

MINUTES OF LUDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting (Village) was held on Tuesday 18 May 2023 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, Ludford.

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr Mrs Ridger
Vice-Chairman Cllr Guthrie
Cllrs: Mrs Hunt & Fisher
Also Present: Mr Brader & Mrs Brader, Mrs Stuart.

1. **Apologies**

Cllr Fry (ELDC) & Mr Lewis.

2. **Minutes of the Last Annual Village Meeting**

The Minutes of the last Annual Village Meeting held on were 17 May 2022 approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising from Minutes** – None.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman expressed her thanks and appreciation to all members of the recently retired Parish Council Committee. The Chairman advised that over the 25 years of being a Parish Councillor, she had had the pleasure of working with some dedicated, imaginative, and hard-working Parish Councillors. Councillors had rotated over the years, but Ludford had always inspired Parishioners to volunteer to be local councillors because they wanted to be involved with the parish in which they live and or work. They freely volunteer their time and experience, showing willing commitment to attend meetings, read council documentation, review and comment on planning issues, whilst trying to represent the views of the residents and to assist Parishioners on where they may access the services they need. The Parish Council may not always please Parishioners all of the time, but we do try to please some of you some of the time.

During the last 12 months, Cllrs Mrs. Caron Hunt and Ian Fisher had been co-opted onto the Council, they had barely found their feet before having to negotiate the paperwork for the election.

Cllr. Julie Whetton retired due to health issues. After some energetic work starting the Community Speed Watch Team, then raising awareness and funds for the village Defibrillator, Cllr Mrs Jan Stuart, although still an integral part of the speed watch team, decided that council duties were not for her. Both Members brought new ideas and insight to the council.

Cllrs Guthrie and Brader did not stand for re-election. Cllr Alastair Guthrie has served as a Parish Councillor for 20+ years and as Vice-Chairman for 4 years. Last year he took on the role of Church Warden and felt it was time to leave the Parish Council. Cllr Graham Brader has been a reliable stalwart always willing to do the practical jobs and whilst he will be missed, he has already volunteered to still help with the tree raising, flagpole lifting, hole digging activities. He co-ordinated the fixed village speed signage, traffic surveys and liaised with Binbrook Parish Council for many years and could be relied upon to have an alternate view in his council comments.

The Chairman thanked the new Committee members for going through the election process. Mr Lewis resigned following the election due to work commitments. The Parish Council were, therefore, just quorate and actively looking to co-opt to fill the 4 vacancies. The Chairman advised that any candidate needed to have access to the internet, have an e-mail address and be able to review planning applications and documents online. Most communications, outside of meetings, are by e-mail and contact with ELDC/LCC is by electronic means, despite complaints, particularly in respect of planning applications, we have not been able establish a compromise.

The Chairman expressed her appreciation of the work carried out by the Clerk Mrs. Joyce Gay, who prepares agendas, minutes, accounts, general correspondence and is usually the first contact for most incoming information, which she distributes to councillors. It was acknowledged that she was a dedicated part of the team, and thanks was also expressed to Mr Gay, who continued to maintain the IT provision for the Council website.

District Cllr Richard Fry attended most Parish Council Meetings and his explanations and assistance on District Council and County Council matters were valued. We have reviewed and commented on several planning applications throughout the year and also had to report some non-compliance. The dog waste bin was re-sited and dog waste notices erected. The White Bollards around the grass centre on Stocks Hill were replaced and footpaths cleared. Cllr Fry advised that a new council team is available for the PC to request to do this sort of task rather than getting in contractors.

The Chairman liaises with the Squadron for the 101 re-union every June, including planning, parades admin and permissions, representing the village and organising a wreath. She also represents the Council at the Remembrance Sunday service in November, where again wreaths are laid at the Church and 101 memorials. The Parish Council has a nominated seat on the Village Hall Committee, she attends the meetings and reports back to the Parish Meetings. She was recently appointed President, which she accepted due to having been involved with this group for longer than the Parish Council and was honoured to accept the position,

To mark the Platinum Jubilee a beacon was lit, and a picnic was held in the hall, due to rain and a magnificent crown cake was made by Cllr Jan Stuart. Following joint collaboration from the PC, WI, Football Club & Village Hall by way of donations 7 Himalayan Birch were planted in an arc at the top of the Playing Field to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. Commemorative glasses were sourced for children in the parish who registered for them. Spares were eagerly snapped up by residents . It was noted that the take-up was a little slow and for the Coronation a village project to replace one or two of the benches along Magna Mile has been decided upon.

One of the village entrance gates has been erected and it is hoped the second will be completed in due course. The Parish Council continued with its provision of grass cutting in specific areas of the village, provision of flood lighting to the church, the Christmas tree and lights during the festive period, and ensuring the annual ROSPA inspection of play equipment. The defibulator and heated cabinet are in full working order and donations from to Viking Café have helped to boost the defib fund, but the budget will need to be increased next year to cover the cost of providing electric to the unit and its upkeep. White Gate Planters are in the pipeline, volunteers will be needed to plant up and water, and any donations of plants will be greatly appreciated

Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

Signed Chairman/Vice-Chairman Date