



## Creeting St Mary Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held online via Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday,  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr S Haynes - *Chairman*

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs J Blackburn - *Clerk*

11 members of the public / invited representatives

### **CSMAPM01/20/21 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman of Creeting St Mary Parish Council, Cllr Sue Haynes, welcomed those present.

### **CSMAPM02/20/21 - APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from S Brooks (WI) and D Primmer (Welfare Charities)

### **CSMAPM03/20/21 - MINUTES 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019**

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

### **CSMAPM04/20/21 – REPORTS RELATING TO THE VILLAGE**

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and, where received, their reports are attached to these Minutes.

- a) **Creeting St Mary Parish Council** – *Cllr Sue Haynes*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Haynes thanked Cllr Craggs and Cllr Plummer for setting up the Covid-19 Village Volunteer group on WhatsApp and also thanked the Clerk for her continued hard work throughout the year.

- b) **Suffolk County Council** - *Cllr Matthew Hicks*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Hicks explained that his annual report had been written back in March, before the Coronavirus breakout which meant that some of its content either had been put on hold or rearranged.

He reported on the following issues:

- Suffolk 20/20 Fund – difficult to say what Suffolk County Council (SCC) could do when they had spent more money than what they had.
- Street Lighting – SCC were going to invest in replacing all street lighting with new LCD lighting systems which in turn would be more cost efficient. The project, along with others, would continue to be implemented, but when was unknown at the current time.
- Highways – Closure of roads – Creeting St Mary had been the worst for recent street closures
- Parking Tickets – these had now changed within Suffolk, with little enforcement possible with current resources. Parking tickets had been therefore moved to the remit of the District Council.

- Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service in Suffolk had been rated 'Good' with it being one of the top in the County.

c) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr Mike Norris*  
(full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Norris was asked about funding from Mid-Suffolk to which he replied that applications could be made by local groups to access his locality budget funding. It was noted that Mid Suffolk had made good progress with grants such as access to Needham Market Station and to the lake. Cllr Norris explained that the proposed Visitor Centre project would not now commence until next year.

d) **Village Hall Management Committee** – *Chris Bingley*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Bingley reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had received an offer for grant funding for the proposed new heating system, from Biffa. The funding expected from them, along with other approved funding should cover the full cost.

e) **Welfare Charities** – *Dave Primmer*  
(Full report available to view on the website)

Mr Primer was not present at the meeting but his report had been circulated.

f) **Village Newsletter** – *Joan Hardingham*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Hardingham reported that the Newsletter was a significant part of the village and with new housing being built within the village was a way to inform people of what the village had to offer, and to share information.

g) **Village Website**

The Clerk explained that the website had recently changed host to Suffolk iCloud and that Alastair Rogers had been a great help with the transfer.

h) **Village Primary School** – *Mark Matthewson*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Hartley stated that bees had been building nests within the school grounds and every year local residents comment on it. It was felt that the school needed to look into that for the future. Mr Matthewson confirmed he would bring it to the attention of the school staff.

Mrs Hardingham asked Mr Matthewson if more information could be sent for the Newsletter each time it was being collated as the school was a large part of the village community, to which he replied that again, he would bring that to the attention of the school staff.

i) **Village WI** – *Shirley Brook*  
(Full Report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Brook was not present at the meeting.

j) **Social Club** – *Kathryn Martin*

Mrs Hardingham reported what a good job the Social Club were doing and thanked them.

k) **Blacksmiths Field** – *Cllr J Palmer*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Palmer explained that the next phase of the play equipment was to be explored, with a Trim Trail as part of the plan. They consisted of five pieces of separate equipment for arm exercises and leg exercises. The equipment would be sited along from the entrance to the field and could be used by the exercise class that uses the field in the Summer months.

l) **Parochial Church Council – Glynis Clint**

Mrs Clint reported that Reverend Payne had been given the title of Rector and had been given 10 beneficiaries.

