

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Monks Eleigh Village Hall at 7.00pm
on Monday 14th March 2022

Present:

Cllrs– Patti Derry Chairman, Victoria Keitley-Webb, Alan Braithwaite, John Newton and Elizabeth Evans

County Cllr Robert Lindsay and District Cllr Bryn Hurren

In Attendance:

Mrs L Rogers - Clerk

20 members of the public attended

1/22 Apologies

Cllr Angela Forrest, Cllr Will Sykes, Barry Charnley, Mike Birt, Jane and David Whitehead, Daniel Swansborough

2/22 Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the meeting held on 24th May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed. Proposed by Diane Swansborough and seconded by John Naylor

3/22 Cllr Robert Lindsay

Traffic calming and lower speeds - I am pleased to say that at earlier last year Highways did paint 30mph roundels at each end of the High Street using my locality budget. This is by no means a full solution to the problem of traffic but will help a little.

After much pressing I am told Bildeston will get a first draft design of its 20mph limit by the end of March and I'm very pleased to say that the application I supported for Lavenham's 20mph scheme has been successfully approved.

Foodbank expands to meet greater demand - This group, which evolved out of the Bildeston community support group during the first lockdown is now supporting 15 families (down from 18 a year ago) this would have been lower but for the heating cost crisis which many people are now struggling with. Donation boxes continue at both Monks Eleigh and Hitcham. Separately a Heating Bildeston project which I have been supporting is in its early stages which seeks to use bore holes and heat pumps to heat water in the village that can be piped to residents and replace the need for oil tanks.

Public transport - I'm pleased to hear that GoStart, operators of the 112 bus, that the parish council, me and Bryn have been supporting have been shortlisted for the High Sheriff's Award. Budget - As always there is never enough money to do what we would like the councils to do. Council tax contributes less than 50% of the revenue for Suffolk. There is a crisis in social care staff, with many leaving to take up other careers, triggered by a combination of low pay and poor work related benefits and status. The Greens wanted to see more going towards social care, but our amendment was voted down by Suffolk Council. Suffolk Biodiversity Recommendations There is a growing consensus that biodiversity is of major importance since species are disappearing so fast. After Conservatives backed a Green motion for increased biodiversity a year and a half ago, the cabinet in February approved plans to enhance the biodiversity value of at least 30% of its land by 2030. This was after many lengthy meetings of a cross party panel on which I sat. Other recommendations include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, phasing out glyphosate by 2023 and developing nature-based flood management solutions. For more information, visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/councils-commitment-to-further-enhancing-suffolks-natural-environment>

Cycling plan for Suffolk starting to come to fruition. Nearly four years ago (July 2018) I successfully introduced a motion to draw up a prioritised, costed list of cycle routes across Suffolk. As a result, in

June 2020 Suffolk's Cabinet approved a 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk, which identified 148 potential routes to be prioritised. That list was passed on to Babergh to amend and improve and a more refined list of 87 "active travel projects" just for Babergh is about to be published for the next Babergh cabinet meeting in April. Babergh and Suffolk are also working together on "Travel Behaviour Change" in order to encourage people to leave their car at home. But I don't expect much to happen here without big investment from Government.

