

WEST DEREHAM

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT 2018-19

West Dereham Parish Councillors

NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT
Mrs Pam Bullas (Policies and Neighbourhood Planning)	The Hollies, Station Road, West Dereham, PE33 9RR	501287
Mrs Claire Cann (Chair)	The Old Rectory, St Andrew's Walk, West Dereham, PE33 9RT	501540
Mr Tom Foy (Youth)	10 Church Road, West Dereham, PE33 9RF	501222
Mrs Lorraine Hunt (Vice-Chair)	Open View, The Row, West Dereham, PE33 9RH	07917-865025
Ms Paula Kellingray (Village Hall, Police and Finance)	9 Church Road, West Dereham, PE33 9RF	500256
Mrs Pam Walker (Youth)	Fiddlers Roof, The Row, West Dereham, PE33 9RH	501426
Ms Claire Williams (Footpaths)	6 Hilgay Road, West Dereham, PE33 9RW	500793

The clerk to the Parish Council is:

Mr Peter King Email: clerk@westderehamparishcouncil.uk

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**Record of West Dereham Annual Parish Meeting
held in West Dereham Village Hall on Wednesday 24 April 2019 at 7.30pm**

In the chair: Mrs Claire Cann - Chairman of West Dereham Parish Council.

23 parishioners were in attendance

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.
2. Copies of the record of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting had been delivered to all households in West Dereham and a copy was also available to view on the projector at the meeting. It was agreed that the report was a true account of the meeting held on 25 April 2018.
3. **Parish Council Report (given by Claire Cann)**

General

The Parish Council (PC) has held 13 public meetings since April 2018.

Dates and agendas of all meetings have been posted in both village notice boards, on the PC website and in the free monthly village magazine delivered to every household.

Over the course of those 13 meetings 87 members of the public have attended – which is more than last year and not quite as many as the year before.

Our Borough Councillor, Sandra Squire, has attended twice and our County Councillor, Brian Long, has attended once.

The PC has maintained its full quota of 7 Councillors and has retained its Quality Status.

Personnel

I would like to record the PC's heartfelt gratitude to our Clerk, Peter King. Peter has a massive workload which he ploughs through diligently and with great good humour.

And our thanks also to our Village Handyman, Roy Poole, whose efforts can be seen all round the village in trimmed grass, painted and washed bridges and the cemetery gardens.

Precept

In December 2018, after several months of discussion and widely advertised requests for contributions from the public, the Precept was set at £17,403 (£16,955 last year) which represented an increase of 2.4% in line with the rate of inflation.

Members of the public were reminded that the PC's share of Council Tax was 3% with 97% going to the Borough and County Councils.

Consultation

In addition to the monthly PC meeting the PC uses the PC page in the monthly village magazine to consult villagers.

During this reporting period villagers have been informed of, or asked to contribute on Cemetery Regulations once, Glazewing matters four times, General Data Protection Regulations once, village signs twice, fly infestation once, police matters four times, PC accounts and audits twice, the Precept three times, ditches twice, NCC recycling hazardous waste once, village sports once, fly tipping once, Wissington Riverside Nurseries once, the parish magazine delivery once, allotments twice and PC elections three times.

Policies and Documents

The PC has more than 30 policies and documents which are all on the PC website and all of which are reviewed annually and publically.

Allotments

Councillors carried out inspections on 7 July and 6 October last year, and 6 April this year.

More are scheduled for 6 July and 5 October and 4 January 2020. Parish Councillors are most grateful to Richard French who offered to clear and sow vacant plots to prevent the weeds invading the working plots.

Village Assets

The annual Village Assets Inspection is due shortly.

NCC Highways Department have in this past year inspected both Stocks Bridge and Basil Road Bridge and declared them both safe and stable.

The Church Road planters were repaired and restrained, the fence at the cemetery was repaired and new burial strips were made in the Garden of Remembrance.

Farm Business Tenancy

The farmland beside the allotments owned by the PC on behalf of the village, is let on a three year tenancy. A twelve month notice period will be issued before October this year for bids to be made in September 2020.

Grounds Maintenance Contract

Holly Landscapes hold the PC contract for grounds maintenance in the village and the PC is starting Year 2 of a 3 year contract. The company has maintained a high standard of work in the village.