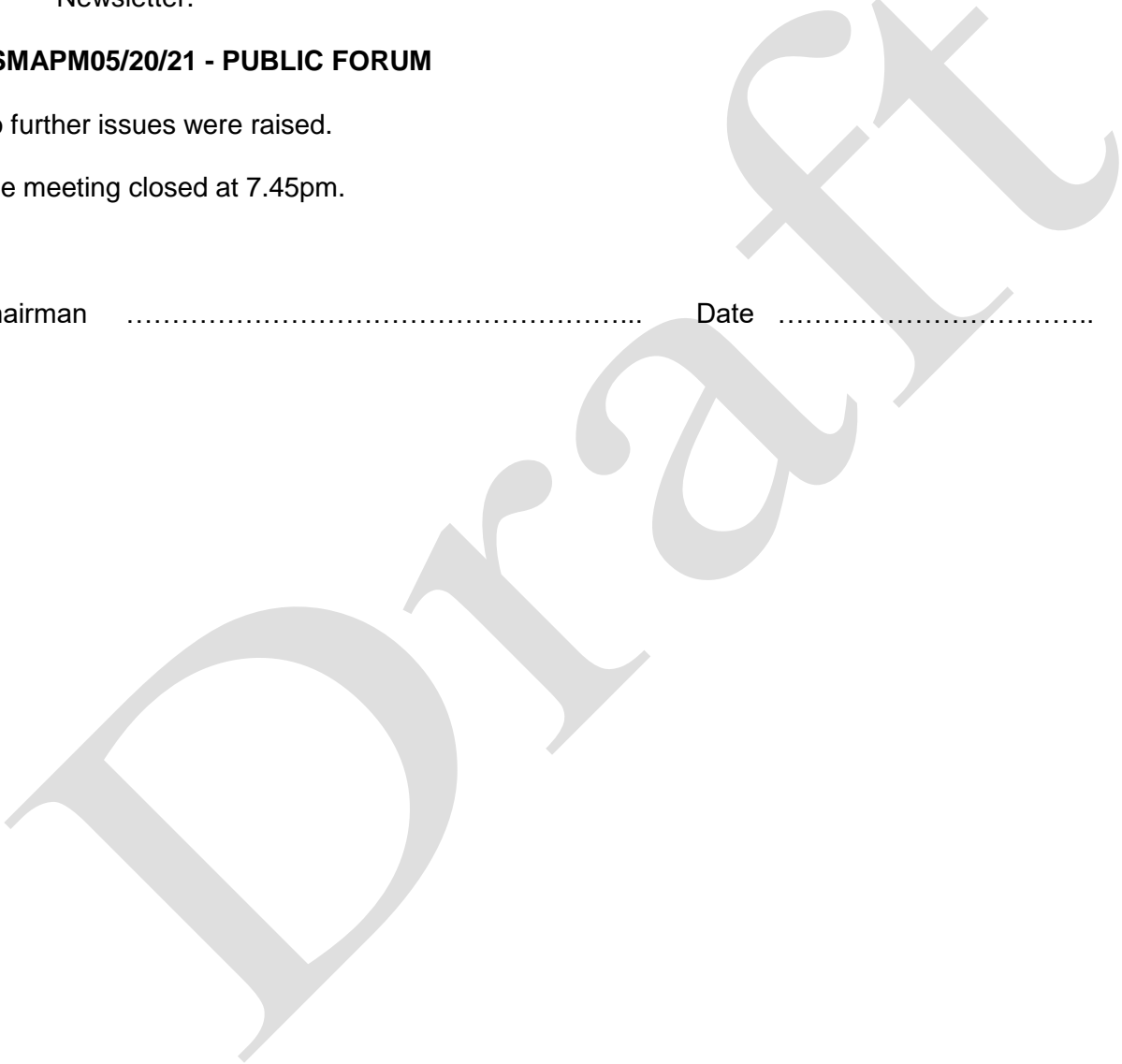
Mrs Hardingham asked if the information could be sent to her for the next edition of the Newsletter.

**CSMAPM05/20/21 - PUBLIC FORUM**

No further issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....



## Chairman's Report.

Good Evening All and Welcome.

This 'Parish Council Year' hasn't quite had the planning application domination as last year but, for the last three months, we have been in Lockdown, due to the corona virus. This has meant our last meetings have been held via Zoom and we haven't carried out some of the projects we intended. Hopefully, they will be furthered at a later date.