4/22 District Councillor Bryn Hurren Firstly the budget news is that the District Council is increasing Council Tax by 2% this year. This seems quite small as it only amounts to 29p per week and £3.40 per year, but bearing in mind that Babergh only keeps just under 9% of what we have to collect and others are asking for slightly bigger increases, it is likely that we will have to bear an overall increase in council tax rates of just over £60 per household this coming year. Also please bear in mind that local government receives no central funding from national government whatsoever any more and in the case of Babergh we fund all of our activities and duties with a mixture of your council tax (under 50%) new homes bonus, new business rates, the solar panel scheme, cifco and other investments and whatever charges that we can make for our services. At about £3.50 per week band D household, I do maintain that your District Council remains good value for money for all that we do and we do not reward failure or awkward knighthoods to those who let us down. I would also state from personal experience that all our accounts and services are thoroughly audited and to the best of my knowledge all of your hard earned tax is wisely spent and not wasted. Everything that we spend goes through a visible procurement process and in almost all cases we award contracts to local firms and increasingly provide services from in house. I make no comment whatsoever here about what happens currently at national level. It has been once again a year largely dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic and we have done well to deal with all the monies sent down from national government to distribute to local business and infrastructure and also to keep all our own services functioning and on the road. We owe a lot to our very dedicated staff who have had to adapt to periods of home working which has been difficult for some, particularly for younger team members who were used to working as part of a team. Councillors have also had to get used to remote contact and meetings and as much as I hate Zoom, it has proved very useful for quick contact and I have adapted well and no longer have to shout you're on mute so much. We remain at Babergh, landlord to nearly 4,000 tenants and have increased our housing stock recently, despite the governments RTB still being in operation and haemorrhaging some houses each year, we have done this through buying stock from windfall sites and becoming landlord to them, instead of housing associations, such as here in Monks Eleigh. Despite this we are facing the greatest shortage of housing ever as a local housing authority. The present governments build, build, build policy has done us no favours whatsoever. All it has achieved is cheaper housing for those who already had expensive ones, a greater strain on our public services and infrastructure from an increased number of houses (not necessarily more populous) and an ever increasing demise of our greenbelt and farmland. Our Tree for life scheme has once again been a success this year and across Babergh/Mid Suffolk has attracted over 400 recipients across the area from parents of newborns, we hope that this scheme as well as providing and producing more trees will raise more awareness amongst communities and the young about climate change and nature. We have this past year converted our fleet of vehicles to run on HVO (hydrated vegetable oil) to decrease our vehicle emissions very drastically and have tried where possible to install air source heat pumps to our rented properties and leisure centres. Also almost half our properties were fitted with solar panels back in 2014/15 which earns us about £350,000 per year in FITs as well as providing tenants with cheap power. I seem to have been very active these past three years as your councillor and will I am sure remain so in years to come. I have been pleased to support the 112 bus that remains such a lifeline for those who do not or choose not to have a private motor car and I hope that more folk continue to choose

to use it. Our public transport network or the lack of one remains a deep concern of mine and I am hoping to with others to rectify this in the coming years. I have also been quite active in housing and planning matters and I am sure will remain so. I am happy to answer questions either in this public forum or privately at the end of this meeting and would like to put on record thanks for the help and co-operation I have received from the chairman, clerk and all members of this Parish Council.

5/22 Chairman of the Parish Council –Cllr Angela Forrest read by Cllr Patti Derry

In my absence I would like to welcome you all to this Annual Parish Meeting for 2022. Firstly, I must thank all my fellow Parish Councillors for all their hard work and support during the last year, and our County Cllr Robert Lindsay and District Cllr Bryn Hurren for keeping us abreast with all the processes of Babergh/Mid Suffolk and Suffolk County Council. I would also like to thank Lucinda our Clerk for managing all our correspondence and accounts. Last but by no means least I would also like to thank all the volunteers who keep the grass and hedges cut around the village.

Over the last 12 months there have been 6 Parish Council meetings and 2 additional meeting, some on-line and some face to face. The Parish Council consulted on 14 planning applications and 1 appeal, the appeal and 1 application were objected to, the rest approved or no objection. All but two of these applications were approved by Babergh, the appeal is still pending.

We are grateful to the volunteers who man the Community Speed Watch and arrange for the movement of SID (Speed Indicator Device) and the management of the data. Both schemes have a good effect on the speed of the traffic through the village. In addition to this Suffolk County Council has added H lines at the bottom of Church Hill to try and alleviate the parking of vehicles across the dropped kerb and close to the junction with the A1141, any extra traffic management has to be funded by the Parish Council, the Council thought this the most economic way to improve the parking at the junction.

