**HARPLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 23 May 2024**

Present: Councillors A Case, N Steed & J Pocklington.

County Councillor M Chenery.

8 members of the public

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Councillor C Alexandra-Kaye.
3. It was PROPOSED SECONDED and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2023.

Chairmans report: The Parish Council have met on 6 occasions in the past year. The minutes of these meetings are on the website and can also be obtained from the Clerk.

Some minor maintenance work on the equipment was carried out in the play area in the past year following the inspection report, and some of the overgrown shrubs and small trees were cut back.

Further work is required to cut back the hedges and larger trees this year when the nesting season is over.

This year the Council are replacing the signs in the play area and are hoping to work with the school to make the signs more user friendly.

During the past year the Council have been working with Norfolk County Council highways on several issues in the village including the flooding which has been an ongoing problem.

Work has been carried out in Nethergate Street which has helped to see some improvement.

Several site meetings have taken place with County Highways to approve the locations for the SAM speed monitoring unit to be located and these have now been approved and we are awaiting the installation of the posts.

The website was due a technical update this year as it was 5 years old, and this work has now been completed. The new website is up and running.

During the past year we lost our Clerk Caroline Boyden and our new Clerk Maxine Hayes joined us in June.

At the budget meeting last November the Council agreed to keep the precept at the same amount for the forthcoming year, and the amount of £11,400 was carried forward into this financial year.

Following the elections last May the Council had 2 vacancies and since then with a further resignation there are now 3 vacancies on the Council. It is proving difficult to fill these vacancies despite putting the information on the notice board and website and talking to residents.

This does make the running of the Council difficult with so few councillors to help with the workload.

If you are interested in joining us please either contact one of the councillors, or the Clerk for further information.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the Clerk for all their hard work over the past year on behalf of the village.

1. Borough Council report – circulated available from the Clerk
2. County Councl report – circulated available from the Clerk
3. Village Hall, Harpley School & Community Car Scheme Annual Report – available from the Clerk
4. Open Forum – No questions

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.