Cemetery

Roy Poole, our Village Handyman, has maintained the hedges and the Garden of Remembrance in the PC cemetery. The hedge is growing well and thickening up and the spring bulbs are currently in bloom. Unfortunately a number of the new trees in the Natural Burial Ground did not survive last summer's drought in spite of a programme of watering. However, Didlington Nursery have kindly agreed to replace a number of them. Ben Taylor has agreed to provide the PC with oak plaques for the trees in the Natural Burial Ground and also benches when required by relatives.

War Memorial

The PC is currently in discussion with a local stonemason concerning the addition of the WW2 names to the main memorial. The railings around the memorial were painted by the Handyman in readiness for the centenary commemorations last year.

Beacon

A scaled down version of a nationwide beacon design was installed in the cemetery and lit along with over 1000 others across the country at 7pm on 11 November last year to mark the centenary of the ending of WW1. The beacon was made by Bonnets, financed by the West Dereham branch of the Royal British Legion and installed on PC land. It appears on the Assets Register of the PC and is on the PC insurance. The beacon's purpose, design and positioning were approved in advance by the Borough Council planners and by the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service. It is hoped the beacon will be used to mark any village occasion which is thought appropriate, while observing all the safety requirements.

Ryston Road brambles

After more than 12 months wrangling with the Borough Council, they have finally acknowledged that they own the land in question. They have conceded that contrary to their claim maintaining it had no amenity value they would cut it since it leads to the recreation ground. Finally, having asked the PC to maintain it in the future they have accepted that it their responsibility to do so.

Ditches

There has been much activity in the ditch front during the year. This has ranged from effluent being discharged into one of the Church Road ditches to repeated flooding along part of Church Road and the threat of it at the bottom of Lime Kiln Road and opposite The Row. All these are still matters in progress. It has involved the NCC Flood Risk authorities, NCC Highways Department and Anglian Water.

Frimstone

This year Frimstone was given permission yet again to extend using the old quarry at Crimplasham for a further period until 2022. Frimstone has now been sold and the new owners have expressed an interest in working with the local communities.

Glazewing

Problems with the company in the past year reported to the PC have included working outside licensed hours, dangerous driving, abusive language from drivers, un-netted vehicles and fly infestations. The fly infestations occurred for the third year running.

Both the Environment Agency and Glazewing (GW) have denied that the flies emanate from the GW site.

However, the decision by GW to install a Bano machine and process dirty ferrous material and the acknowledgement by GW's Compliance Manager at a PC meeting in October last year that it is known within the waste management industry that dirty ferrous attracts flies, is rather too much of a coincidence.

In January this year there was a Public Inquiry held by the Office of the Traffic Commissioner at Downham Market Town Hall.

This was to restore GW's licence to operate at their Station Yard Operating Centre.

The resulting decision did not allow any movement before 6am and after 7pm Mondays to Saturdays and nothing at all from authorised vehicles on Sundays. In March, in spite of considerable objection because of flies and noise, NCC Planning Committee gave GW retrospective planning permission for the waste shredding Bano machine.

GW has, however, at long last expressed an interest in meeting regularly with the PC, although not at a public meeting as in the past.

We hope this will commence shortly.

Elections

The Borough Council has decided to charge Parish Councils for both contested and uncontested elections. They were challenged by a number of PCs but sadly for us Section 36(5) of the 1983 Representation of the People Act allows them to do so. The Parish Council wrote to the

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking how we were expected to provide local services, increased by the CC and BC's decisions not to, without increasing the Precept. We received a useless reply saying he understood the challenge this provided.

Parish Councillors

Three of us are retiring at this election having clocked up around 30 years' service between us. I would like to thank all the current Parish Councillors for their dedicated contribution to our community and wish the new Parish Council well.