Prior to this, thanks to the generosity of Mark Euston, a defibrillator has been installed in the red kiosk at Jack's Green. Paul Scully has had a footpath map made and installed in the kiosk with information on local walks. Thankyou Paul. Unbelievably, one day, the old, redundant, kiosk at the Hall disappeared, just as a use had been thought of for it.

A new noticeboard, made by The Men's Shed has been installed at Jack's Green, the old one removed and recycled elsewhere. Thanks once again, to Paul Scully for this, helped by the late David Squirrell, who will be sadly missed.

Jack's Green also has the solar powered vas speed activated machine. The other one in All Saints Rd was removed by a builder and has yet to be re-installed by him. In future we will be looking at a Community Speed Watch scheme

The Community were, very generously, donated a quantity of tools from Bosch. These are for use around the Village. In order to keep them in a secure place, we have purchased a container. This is sited in the car park behind the Village Hall. After Lockdown it's other uses will be discussed and organised. SCC have handed over the care and cutting of grass areas and verges to the PC. It has been decided areas that are not causing a footway problem will only be cut in Autumn, to help the wildlife.

A new website has been set up for the Village. I would like to thank Alistair Rogers for all his work on the old one over the years.

The Parish Council is in the process of taking over an area of land, running from Flordon Rd to Needham Lake, called The Wildwood. At the moment we are sorting out the legalities. Hopefully, a volunteer group can be set up to care for it. After Lockdown!

In the Autumn we were donated 150 trees by Suffolk Wildlife. My thanks to Hugo Craggs and William Barnes for organising the distribution of these and for doing a lot of the planting around the Village.

We still have Cil monies. Some has been used to purchase the container; more to help the Hall with its new heating installation. Blacksmith's Field equipment is another one ear-marked.

My thanks to all the Councillors who have worked hard throughout the year, and also to Joan Hardingham and Kathryn Martin for the successful publication of the Parish magazine particularly in these strange times.

Sue Haynes.

Chair, Creting St Mary Parish Council

# **Cllr Matthew Hicks 2020 Annual Report for the Thredling Division**

## **County Council approves budget to spend more on services for vulnerable residents**

On 13 February 2020, Suffolk County Council approved its annual budget. The Council will increase its spending power again this coming financial year, particularly in Children and Adult services, where demand continues to rise year on year. In 2020/2021, the Council's budget will rise to £556million which represents an increase of £37m (7.1%) from 2019/20. Children and Adult Services represent around 70% of the Council's overall spend. This year's budget is based on a 12-month financial settlement from government, rather than the three or four-year agreement which is usually offered. As well as addressing the need to maintain funding for key services, the Council will invest an additional £3.5m into two one-year programmes, the Suffolk 2020 fund (£3m) and a highways investment fund (£500k). The Suffolk 2020 fund will be used for projects that can deliver a real difference for local communities. The intention is to adopt good ideas covering more than one area of Suffolk, rather than having a number of small-scale projects. To qualify for the fund, projects must link to one of the following themes: carbon reduction, carbon offset, road safety, natural environment, built environment, innovation and use of technology. Each project must offer a clear return on investment through positive economic, social, or environmental impact. County Councillors can put ideas forward on behalf of their community and must seek the sponsorship of a Cabinet Member for consideration. Further details of the fund will be made available in due course.

The £500k highways investment fund will focus on improving the safety of pupils and parents travelling to and from school, by refreshing lines and cleaning and repairing signs in and around school zones. The funding is allocated for use within the 2020/21 financial year and looks set to benefit areas around many Suffolk schools, complementing the road marking renewal programme that is taking place as part of the move of civil parking powers. Suffolk Highways officers are developing a plan of how these extra works will be identified and delivered. Further information will be announced in due course. The setting of a balanced budget is never easy. Especially given the continuing financial challenges we have seen during the last few years in a number of our services.

