Beacon Lighting Ceremony at 9.45 PM and the singing of the National Anthem. Please see the full details on DPC Facebook page and the banners around the village. It would be great to see many Drayton residents there and it will give you an opportunity to meet with the Parish Council staff and councillors. DPC is looking to make improvements to the area known as 'Green Lanes' off Low Road which goes down to the river Wensum. This will include upgrading the boardwalk, the provision of new benches and resurfacing the car park

area. This area is really worth a visit. Another ambitious of the Parish Council is to improve the play equipment and facilities at the King George V playing field. We would also like to provide some type of outdoor recreation equipment. Please contact Sarah, DPC clerk if you have any suggestions. DPC will shortly be producing it's own newsletter so look out for this dropping through your letterbox soon, Finally, I wish to thank councillors and staff for their support throughout the year and we look forward to engaging with the residents of Drayton going forward.

Mr. Martin Chapman. Drayton Parishioner. Raised the following points:

- Expand the use of the King George playing Field (Refresh tennis courts, allow dog owners). Increase events/facilities including summer fetes, BBQ's, Bonfire night, improve children's play area, zip wire, quiz n chips nights.
- Create a footpath to allow access to Drayton Woods from Bidewell Close somewhere near the caravan site or even the mobile home park.
- Create a Woodland Walk between the back of Drayton Old Lodge and Green Lanes and continue down into the village centre behind the Norfolk Homes site.
- Build a bridge across the Wensum so that the Green Lanes footpath joins up with Marriott's Way.
- Publicise the location of the defibrillators around Drayton.
- Improve communication particularly using social media.
- Suggestion for a 'Welcome to Drayton' pack for the multiple new residents coming to the area.

**The Chairman thanked all for attending.  
Meeting closed at 8:08pm**