4. Handyman Report (given by Roy Poole)

~~Roy reported that he had tried to spread his time across the village, but his workload had been affected by the weather conditions, in particular when it came to carrying out of painting jobs. Roy noted that he hoped to get to paint all the bridges this summer and planned to treat it as a priority. Roy added that he had spent a lot of time working in the Cemetery and Remembrance Garden carrying out various jobs. In conjunction with the Parish Clerk, he is now involved with the regular moving of the Speed Monitor to its various positions located around the village. Throughout the summer, he would continue to trim the grass verges around the bridges and clearing of vegetation at different points around the village.~~

5. Allotment Report (provided by Mark Mahoney, Allotments Liaison Officer)

There are some points to be noted:

1. There are now 4 x full rows with tenants 4, 5, 6 and 7.
2. There has been some moving around with 1 x new tenant that has taken up 6c.
3. There are 3 x full rows still vacant, 2, 3 and 8.
4. Row 8 is to be used as parking, although clear of rubbish, still needs to be cut regularly.
5. One of the rows is to be maintained at their own expense by Richard; to ensure the weeds are kept on top of so to enable any potential tenant to start upon immediately. A letter is to / has been sent from the Parish Clerk thanking Richard.
6. The last inspection at the beginning of April provided a good turn out from tenants; no issues raised to the Parish Council members attending.
7. There was interest shown; but upon reading the regulations realised unable to have dogs on plot; so declined sadly. Is there any reason for the no pets regulation; as this may deter people from taking on a plot?
8. There has been work taking place on the plots as well maintained and crops planted; which is good to see.

Kind Regards Mark Mahoney

6. Village Hall Report (given by Paula Kellingray)

As Chairman of the Village Hall Committee I am proud to inform everyone of the events and activities that have taken place over the last 12 months. The report, as usual, is quite long but I hope it is of interest as it highlights what we are achieving along with other community organisations within this village and beyond.

A new venture for 2018/19 has been to start up a breakfast café, which we have now carried out on 11 occasions and they are growing in popularity.

Unfortunately, we have had several resignations this year which is always disappointing but on the plus side the committee is welcoming the appointed members from the user groups. Also on a positive note we have welcomed 7 new helpers at events all of whom have proved very welcome additions to the team.

The regular events over the last year have included 12 coffee mornings (including 1 with the Royal British Legion), 3 bingos (including 1 working with St Andrew's Church) and 8 quiz nights, 11 Games Nights and 4 Working Party's to carry out basic maintenance and deep cleaning.

Other events that have taken place include a Norfolk beer festival, a Halloween party, we welcomed the village carol singers into the hall and served hot refreshments for them and also an Armed Forces Day event (now, an annual event). We have also held an Easter egg hunt, 2 family car treasure hunts, a Children's Christmas Party and a Christmas Lunch.

Food events have included 2 fish and chip supper nights in aid of local charities and deserving causes. This year these suppers raised £232, bringing the 7 year fundraising total to £7,513. The deserving causes this year included Spinal Injuries Unit (Queen Elizabeth Hospital) and the Village Hall.

We have held 5 hog roasts, 6 barbecues, 6 supper nights on the following themes; bangers and mash, Italian salads, salads, summer buffet and casseroles. Other supper nights have included a Burn's night, Chinese New Year and celebrations of St David's, St Patrick's, St Andrew's and St George's Days.

The hall's regular bookings include the Heritage Group, the Parish Council meetings held monthly and the U3A patch working and quilting fortnightly, Café Cre8 and Sivananda Yoga both meet weekly. In addition, over the past 12 months, the following bookings; Cre8 (5 times), Royal British Legion West Dereham Branch for 3 meetings and the annual Remembrance Day lunch, Village Trust once, Lovell's Dole charity twice, Wissington Angling Club AGM, 3 funeral wakes, 3 birthday parties, 2 wedding receptions, a wedding anniversary, a Christening party and a new art group, who met on 11 occasions.

The bar continues to prove a great asset to the hall, not only because it provides much needed funds but also in bringing people together socially. Once again our traditional Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve party and New Year's Day openings were extremely well attended. In addition, the Village Hall organised 5 outside bars donated to the hall by the licence holder with help from 3 of our new volunteers. The bar opened 242 times this year that contributed to the running of the hall. A huge thank you to all the bar volunteers, all the customers and to the groups who agree to use the bar facilities at their meetings. You have all helped to make the bar profitable and to provide the happy friendly experience at the hall.

We are almost at the end but there are still a few things to do in the closing stages of this report.