It is right that we continue to focus our budget and resources where they will have the biggest impact. I am pleased to say this year our calls have been answered, at least in part. The provisional local government settlement for this year enables the Council to set a budget for 2020/2021 that will see no change to current service levels over and above those planned through our ongoing transformation programmes. Unfortunately, however, as we are only getting a 12-month settlement, we lack the longer-term certainty needed to deal with the large departmental budgets that we manage including Children and Adult Services. We are therefore taking the measured decision to raise council tax by 1.98 per cent and implement a 2 per cent rise in the Adult Social Care Precept, which is ring-fenced for use within our highest demand service.

## **New street lighting proposed to reduce the county's carbon footprint**

Suffolk County Council is looking to reduce its carbon footprint by investing £9.8m in street lighting, after Cabinet approved an LED street lighting replacement project on 25 February 2020.

Following a review of its street lighting policy in 2010, and with energy prices set to increase at between 8% and 12% a year, the Council has decided the high energy consumption of its existing lanterns could create further pressure on its resources in the near future. The Council owns and maintains over 60,000 street lights. Back in 2010, the Council took numerous steps to help reduce both the energy costs and carbon footprint of its lighting stock. This included the introduction of part-night lighting arrangements and conversion to LED for those lighting units that were consuming the highest level of energy. The proposal to convert the remaining street lighting stock to LED will help to reduce both Suffolk's energy consumption and carbon footprint, whilst providing crisper illumination of the streets for residents. The project will also ensure that Suffolk remains resilient to any future energy price increases. The project will be completed in the autumn of 2022.

We recognise the importance of our environment in Suffolk and the impacts of climate change. Where possible, we want to ensure that we protect and enhance the natural environment, decrease carbon emissions and reduce the use of scarce resources for the well-being of future generations and the natural world.

Initiatives such as this are important in helping us to achieve that aim. We will be replacing almost 43,000 lights with new energy-saving LED lanterns. This will save approximately 60% of our current energy bill which can be invested elsewhere. We will be able to reduce our carbon usage by around 80%, benefitting residents throughout Suffolk.

### **New permit scheme aims to address roadwork disruption**

On 28 January, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet gave the go-ahead for a new permit scheme that they hope will reduce delays on Suffolk's roads caused by roadworks. The introduction of a roadworks permit scheme for the county's roads will give Suffolk County Council's Network Assurance Team enhanced powers to place conditions on work carried out by utility companies and other organisations, including Suffolk Highways. At present, public utilities simply need to inform Suffolk County Council of the dates when they are planning to do their works. Under a permit scheme, they would have to ask for permission and the council can either approve, refuse or amend their request as they see fit. Applicants would also have to pay a fee when applying for a permit to do roadworks. The cost will vary depending on the duration of the proposed work, the strategic importance of the affected road, and the time of day the work is due to take place. If roadworks occur outside of the peak congestion periods, the fee could be reduced. The permit scheme is used successfully elsewhere in the country and there is typically a reduction in congestion on the network. A permit scheme will provide more power to control proposed roadworks. It places responsibility on the applicant to better plan their work. I hope a permit scheme could reduce the impact of that work on the road network and our residents. A permit scheme should result in less disruption and less time that vehicles spend in traffic/delays. Consequently, there should also be a reduction in fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Department for Transport, other counties that have run a permit scheme have seen a reduction in disruption and so we will endeavour to ensure those who live, work and visit our county also benefit. There will be a cost to the local authority to administer the permit scheme because they will need to recruit additional staff and amend existing software to cater for permits. However, the costs associated with the additional work involved will be recovered through the fee income associated with the scheme, making it cost neutral. The permit scheme will be in place from 1 April 2020.