The Parish Council has considered several footpath issues in the village, the path from Back Lane up to Stackyard Road has been re-instated, we are waiting for the foot bridge across the ditch to be repaired by Suffolk County Council but they have agreed to do this. Suffolk County Council also cleared the pipe under the Brent Eleigh Road which takes the water from the ditch by the Millennium Green and that is now running freely so there is no flooding on the A 1141.

The Village Greens (the Pump Green and Swingleton Green) have been cut by volunteers for which we are very grateful. Parking is an issue at Swingleton Green and we would kindly ask that there is no parking on this Green. The Pump Green has suffered some damage due to construction traffic but we are assured that this will be repaired in the near future. 2 changes are planned for the top of the Green, changes to the bollards so that emergency vehicles can get to the houses on the West side of the Green and a planter at the top of the Green once it has been re-landscaped.

The triangle of grass at the end of the causeway going on to Back Lane has also been damaged by traffic. The Parish Council have added logs with reflectors to try and improve this situation.

The School site has been developed with 17 properties, these were built in Peterborough and arrived as modules, though there was a lot of disruption and our roads and footpaths suffered, the infrastructure has be returned to a reasonable good condition.

The 112 Bus service continues to be run by the charity Go start and with the support of several Parish Councils, Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council it has run successfully and provides a vital service for several villages.

The play equipment on the Recreation Ground has been repaired and cleaned and this is ongoing. The Parish Council applied for and obtained, free of charge, 400 mixed hedge plants and they have positioned at the West edge of the Recreation Ground, these should provide a haven for wild life and provide some shelter on the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council applied for Back Lane/Swingleton Hill and Tye Road to be Quiet Lanes and they been adopted. There is a large programme of installation of signage so in the next year we hope that the signs will be installed. This signage will indicate that drivers should be aware that the lanes are used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders and hopefully will calm the traffic on those lanes.

At the moment the allotments have 3 that are rented and 3 available, the Parish council are aware that the allotments are not in a very good state and should anyone want to rent one or a portion of one it is hoped that the Parish Council could get the allotment into a usable state before renting it. The Parish Council is in the process of setting up an Education Bursary, details and how to apply for this will be posted soon.

3 members of the Parish Council are on a committee with 2 Villages planning the celebrations for the Queen's platinum Jubilee. The Big Lunch will take place on the Recreation Ground at lunch time on Sunday June 5th. We hope as many parishioners as possible will join in with the celebration.

The Parish Council has a full complement of Councillors, we welcomed Councillor John Newton in January and he brings a lot of experience to the council.

To improve the communication within the community the Parish Council has set up a Facebook page 'Monks Eleigh Parish Council Information', this has 65 members at present.

The aims of the Parish Council next year are to continue to respond to the community, interest and involvement from parishioners is valued and encouraged. This is the last year for the existing Parish Council as there will be a new Council next May, it would be really good if sufficient people were interested in becoming a Parish Councillor that an election was needed in May 2023.

6/22 Speedwatch/SID - Chris Eames

CSW and SID Presentation:

- **History** - Speeding issues raised at PC meetings a few years ago. Police contacted
- **Actions:**
 - Police survey, threshold exceeded so Police carry-out speed traps in Village
 - Local actions
 - SID (Speed Indicating Device) - equipment shared with Whatfield - change-over every 2 months
 - CSW (Community Speed Watch) - 12 active volunteers and just received new equipment, typically three 1 hour sessions a week, over 2 weeks then 2 weeks no CSW.
- **Results from SID and CSW - 2021:**
 - CSW - overall average, in 2021, 2.4% caught at 35 mph and above (in most cases, warning letters sent by Suffolk Police).
 - SID - 2021 results
 - Overall average speed 28.9 mph
 - 85 percentile = 33.8 mph
 - % speeders from the West = 12.9%
 - % speeders from the East = 5.9%
- **Conclusions:**
 - Over 3 years, slow reduction in average speeds
 - CSW caught speeders less than SID caught speeders, so CSW changes behaviour

6/22 Table Tennis – Brent Eleigh Spinners - Claire Symes

The table tennis club was started early in 2018 by Deborah Dwyer with the support of Fit Villages. Initially they supplied one table and we played in Brent Eleigh Village Hall. Gradually as the numbers playing increased, we were able to buy another table.

