



1 Introduction

Good evening everyone and welcome to Cavendish Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting.

This is our Annual Parish meeting where we get to hear from the clubs, societies and organisations that operate in the village and also gives Cavendish electors the opportunity to ask questions relating to village affairs.

At the recent council elections, we as a council were returned in an uncontested election. Our Annual Meeting (our AGM) was held on the 8th May where we re-elected our officers and assigned councillor responsibilities.

Due to the recent merger of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath Councils to become the new District Council of West Suffolk, Cavendish ward has been incorporated into a new ward consisting of Clare, Hundon, Keddington, Cavendish and 5 other parishes, which means we have lost our previous Borough Councillor, Peter Stevens, to another ward. We thank him for all his work in the village.

We now have three new district councillors looking after our interests. Karen Richardson, Marion Rushbrook and Jim Meikle. Unfortunately they are all at the Clare Town Council meeting tonight so they can't be with us.

2 Apologies for Absence

We have 2 absent Parish Councillors, Danny Rowe and Trish Rudd.

Also absent and sending their apologies are Mary Evans, our County Councillor and as previously mentioned our three district councillors.

3 Approval of Minutes

We now go on to the approval of the minutes from the last APM held on May 2018.

4 Reports

5 Chair's Report

During the past year we co-opted Trish Rudd on to the committee in place of our retiring Chair Don Parker.

MEMORIAL HALL

In the summer we commenced re-furbishment of the exterior of the Memorial Hall beginning with the removal of part of the brick wall along the side of the Jubilee Room (Pre-school).

This gave the pre-school a larger play area and it also enabled us to access the wall to repair the crumbling pebble-dash rendering. This proved a bigger job than we had first thought and we ended up having to re-render two complete walls.

Finish painting will be completed this coming half term.

Next job was to repair the West gable roof verge. Another job where more work had to be carried out than was first anticipated. This is now complete.

We are currently having the front (south facing) gable re-rendered.

Planned work for the coming year is to re-roof the main entrance porch, repair the north gable fascia and re-surface the rest of the car park.

We currently have funds allocated to complete all this work and then hope to move on to the internal decoration of the hall.

In addition the hall floor has been sanded and lacquered and we have a new key safe for accessing the hall instead of the key being collected from the village shop.

PLANNING

We continue to review and comment on planning applications as part of the planning process. Ted and I are responsible for planning.

FOOTPATHS

We continue to monitor the state of Parish footpaths and report to the County and District councils when attention is required. Rosemary is our footpath delegate.

ALLOTMENTS

There are plots available for rent with no waiting list. Get in touch with Chris or Danny if you are interested.

ORCHARD

The orchard continues to be well looked after and remains a valuable asset to the village. We thank George Hardy for his good work.

CEMETERY

We have removed the bonfire site from the cemetery extension, and started to plant new trees. We had problems with grass cutting around summer time last year but we hope this has been resolved. Danny has taken on the responsibility for overseeing the cemetery up-keep. We hope to refurbish the grave diggers shed sometime soon and provide a new pedestrian access point into the extension.

NEW SPEED SIGN

We have recently replaced the old speed sign on Melford Road. This sign cost in the region of £3,000. We thank County Councillor Mary Evans and Borough Councillor Peter Stevens for their generous contributions from their locality budgets. The Parish Council met the shortfall but all donations would be gratefully received. We have a 6 year warranty on the equipment and after that period ownership and maintenance responsibilities will pass to the Parish Council.

6 Financial Report

These deal with the accounts to 31st March this year.

Receipts for the year amounted to £39,136.00, this consisted mainly of £24,500 in precept and grants, £6783 hall receipts, £2310 cemetery, £2072 VAT refund, £1059 donations and the balance being taken up by allotment receipts, hall meters and glass recycling (£655)

Expenditure for the year amounted to £41,809 and included £5,684 for grass cutting, tree services and waste disposal. £4,842 for street cleaning and general village maintenance. £15,095 on the Memorial Hall including the cost of external repairs, security and cleaning.

Meaning we had a deficit of £2,672.

As of the 31st March we had £27,436 in our current account and £9,358 on deposit totalling £36,795.

We had £14,704 allocated to the continued hall refurbishment and car park programme and £19,651 in reserve. The balance being taken up by monies allocated to Cavendish flowers and the Speedwatch team.

This year we set the precept at £24,100. Budgeting for £34,100 expenditure and using £10,000 of our reserve. That equates to a Parish Band D Council Tax of £57.40 an increase over last year of £3.07 or 5.65%