### **Date agreed for plans to tackle Suffolk's parking problems**

In January 2020, it was announced that councils in Suffolk will take on responsibility for local parking management from 6 April 2020. Traditionally, roadside parking offences were a matter for the Police. However, parking has become a lower priority for them, so Suffolk County Council is transferring this responsibility to local district and borough councils under a process known as civil parking enforcement, or CPE. This means each council will be responsible for issuing parking fines, warnings and notices in their area, although a deal has been struck by Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils to have their parking enforced by Ipswich and West Suffolk officers. A consistent approach is being planned across the whole county, meaning fines will be the same, regardless of which authority manages parking in that area. Councils already manage public car parks in many towns and villages, so the changes make sense. Suffolk Constabulary is supportive of the move because the transfer of responsibilities will enable them to spend additional time on keeping communities safe and arresting and bringing offenders to justice. Moving the responsibility from the police to local councils requires that statutory notice is given in Parliament. The parliamentary order was laid on 9 January 2020. Civil parking enforcement powers will soon sit with our district and borough councils across Suffolk. It is essential in enabling our communities to have closer management of their local parking challenges. A lot of residents come to us with concerns that people parking in their towns and villages are becoming more inconsiderate, and something needs to be done about it. We agree, and as a result are committed to seeing these parking issues managed locally to ensure fair and safe parking for all. I very much welcome the cross-council collaborative working in order to deliver better parking for residents and those visiting Suffolk. Our colleagues will continue working together to ensure CPE is successfully launched and I look forward to seeing the benefits locally that these changes will bring.

### **Suffolk celebrates CQC success**

In January 2020, Care Quality Commission statistics showed that Suffolk is now top of the table for comparator local authority areas. In Suffolk, 89.04% of Adult Social Care locations are rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission, the standards agency for adult care.

When it comes to the national rankings, Suffolk is performing equally well. Ranked as third nationally for 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rated care locations, Suffolk shines out as a great area for adult social care. This is particularly impressive when it is considered that Suffolk has over 100 more adult social care locations than any of the other areas listed in the top ten. This is an incredible achievement and something that is worth celebrating. This to me, illustrates that Suffolk is a great place for Adult Social Care, with a wealth of care

providers who do fantastic work. There are of course, still areas where we can improve and I know work is continuing to raise standards where it is required, but I am confident that we are working hard to address any concerns. These results make me incredibly proud and grateful to our care providers for the fantastic way that we are caring for local people.

More information regarding the CQC ratings of local authority areas or individual care locations can be found on the Care Quality Commission website.

### **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service rated “Good” in Government inspection**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has undergone its most comprehensive, independent inspection in many years and has been rated as “Good” for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff. The findings come from a report published on 17 December 2019 by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Inspectors reviewed every aspect of the service, from how we respond to 999 emergencies, to looking at policies, and interviewing a wide range of firefighters and staff. The report praises many aspects of the service, particularly how well it collaborates with other emergency services and agencies, how it responds to fires and other emergencies, how it ensures fairness and promotes diversity, and the financially sound way the service is run.

### **The Hold topping out ceremony**

On 25 September, contractors R G Carter, along with senior officers from Suffolk County Council, the University of Suffolk, Ipswich Vision and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, celebrated the official ‘Topping Out’ of the new ‘The Hold’ building. Located on the campus of the University of Suffolk, within Ipswich’s unique and regenerating Waterfront, the building will house the majority of Suffolk’s nationally and internationally significant archives. More than just a new building, ‘The Hold’ project will also be the engine for a transformed, audience-focused Archives service reaching out to diverse communities in Ipswich, the county and the nation, through its activity and digital programmes, engaging people in new and exciting ways. We are delighted to have reached this exciting milestone in the project’s development. The Hold will not only transform our ability to care for and showcase our county’s records and collections, but it will also engage audiences right across the county, bringing local and nationally significant exhibitions to all Suffolk Archives branches, state of the art research facilities and more access than ever before to digital collections. The Hold is set to open its doors later in 2020.

**Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division**

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**REPORT FROM MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MIKE NORRIS TO CREETING ST MARY  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

Please find below a brief report on some of the areas that I have been involved in as one of your District Councillors during the past year.

Having been re-elected in the May 2019 District Elections, I was then appointed to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee, Development Control (Planning) Committee B, and the Suffolk Joint Standards Board, on Mid Suffolk District Council. I am also a Mid Suffolk councillor contact, being the Liberal Democrats spokesperson for Planning and Finance.

On the Joint Audit and Standards Committee we deal with such matters as monitoring and signing off both Internal and External Audit Reports and any related regulatory matters that may arise, and also the verification of Mid Suffolk's Annual Accounts and liaising with the External Auditors on any potential issues that are identified.