When the new village hall in Monks Eleigh opened, we moved here and now have three tables.

Following the guidelines from Table Tennis UK we were able to play intermittently between the lockdowns. We are now back to playing normally.

I have taken over running the club with the help of John and Diana Beales from Bildeston our new name is the Brent Eleigh Spinners.

Our players have a range of skill levels. All adults are welcome. There is no formal tuition. We usually play doubles to maximise the number of people who can play. We all help with setting up and packing away the tables. The cost to play is £2, payment is by BACS into the club's bank account. We play on Tuesday evening from 6.30 to 8.00. We enjoy the exercise and the social interaction.

7/22 Carpet Bowls – Diana Swansborough

The carpet bowls club started up again in June 2012 after a long period of lockdown. We started with 4 and occasionally 5 members but now we are gaining members and have 12 regular players and sometimes one or two extra people who like to come along to see what its all about and have a go. We were very lucky when we started up in having equipment loaned to us by Bildeston Bowls Club but we now have two mats of our own which we use regularly. Fit Villages who sponsored us to get started gave us the bowls they had provided at the outset and a very kind person has just very generously donated a new set of yellow bowls. To add to our equipment, Les Bridger is kindly making both centre discs and end blocks. So many thanks for all of that. We have got some friendly matches arranged with Hitcham and Hadleigh Bowls clubs next week and in April and may so that should spur us on to be more competitive, although we are really a sociable group and enjoy our happy Monday evenings. The cost is £3 per session which is from 7.30-9.30pm. So if anyone would like to come along we would be very pleased to see you

8/22 Monday Lunch Club – Cllr Angela Forrest – read by Cllr Patti Derry

Monday Lunch Club restarted in July 2021 and since then we have met on the forth Monday of the month. On average 23 people attend and enjoy the warm, spacious environment of our beautiful Village Hall. The team of Di, Sue, John, Angela and Peter work together to prepare and serve varied meals, 2 courses and a hot drink served for a reasonable price of £8.00 per head. We try to plan seasonal, well balanced meals and they seem to be popular. Mostly empty plates are returned! Examples of our menus are Quiche, Salad and Garlic Bread followed by Summer Pudding and Cream in July and Chicken Casserole, Vegetables and Potatoes, followed by Fruit Crumble and Custard in September. The statement of accounts is below. We have been able to donate £510 to our chosen charity The Cystic Fibrosis Trust We hope to continue providing this monthly community lunch and even expand to our maximum of 30. The lunch is for the whole community and provides a good opportunity for socializing.

9/22 Millennium Green – Cllr Patti Derry

The aim of the Millennium Green is to offer an area of tranquility in the heart of the village for both humans and wildlife to enjoy. Of course this ideal does not just happen by chance. Without careful management by a team of trustees and helpers the green would quickly revert to “jungle” as the blackthorn and bramble hedges would encroach into the open space and the other plants become overwhelmed by other invasive and smothering weeds. To this end the green is divided into two parts: the open mowed space left for human use and the other areas including nettles, brambles to encourage and support a wide variety of birds, insects, reptiles and animals. The open grassed area is maintained by a team of volunteers who cut the grass using the MG ride on mower throughout the summer months. We thank them all. We also thank Adrian Keitley-Webb and Ralph Whitehead for their annual hedge cutting service using their specialist machinery. Without this machinery the

task would be overwhelming if trustees and volunteers had to undertake it using just domestic gardening tools. One of the main concerns for the trustees is the health and safety of the area. To this end professional advice is taken on their management of the trees. In particular the trustees keep a watchful eye for signs of virulent diseases including ash die back and unsafe branches etc and take immediate action if required. While dogs are allowed on the Millennium Green the issues of dog fouling remain a problem particularly on the open space area of the green. As we all know dog faeces can cause a range of serious illnesses in humans, especially young children, so we encourage owners to clean up after their dogs and use the dog bins provided. Finally a big thank you must be given to the trustees for their commitment of time, energy and expertise to the green and also to the volunteers who turn up to lend a hand when work parties are required. If you would like to lend a hand just keep an eye on the notice boards where work party days are advertised.

