

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting Monday 30 November 2020, 7.00 p.m., held remotely via Zoom

1. Welcome.

Three Parish Councillors (Gerald Godfrey (GG), Andy Spinks (AS) and Rod Apps (RA) were present. There were two members of the public present (Martin Parry and Lea Ingham)

2. Apologies for absence.

There were apologies for absence from Jacqui Harrison.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1 July 2019.

These Minutes were confirmed as being correct, and will be signed by the Chair when restrictions resulting from the pandemic allow for this to be done.

4. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council.

The Chair reported that the Parish Council had continued to meet on a regular basis since the time of the last Annual Parish Meeting in July 2019, and that since March 2020 this had been on a 'remote' basis using Zoom. The view of the Parish Council was that conducting meetings by Zoom had worked well.

The Chair further reported that the routine activities of the Parish Council had proceeded almost as normal, both before and during the pandemic, including: reviewing Planning Applications; installing the Vehicle Activated Sign and reporting the results from that; liaising with the group dealing with the impact of the Beccles Southern Relief Road regarding traffic flows in villages affected, including Ilketshall St. Andrew; dealing with various queries relating to the roads in the parish; dealing with queries regarding the listing of structures of architectural and historical interest in the parish; pursuing the "Quiet Lanes" initiative, etc.; monitoring the condition and safety of the Play Area, and arrangements for an annual safety inspection.

5. Future activities

This part of the meeting spent most of the time discussing ways of enhancing the involvement of parishioners in the activities of the Parish Council.

It was noted that despite a notice regarding the Annual Parish Meeting having been circulated to all households in the village, just **two** members of the public joined the meeting. This was despite the fact that people could join the meeting by means of an electronic device, and did not need to go to the Village Hall.

It was further noted that there were approximately 230 registered electors within the village. Of those 230 people, perhaps around 80 people were, or had been at some point in the past, involved in one or more of the village institutions (the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee, the Land Management Company, the Commoners' Association and the

Parochial Church Council) or else were not in sufficiently good health to participate. The point was made that there were therefore 150 people in the village who had not, and did not, participate in any of the village institutions. It was pointed out that it was absolutely **not** the expectation that people **should** participate in the village institutions; it was entirely their choice as to whether to do so or not, but the viability of the institutions was dependent on some greater participation. In the context of the Parish Council, just **three** people willing to devote a couple of hours per month as Councillors would raise the number of Councillors to the intended number (seven).

Discussion took place around a number of possible initiatives that could take place in order to increase the number of Councillors. It was concluded that many of these possible initiatives had already been attempted, with zero effect. Successive appeals for additional Councillors via Newsletters from the Parish Council had, in particular, resulted in **no-one** coming forward or even wanting to obtain additional information.

It was pointed out that without any evidence of interest in the activities of the Parish Council, and without any additional people wishing to become involved as Councillors, the members of the Parish Council were – by definition – wasting their time. It was further pointed out that unless greater involvement could be secured, the Parish Council would, inevitably, cease to exist.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.