Development Control (Planning) has been an interesting experience over the past year with several quite contentious planning applications to consider, mainly driven by Central Government's requirement for increased housing allocations. The Coronavirus has also had an impact on the way in which Development Control Committee meetings take place and recent meetings have been held online via Skype, albeit with the usual invitations and opportunity for parish councils, objectors and supporters to participate, as is normal.

As a ward member I have been involved in a number of local issues on behalf of residents – for example I am a member of the local working group for the 'Access for All' project at Needham Market railway station. The Coronavirus situation has inevitably had an impact on the delivery of this project, as it has also on Mid Suffolk's Visitor Centre project at Needham Lake, which I am on the member working group for. The original intention was that the Visitor Centre should be open by the end of this summer season, however it now looks as if it will not now be operational until early spring next year.

Work on both of these projects is ongoing as far as is possible at this time.

Both District Cllr. Steve Phillips and I were pleased to be able to financially support Creeting St Mary Social Club and the Diamond Jubilee Village Hall Committee from our MSDC 2019/20 Locality Awards fund. 2020/21 Locality Awards scheme applications opened on 1<sup>st</sup> April and are available up to 31<sup>st</sup> December of this year, so if you are interested in submitting an application please contact either myself or Steve for an application form.

I hope that this gives you a flavour of some of the areas that I have been involved in – there are several other matters that I have been involved with, but I think this report is quite long enough already.

District Cllr. Mike Norris  
[mike.norris@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:mike.norris@midsuffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 01449 720871



## Creeping St Mary Diamond Jubilee Village Hall

I can report that our Hall had been in a good place, until the Lock Down commenced in late March. We had a good level of bookings, both regular users and party and event bookings. In particular a 4 day booking for the Public Enquiry, which was closed and then subsequently rebooked.

The Committee have been working steadily towards making a replacement of the Heating system in the Hall. This has been starting to become unreliable and in need of modernisation. Finding three estimates from companies compatible to the job was not easy and then we went into the area of grants. The situation now is that we are in a position to go ahead subject to the agreement by Biffa to our largest application. It will be an ideal time to get this work completed when the Hall is out of use and bookings will not be lost. We are hopeful that practically all of the costs will be covered.

We were sorry to miss out on the annual visit by Eastern Angles, which very unfortunately had to be cancelled just as the Hall was facing closure. A sub Committee has also worked hard to complete the updated Constitution and this is now in place. This was not an easy or straightforward procedure.

Mrs May Aldred remains in our employment and is receiving a very minimal monthly retainer while her services are in suspension.

I would like to thank our Committee for the work they have put in over the last year, both in the endeavours I have just mentioned and also in a practical sense where repairs have been made and maintenance undertaken at a good saving to our resources.

We hope that our Hall will be open again in the not too distant future, providing as it does a valuable village and community facility.

Chris Bingley (Chair)

Creeping St. Mary Newsletter

Report to the Annual Parish meeting of the Parish Council, May 2020.

Joint Editors: Joan Hardingham and Kathryn Martin

The CSM newsletter is issued 6 times a year from February. We are currently preparing volume 38/3. With a 20<sup>th</sup> of the month deadline, we endeavour to get it delivered before the beginning of the month of publication. 345 copies are currently printed but with extra housing in the village more copies may be needed. The last edition was increased to 40 pages as more and more people have been providing useful and interesting information and pictures about what is happening in the village.

Finances: Publishing costs £1,349.50; income from advertisers: £1,041; balance carried forward from 2019: £2451.11 so there is £2,142.61 to carry forward. While the advertising does not cover the printing costs we still have a healthy balance to cover the shortfall.

There are regular contributions from the Parish Council including reports from our District Councillors, from the Church, our MP and the village Social Club. Charitable organisations are well presented supporting the Church (this year it was the new roof) and Suffolk Wildlife Trust as are the clubs – the WI, Horticultural Society and welcome information comes from Citizens' Advice and Stow Vets. Other activities such social events in the Jubilee Hall and around the area are advertised and reported on as well as the bi-annual litter-pick. Village history and footpaths are featured and we attempt to keep the contacts page at the end up-to-date. One gap is any report from the Village Primary School – if anyone has the time to report on activities there, when it recommences this would be appreciated by many.