10/22 Poetry Club – David Mills

To meet or not to meet, that was the question,
Whether t'was nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous Covid,
Or to play safe, lock down, and isolate.
We wisely chose the last, and met but once last year!

But now, this year, we're back, we have resumed,
A dozen members still, a steadfast bunch,
With monthly meetings planned till end of year,
And hopefully no further stops and starts
To hinder our pursuit of poetry's charms!
Let's not forget the bard's words, true and deep:
We are such as stuff as dreams are made on, and
Our little life is rounded with a sleep!

11/21 Knit and Stitch – Jean Gatewood

We have a long time resident of Monks Eleigh who knits hats for the Ipswich Premature Babies Unit. Another member who has left Monks Eleigh but still comes to Knit&Stitch - makes exquisite patchwork quilts, also for Ipswich Premature Babies Unit which parents keep. We have given donations from various venues to the EACH branch in Hadleigh - 2019 Christmas Craft & Charity Fayre We also contribute items to the 'Shoebox' Christmas charity for Eastern Europe which is monitored by one of our ladies in the village. At the very beginning of the 1st Lockdown: vulnerable patients who were too ill and unable to have visitors: we were asked to knit the 'twin' hearts. (One for family/one for the patient) for Ipswich Hospital, an idea created in a Northern Hospital. We knitted 44pairs of hearts. Not everyone knits - but chooses their own project.

12/22 Film Club – Carl Mudge and Elaine Thom

The equipment, concept and amin licence originally set up by Richard Bines with first film The Greatest Showman October 2019. Have to have a licence to show each film - £99.60 or 35% of box office takings. We run September to March but not December. We select films just recently released or a new licence available. Although profit is key – another focus is the community aspect, hence complimentary refreshments at intervals time. Cost is £3 adults, £2 children. So far this season we have seen Dream Horse, father, The Last Bus, respect and Summerland with west Side Story on 3rd April. Next seasons dates 25 September, 30 October, 27 November, 15 January, 12 February and 12 March 2023. We advertise in Hadleigh magazine, use posters, social media and

mailing list. We resell the DVD's to re-coup some of the monies. We were successful in obtaining funding to help re-launch after Covid.

13/22 Village Shop – Barry Charnley – report read by Cllr John Newton

This report covers the 19th year of our shop serving the community and covers the trading year ending 30th November 2021. The shop continued to serve our community throughout the second year of the pandemic although the easing of restrictions by the Government meant that trading patterns in 2021 returned to a much more historic pattern. Restrictions to numbers entering the shop because of available floor space and the required wearing of facial coverings continued; the vast majority of customers complying with these rules. Home deliveries were stopped as Government rules were relaxed. Many of those who assisted us with managing these also returned to their full-time jobs and were therefore no longer available. On a positive note, those associated with the running of the shop were both grateful and delighted to receive the two awards from the Parish Council at the last Annual Meeting. These are now proudly displayed in the trading area. As a result of the well-publicised impacts of both the pandemic and Brexit, shortages of many items due to supply chain issues have impacted us. Wholesalers such as Bookers have been short of many products and deliveries are often short of expected and ordered items. The shop has progressively suffered from a dearth of volunteers. This has been largely due to many of those over the age of 70 continuing to protect themselves from the rise of new Covid variants. Opening hours were eased during 2021 following the worst periods of lockdown although these remain, due to the lack of volunteers, more limited than they were in 2019. Trading remained constant although not as robust as 2020, throughout the financial year. The AGM for the shop will be held in early May when results will be presented to shareholders. As we enter 2022, rising costs are beginning to hurt and unfortunately whilst we continue to try to mitigate these by careful purchasing and stock management, the prices and in the shop are under severe upward pressure. These increases are also impacting on our operational overheads such as heat, light and power as well as other important costs such as insurance and maintenance. The Committee continues to monitor and manage the shop performance and as always would be more than happy to welcome anyone in the village who has business skills to share those with us.

