

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD TUESDAY 26TH APRIL 2023 AT 7.30PM
IN MARSTON ST LAWRENCE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Richard Gale (Chairman of PC), Cllr Goodwin, Cllr Lindop, Cllr Moller, Cllr Piper-Elsey, Cllr Scott, Cllr Skermer, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and three villagers

1. To receive Apologies

Cllr Piper-Elsey, Cllr Moller, the Police, Cllr R Breese, Cllr R Herring and Cllr R Solesbury-Tims

2. To receive a report from South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team

There was no report as the police were called away to deal with other urgent matters happening in the north of the county.

3. To receive a report from the WNC Unitary Authority

There was no report.

4. To receive a summary of the unaudited finances for year ending 31st March 2023

Income is £4187.00 and expenditure £2956.00. There is a new lighting supplier (YU Energy) who keep requesting meter readings. There has been no lighting invoice since January. The precept was increased as electric costs may be high. There will be a surplus of £1200.00.

5. To receive an update on 'The Marston Inn'

The Chair has tried to make contact with Hook Norton Brewery but heard nothing. He will continue to try and reach them. The planning application has many conditions attached.

6. To receive village reports from:-

✓ *Village hall – Chris Skermer*

The hall is going from strength to strength. There are dance and pilates classes. People travel from as far as Northampton to attend the craft class. Other hirers include billiards, Dolly Mixture and Table Tennis. Village bars are held and thanks was given to the Chair. The weekends are kept free for family parties. It provides a facility for the community. The VHC are currently saving for an extension to create extra storage space.

✓ *Dolly Mixtures - Joyce Scott*

They have once again enjoyed a very varied and interesting year in Dolly Mixtures.

In March they attended the amazingly heart wrenching performance "Born For This" in Marston Church which re-enacts the Crucifixion & Resurrection, by the pupils of the Blessed George Napier School, under the direction of Tim Wilson.

Other talks included an interesting talk by Stephen Goodwin about "Regenerative Farming". An informative and amusing talk on the myths and etiquette of "Afternoon Tea". Always a very interesting talk by Martin Sirot-Smith – dressed as Lawrence Washington, Lord of the Manor of Sulgrave & Stuchbury. He told of the history of the Wool Trade. John Sheppard from Greatworth talked about and illustrated with slides his trip to India to photograph tigers and to the Arctic to see Polar bears and walrus.

They enjoyed outings – a meal at the Inn, Greatworth, a tour around the Goodwin's farm on a seated trailer, on a beautiful June evening. A garden party not at Culkein for a change – this time at the home of Brenda Hope.

And other meetings included our now annual Harvest Supper – the first time post Covid when we had 31 members & guests, and were entertained by Nigel, Richard & Rachel; a Craft evening, and a Christmas Social.

As you can see they enjoy a varied programme and they would love to see new members.

✓ *Cricket Club – Dave Scott*

The Cricket Club were League Champions in 2022 which was the second time in league history. The last time being 2018. There are two adult teams in 2023 with entry into the League cups, Wardington cup, Peter Strong Cup and mid week league.

Junior training takes place on Thursdays. There will be matches for U11's and U13's.

Everyone is welcome to watch on Saturdays at 1.30pm. All are welcome to help with ground preparation and the facilities. There are two gaps in the tea rota on 15th and 29th July. There are opportunities for match sponsorship on 24th June, 15th July, 29th July and 5th August.

This is your club so please get involved.

The Chair spoke about food costs and whether the tea costs were the correct price. Rules are set for a maximum price for tea. Prices have not been put up in a while and tea is part of the event and expected.

✓ *Billiard Club – Maurice Skermer*

The Croughton League is rather truncated since lockdown, but Marston still has two teams playing in it. The A Team has Phil Walker, David Wiggins and Terry Annable all brought up in the village. The team won the league title and the Sid Willis knockout Cup last season. David Wiggins won the over 50's knockout cup and received an award for the highest break of 75.

The B Team is the strongest team – holding up the League, but also provides the Chairman and Treasurer of the League, one living in the village. We enjoy our games in the very decent set up of the Billiard Room and seek to continue.

✓ *Table Tennis Club - Mick Scott*

In the last twelve months the Table Tennis has been going well. There is talk of a third table. Payments were discussed as they are down on the previous year.

✓ *Church – Mick Scott*

The Church have been struggling to get numbers back since Covid. There is a Benefice Service on 30th April. The early morning services take place on the 2nd Sunday.

They are the best attended. The building is in good form. A few maintenance jobs are required. It was lovely to see the recent wedding and good singing.

✓ *Bell Ringing – Richard Gale*

This is going well. There are nine bell ringers. The Chair is the Tower Captain. There has been a vast improvement in the last 12 months. Two children have come back. Its difficult to recruit and some learners are not lasting very long. The Church is hosting the Diocese AGM on 10th June.

✓ *Clay Pigeon Shooting*

The Marston Marders are going well.

7. Guest Appearance – Thomas Pymfrey MDCLXXXIV (1684)

Thomas Pymfrey made a guest appearance and is safe and well.

8. Other matters to discuss

➤ *The Kings Coronation Celebrations*

A bring your own picnic will be held on the cricket field with games. Tables can be borrowed from the hall but villagers will have to bring their own seating. The hall can be used if the weather is wet. The Coronation Concert on the Sunday night could be shown in the hall if there is enough interest. There will be an evening ring on the Saturday night at 7.30pm. After cricket, people will be invited to chime a bell. On the Monday people could volunteer to tidy their own areas such as the village hall, church and cricket pavilion.

9. Open Forum

The recent litter pick was mentioned. An engine was found and will be picked up by a local farmer.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall

There being no other business the meeting finished at 8.15pm.