As might be expected this is a communal effort: Kathryn deals with the admin. side contacting contributors, the distributors and advertisers. Joan prepares the magazine using the Scribus publishing programme and it is published very promptly each time by Gipping Press. There is a small army of 11 distributors. We were grateful to the Parish Council, when Covid struck, for finding replacements for the deliverers who could no longer go out. They also speedily set up contacts for those needing help if affected by the current situation. We have a loyal number of local businesses advertising which provides the bulk of the funds for printing.

Joan Hardingham May 2020

## **Creeping St Mary Newsletter – Report to Annual Parish Meeting**

### **Income & Expenditure Account 2019/20**

	<b>2019/20</b>
	<b>£</b>
<i>Brought Forward</i>	2451.11
Income from Advertising	1041.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3492.11</b>
Printing Costs	1349.50
Other Costs	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1349.50</b>
<b>Carry Forward</b>	<b>2142.61</b>

The CSM Newsletter continues to be published and circulated FOC to all households in the village. This is due to the support of our loyal advertisers; the income from which still manages to cover printing costs.

Since our printers, Gipping Press, have, to date, made no increase in their charges, with other costs remaining nil advertising costs can remain unchanged for 2020/21.

**Jennie Blackburn**

# Creeping St Mary CEVAP School

The school has 101 children on its roll as of May 2020. It has 15 pupils in each year group, with one exceptional group of 16 due to twins in that year group. As with so many other businesses, the pandemic has presented the school with significant challenges.

On commencing lockdown, the school identified 28 children with a parent who is a key worker. The first morning had three children arrive, and on the second one, with no-one on the third. The school continues to have members of staff at school, in case a child should come. Staff are in a rota with strict social distancing observed. Throughout the lockdown, we had children attend when their parents required it.

As we face possibly reopening on 1<sup>st</sup> June, the headteacher has been contacting the parents of children in Reception, Years 1 and 6. They are trying to establish how many children might be coming back to school. The school is quite compact, and we will be looking to develop routes within, or around, it that keeps social distancing possible. Year 6 have missed their SATs, which will have been a relief to some and sad to others.

During the lockdown, the school has ensured that children who receive free school meals have been in receipt either of a food parcel or vouchers. We are looking at arrangements that might need to be in place over half term and the Summer holidays. The guidance from the Department of Education is fluid currently, as policy is being formulated on the go. Apart from ensuring the continuance in the provision of free school meals, the school has kept in contact with children and families. It is clear that the impact of the lockdown varies from family to family, and that it will take time for normality to return.

September is still some time off, and it is unclear how we will have to adapt if schools are to reopen fully. If social distancing is in place for the foreseeable future, the school will struggle due to space constraints. It is, however, too early to speculate on September.

Mark Mathewson  
*Chair of Governors*  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## **WI Report 2019-20**

A good year for Creting WI. We have had a variety of interesting speakers from The Hat Lady, Magda, with a wicked sense of humour had us all making a Corsage to a talk on Roadside Graves, who knew about these before? Not many of us.

We had Julie from The Lighthouse Refuge where we presented the speaker with a range of kitchen equipment for someone starting anew.

Our talk about Living in the Falklands was enlightening.

We had an auctioneer come and value our things, nothing of much value unfortunately, but very interesting.

Medical Detection Dogs came to speak – no dogs though but very informative.

The entertainment for our August meeting was kindly provided by Pam Primmer who managed to get most of us on the floor dancing, if you could call it that. Such fun and a good laugh for the spectators.

We have been out – Several of us went to SEFI AGM at Trinity Park. We listened to several speakers but the highlight of the day was a visit from Kevin from Grimsby [Strictly] who spoke about his several marriages and adventures in the dance world. We had a Birthday meal at The Cedars. A most enjoyable evening.

A Whitegates Farm visit for a tour round the farm with a chance to buy cheeses and meat. A garden party with prosecco and nibbles in Janet Mayels beautiful garden together with beautiful weather.

A Christmas lunch at The Limes, a good meal, lots of laughter and talk.

