

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes of 15th May 2023, 7.00 pm, held at the Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs: R. Apps [RA], G. Godfrey (chairman) [GG], J. Harrison [JH], L. Ingham [LI], C. Ward [CW], and P. Ward [PW].

Total members of the public: 1 and County Councillor Cloke

Also in Attendance: T. Newby (newly appointed Clerk)

- 1. Welcome and consider apologies.**
- 2. Declaration of Interests, Pecuniary and other.** None
- 3. Approve Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.** These were approved as an accurate record. Signed by GG, all in agreement.
- 4. To receive a report from the Chairman covering the activities of the Parish Council:** The Chairman reported;

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 June 2022, the Parish Council has continued to operate on the principle of holding Council meetings every alternate month. Meetings of the Parish Council were held in June, July, October, and December 2022 and then in February and April 2023. The Parish Council has benefited from a nearly-full complement of Councillors (6) with a near-100% attendance at its meetings.

The Local Council elections took place earlier this month, and provided the opportunity for the village to elect a new Parish Council. Disappointingly, the only people to put themselves forward to act as Parish Councillors were the previous 6 Councillors. The membership of the Parish Council will therefore be unchanged, and there remains a vacancy for a Councillor. It is hoped that someone will come forward to fill that vacancy.

At the beginning of April 2023, the Parish Council appointed a professional Parish Clerk. Previously, the role had been filled by volunteers, but no volunteer was forthcoming to take over this role. Although there is a financial cost to the Council, there will also be advantages arising from the appointment of a professional Parish Clerk, particularly in terms of protocols and policies.

Apart from the routine business of the Parish Council (comprising, for example, reviewing Planning Applications, installing the Vehicle Activated Sign on Top Road and monitoring the results, monitoring the condition and safety of the Play Area), the actions of the Parish Council over the past year have included:

- Pursuing the “Quiet Lanes” initiative, resulting in all the roads in the village, apart from Top Road/Ringsfield Road, now being designated as “Quiet Lanes”.
- In order to assist with Suffolk County Council’s “net zero 2030” carbon target, the Parish Council undertook a project to create thermal images of houses in the village, in order to assist homeowners to identify where heat was being lost. Regrettably,

only 12 houses in the village participated in this project, but useful information was obtained by the homeowners regarding how to reduce their carbon footprint.

- Continuing to investigate ways of dealing with the HGV and speeding problem on Top Road/Ringsfield Road, and undertaking some additional initiatives.

The Parish Council made an estimate of the likely costs of employing a Parish Clerk, which was reflected in the increased Council Tax for 2023-2024. Given the uncertainty as to what the actual costs associated with the employment of a Parish Clerk will be, the Parish Council intends to take a cautious approach to expenditures for the remainder of the current financial year. The Parish Council does, nevertheless, hope to make further progress on the initiatives to deter speeding on Top Road, which may involve some significant expenditures.

At the current time, the Parish Council has not identified any additional projects to undertake during 2023-2024 but will continue with its routine business.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors: Judy Cloke did not get the District Councillor position in the elections this month, she will continue as County Councillor for another 2 years. County Councillor Judy Cloke reported on the following:

6. Public Opportunity for Questions to the Councillors.

RA acknowledged a thank you to all the work Judy Cloke has done and will continue to do.

Being there was no more business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.25.