



Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** for the **Parish of Yaxley** held on 20th March 2020 at Daimler Avenue, Yaxley.

PRESENT

Councillor R Butcher, Chairman of the Parish Council in the Chair

Nine Members and the Clerk of the Parish Council

District Councillors E R Butler and K Gulson (also serving on the Parish Council)

Mr R Bingham, Yaxley Countryside Volunteers

20 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Parish Councillors J Lusted, G Needham and P Russell and County and District Councillor M McGuire.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Butcher welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH 2018.

Upon being moved by Councillor K Gulson and seconded by Councillor M Oliver, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th March 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor R Butcher read out his detailed Annual Report to the meeting and thanked the Councillor and staff for their work over the year, a copy of the report is available on the Parish Council's website.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Mr R Bingham of Yaxley Countryside Volunteers referred to recent reports on social media about the Parish Council's decision not to deepen the pond in the Recreation Ground but to turn it into a wild flower meadow. Mr Bingham expressed sadness about the misinformation being circulated and that criticism had been directed at individuals on the Parish Council. He explained that he had worked with the Parish Council for many years and had been involved in the ponds construction in 2001 which involved the Parish Council, Wildlife Trust and Countryside Volunteers. He stressed that the pond had never been called the James Orchard Pond and that it was created as a seasonal pond and is not fed by a spring. The plan had been to create a wetland that was safe for the public with no deep sides. Over the last three years, the pond has dried out in the summer but with the recent wet winter the area is currently quite wet. He lamented claims that there was a wide range of species living in the pond stating that there were frogs who love shallow water but no dragonflies, fish or larvae. Referring to a recent proposal to deepen the pond, Mr Bingham advised that Froglife had wanted to redevelop the area at a cost of £3,500 but now couldn't raise the funds to do so. He added that the Parish Council had been concerned over Froglife's plans to make the pond 1.5 to 2 metres deep and that this had "frightened everyone". He advised the meeting that he had discussed some fresh ideas for the pond with the Parish Council and was reassured that the item was being revisited by Full Council after

this meeting. He summed up by saying the he knew that people were interested in the pond and hoped that they would help in taking it forward by helping, adding that the Parish Council can not always be involved in the maintenance of the pond.

Mr P Underwood, a local resident, thanked Mr Bingham for his input and referred to the various posts on social media about the pond. He said that he had put forward a request in March 2018 to have the pond updated and made into a tranquil area. He added that Froglife were involved and Mr Bingham had put forward a realistic proposal. Mr Underwood expressed his disappointment that the proposal had been thrown out by the Council and that no risk assessment had been undertaken. He referred to the other ponds in the village being at Pound Lane and Persimmons Fields.

In response to the above, Councillor Butcher explained that he was concerned that the proposal from Froglife was too deep and that it could result in someone drowning. However, he reiterated that the item was to be revisited by Full Council after the meeting due to the new proposal put forward by Mr Bingham.

Gemma Wells of Gemma Hearts reported that a defibrillator had been installed that day on the pavilion on the Recreation Ground and that to coincide with this there would be defibrillator training in the pavilion on 24th March 2020 between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

In response to a question regarding the redevelopment of the old mushroom site and concerns over traffic, the Clerk advised that the Parish Council had yet to see any planning application for the site but that when they do they would be able to add a request for traffic calming measures as part of the Parish Council's comments.

In reply to a comment about fly tipping at the entrance of the Wykes and concerns that the District Council had cut back on their weekly litter pick, the Clerk advised that she would contact both the District Council and O & H Hampton as landowner of the Wykes regarding these issues.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Chairman.