Caroline Barnes came and showed us how to make a successful table decoration or door wreath, more members attended than usual which was a nice surprise. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

One member volunteered to decorate the WI tree for the Christmas Tree Festival, it was beautiful. For our Christmas entertainment, we decided to change the date to January to make it a New Year meal. We had a 'Closed S', an evening buffet meal for members only. Most enjoyable and everyone approved of the change.

Our membership has gone up by one this year to 28. We did have a full programme planned but all speakers have been asked to come next year in the same month! We are hopeful that we will be back together one time this year.

Shirley Brook President Creting St Mary WI 2020

CREETING ST MARY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 20TH MAY 2020  
REPORT FROM SOCIAL CLUB

CSM Social Club had a successful and enjoyable year until we were brought to an abrupt halt, forcing the cancellation of two events at short notice. However we are still planning to resume as soon as we are permitted.

We started the year with 42 members and ended with 76. In May 2019 we helped with a pudding evening organised by William Barnes and Chris Bingley in aid of the hospice. In June a family barbecue was preceded by a display in the hall by Stonham Barns Birds of Prey centre for all the primary school children. In July and August two events on the field included games and food and raised funds for the Blacksmith's Field play equipment fund and for the charity 4Louis, supporting families affected by stillbirth.

In September we ran a quiz night and meal and in October the club ran the annual Harvest Horkey, advised by the usual hostesses Pam's Day and Primmer followed in November with a Firework Display sponsored by the Parish Council. Next was a folk concert by Martin Joseph which was a sell out. And to round off the year was a candlelit performance in the church of Dicken's A Christmas Carol by Antony Roberts, Director of Colchester Arts Centre and Jamie on the piano. This raised funds for the church roof and Jamie's music charity.

We started 2020 with an excellent Pancake lunch before lockdown hit. Earlier in the year we provided bar facilities for two private parties.

Financially all our events have at least covered their costs, and produced a modest profit for the club but our aim is not to make money but to provide a community service and bring people together, as well as helping charities with funds. We have improved the bar area and stockroom, and purchased a chiller, coffee machine and fridge. We have been fortunate to receive financial assistance from Cllr Hicks Community Fund, Needham Market District Council Locality grant, the PC, the Coop, and the Rural Coffee Caravan who attended several of our events. Practical help was given by Brian Day and also by the very hard working committee and of course by support of our events from the village.

Kathryn Martin Chairman.

## BLACKSMITHS FIELD ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2020

At this time the coronavirus lockdown has meant the play equipment in the field is out of bounds. However, walkers, joggers and dog walkers can still take advantage of this beautiful open space. The entrance to the field remains good. However, the hedge at the start of the footpath has been severely cut back which has exposed the ditch. A request has been made to erect a fence to protect children.

Some of the original equipment in the Play area has been identified as unsafe and quotations have been obtained to replace this. At the same time we have also obtained quotes for a trim trail. At the last meeting of the Parish Council the Sovereign estimate was accepted and it is hoped they will commence work by the middle of July. The Blacksmiths Field Play Equipment Committee will now be looking at fund raising for other items to improve the use of the field.

William Barnes, with a small working party, has been trying to eliminate the ragwort in the meadow in order to be able to cut, bail and sell the hay in the future. However, this is proving to be quite a task and he will continue to work on this problem throughout this year.

A donation was made to the village of Bosch garden equipment. The Parish Council have looked at the best way to keep this and also other item that the Village Hall and Social Club need to store. After discussion a container was agreed and this has now been placed in the car park.

A few saplings were planted in various spaces around the field, which are all doing well. The pond is looking healthy.

The number of dogs fouling the field has significantly reduced this year, but it is still not completely without incidents. It is hoped that people will continue to bring their dogs to the field, but be responsible and considerate to others.

There are various bird boxes around the field, including an owl box at the bottom.

The den building equipment is now very sparse and will need to be replenished.

The firework night was a success. However, with the uncertainty around social gatherings due to the coronavirus, a decision will be taken by the Parish Council in the summer as to whether this event will be allowed this year. If it does go ahead the Social Club have agreed to ensure further safety measures are put in place.

Cllr Jan Palmer