14/22 History Group – Simon and Jan Kelsall – read by Cllr Patti Derry

Obviously, due to Covid the programme for 2020/21 was carried over until 2021/22. Our membership currently stands at 70. Membership is now £10.00 per season. All meetings are still held at the Village Hall at the usual date and time of the first Monday of each month – Oct to Mar at 7.30pm. We had a varied programme for the season including a talk on Round Towers in Norfolk and Suffolk, a talk on RNLI, a performance on Music Hall and our final meeting on 7th March will be on Bawdsey Manor. Our most popular meeting was the Round Towers which had an attendance of 50+. Our social event was held in December as a Christmas Party. Attendance was £10.00 per member and £12.00 per guest. 47 members attended a meal at the Village Hall. Our year end accounts have been adopted by the membership and two donations have been made, one to the Village Hall and one to St. Peters for £100 each. We are currently booking talks for 2022/23, we have signed up Susan Doig, published Suffolk author who will be talking about 'Inspirational Suffolk Women' and Dr John Greenacre from Suffolk University who is a Military Historian and will be talking about the Suffolk Regiment. The final programme will be issued in the Spring and will be on the Village Webpage. The Committee continues to maintain the History Group Facebook page which encourages members and non-members to publish memories and

photos of the village. It also helps to remind people of coming meetings and also encourages non-members to attend ad-hoc meetings. Non-members are charged £3.00 per meeting. The Committee also maintains the two Commonwealth War Graves in the church yard and assists with the Remembrance Service in November.

15/22 St Peters Church – Mike Birt - report read by Pat Braithwaite

St Peter's Church is now open again every day during daylight hours and all are welcome to come and spend time in our beautiful church. The main refurbishment programme for the church interior has now been completed. If you have not been inside the church recently you are invited to come and look at the work that has been carried out. The interior of the church looks stunning. The installation of a tea point and facilities, a loo and the opening up of the space at the rear of the church markedly improves the versatility of the church and what it can offer to the village community alongside regular worship and special services. The original church organ has been completely restored and moved to a new, much better location on the north wall of the church. It looks and sounds magnificent. There have already been several events that have used these facilities, including coffee mornings, family events (an Eco craft event and a Christmas craft event) and most recently a Magic Lantern Show with an Organ recital to mark the re-opening of the church and to celebrate its refurbishment. Last week a Vigil was held in the church to pray for Ukraine and there is currently a collection point for essential items donated for Ukrainian refugees located in the church. There are three weddings scheduled for St Peter's in the coming months, with a baptism service too. This is great news following the restrictions on such joyful events during lockdown. The ringing of the church bells for services and other events has now resumed following the completion of the work and the easing of lockdown restrictions. Lockdown caused some problems; Zoom services were held during complete lockdown, but otherwise church services continued albeit with safety checks in place (hand gel, masks, etc). For Easter we shall again be putting out the Stations of the Cross signs which were so well received last year (our thanks to the Parish Council for allowing us to do this again) and there will be an Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 7.00am outside St Peter's. There will also be a Family event for all including an Easter Egg hunt at 3pm on Easter Sunday. Refreshments will be served after the event - all are welcome! Future works planned for the church include refurbishment work to the bells, repairs to areas of the plaster work inside the church and continuing work to the roof and guttering. The PCC are very grateful for the support and involvement of the Parish Council Parish Council in key events for the community especially the annual village Fete where so much is raised to support the work at St Peter's. The recent approval of both the Parish Council and the PCC to establish a fund to support children and young people with education course work fees, books and associated expenses is a very positive step towards even greater collaboration and working together to serve the Monks Eleigh community.

16/22 Village Hall – Patti Derry

The year began with the need to prepare the hall to re-open following the enforced closure as a consequence of the Pandemic. The most important job for the trustees was to ensure that all Covid regulations were in place to ensure the safety of our users as far as we possibly could. Since the gradual lifting and amending of the Covid protocol the hall has bounced back to its old self and lettings are now back and above pre Covid levels. Our thanks go to the hall

cleaner Julie Goodchild for her management of the complex cleaning demands during the whole period of Covid regulations.

Now the hall is fully open again some part of the building is booked at some point every weekday throughout the day and evenings for activities covering a wide range of interests and offering opportunities for sport, culture, hobbies and social interaction to all sections of our small community. We have even had bookings for the carpark! Weekend bookings are growing and we have seen bookings for parties, weddings, christenings and sadly wakes increase since the reopening. We are also pleased to welcome a variety of live theatre groups who have selected to use our hall to stage their productions. The hall is also a venue for our home grown clubs including the very popular lunch club, history club, flicks-in-the-sticks, poetry club, table tennis club, whist club, knit and stitch, bowls club and regular rock and roll dances. Pilates and Yoga sessions are also held every week. From April we are pleased to welcome the Upbeat Community Choir who will become weekly Wednesday evening users. Don't let anyone tell you there is nothing to do in Monks Eleigh! All of these activities are run and managed by village residents and we thank them for their support, enthusiasm, expertise and hard work. The monthly programme is advertised on the village hall web site, on the notice boards at the shop and at Swingleton Green and at the Village Hall.

The village hall trustees themselves have run a number of activities throughout the year. In addition, the meeting room is used regularly for meetings of the Village Hall Trustees, Shop Committee, The Millennium Green Trustees, The Parish Council, The Church and The Village Investors' Club. The hall will now always be used as the village polling station for any future elections. Currently there are 8 trustees overseeing the management, operation and smooth running of the hall. These include elected trustees and trustees nominated by the village organisations who use the hall in line with our constitution. All trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting, from BDC and the grant we receive annually from the Parish Council. Out thanks go to all these bodies for this generous support. The hall's solar panels help offset some of the electricity cost so that once all running and upkeep costs have been made any surplus funds can be ploughed back into the improvement and extension of facilities at the hall. To this end this year we have purchased portable staging for the main hall and work to create a paved patio area outside the main hall doors is about to commence. These additional features will increase the halls "letability" thereby bringing more opportunities to the village to meet a wider range of needs of our local community. Finally, our thanks go to all our trustees and other friends of the trustees who work so hard to contribute to the success of the hall, but especially to the residents and friend of Monks Eleigh who support all of the events offered at the hall. Support of these activities ensure the viability of the hall and endorse the important role the hall plays in supporting the well being of the residents of our village.

17/22 Village Person of The Year

Cllr Derry presented the Community Award to Arthur Grossett for his outstanding contribution to the village over many years and thanked him for his support and help to the village.

18/22 Public Forum

Dogs on the Recreation Field – The village website states no dogs and the Parish Council and people have tried to enforce this but signs have been removed. A show of hands gave 0 for dogs running freely, 4 for dogs allowed but on a lead but the large majority present were for no dogs on the Recreation Field. This is to be added to the next Parish Council agenda.

Lorries are causing a problem at Scripps Bridge. It appears worse since lorries were banned from turning left in Lavenham. It is an historic bridge that is being regularly damaged and not always repaired.

Could a tree or shrub be planted in the new patio garden area at the village hall to mark the Jubilee.

The Chair thanked all for attending especially those who had put together and delivered presentations to the meeting. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

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