Thank you to the Village Hall Committee without whom all the events above would not happen. On a personal note, I thank you all for your support over the last 12 months. The people involved at West Dereham Village Hall, whether committee or volunteers, see the hall as a village venture run by the community for the community. So if you feel you would like to get involved in any way the details of how to contact the Village Hall and when our meetings are held can be found in the Village Magazine.

As you can see from all you have heard tonight, the committee and volunteers work tirelessly to provide as many different events as possible but if there is anything else you would like to see happen, then please speak to us about how we can achieve it together.

The Village Hall would like to invite you, if you have not already, to come and join in some of the varied events. We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

7. West Dereham Village Trust Report (given by Pam Bullas)

The Village Hall Committee continues to make regular repayments of £10 per month to the Village Trust following the loan of £40,000 to assist with the extension and improvement works to the Hall. This is further to the donation of £100,000 from the sale of the old school.

The Village Trust still owns a large part of the village hall car park; the intention is to transfer this land to the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees of the Village Hall but owing to the complications with Parish Clerks and the complex requirements for permission from the Charity Commission this has taken longer than originally thought. In the interim period a need has arisen for a storage facility for children's play equipment by the Church group Cre8. Siting of the shed has been further complicated because of the ownership of the land by the Village Trust as mentioned above, so a lease agreement has been drawn up between St Andrew's Church (on behalf of Cre8), the Village Hall and the Village Trust with evidence of the appropriate insurance policies in place. The lease is for a nominal rent which is subject to annual review.

Finally, following the resignation of a long standing Trustee we are now looking to recruit a suitable person to join our committee. If you are interested and would like to know more about the charity please speak to me, or one of the other Trustees – Michael Poole, Pam Walker or Claire Williams.

8. West Dereham Heritage Group (provided by Pam Bullas)

With the exception of the January 2018 meeting, when the village was hit by a power cut, the group managed a full programme last year and so far for 2019.

In 2018 we had talks about such diverse subjects as Romany Life, the Farming Crisis 1919-1939, Sandringham Secrets and Society Scandals. We had a local talk from our member Cyril Marsters. John Nash from Denver talked about the windmill there and also his brewery. The ever enthusiastic Andy Moore was invited back to tell us even more about Bexwell and the aerodrome. Visits were made to True's Yard in King's Lynn and the Sluice Complex at Denver. We have to thank the scout leaders of 1st Wreham and Wretton group for not only hosting but also making from scratch and cooking in a home-made pizza oven the most delicious pizzas for our August 2018 meeting. This is something we are hoping to repeat this year as it was such an enjoyable evening culminating in sitting round a camp fire to ward off the chill of the night. November and December 2018 were the group's AGM and Christmas Social.

January 2019 started with a popular 'round the table' chat about the local census. February and March were very interesting talks about 'Quacks and Quackery' and 'Law and order in East Anglia' respectively. We had a very entertaining and interesting evening in April when Marcus and Barry Hawkins carried out Antiques Appraisals for items that members and guests had brought along for valuation. We have a local quiz to look forward to in May and a guided tour round Hardwick Road cemetery with the group's long-time friend Dr Paul Richards. As already mentioned we have the August pizza night to look forward to and of course the Christmas social. September 19th will see the return of Mike Petty who this time will talk about 'Aspects of Rural Life 1838-1900 in Victorian Cambridgeshire' and Sue Gattuso from Swaffham Museum will be doing a power point presentation about Howard Carter of Tutankhamun fame on October 17th.

The group is always actively researching the villages past. A book was completed by a group member this year 'West Dereham remembers 1914-1918' in memory of the men whose names are commemorated on the village war memorial. Several booklets have been produced over the years – all publications are available to buy.

West Dereham Heritage Group meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Village Hall. Membership is currently £15 per annum which includes free entry to most meetings and given the quality and variety of the majority of speakers we feel that this is good value.

9. West Dereham Royal British Legion (given by Nick Cann)

West Dereham Branch's first full year in existence was from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 with a membership of 16. In April 2018, I reported that membership had increased to 31. Sadly, our member Jean Starling died on 21st January 2019 and another member from Stoke Ferry has left the Legion entirely. But we have gained two members in Barbara Clark and Ian Dixon and there is news of another candidate for membership soon, Simon Comben, who will be moving into the area. I can report therefore that we are still on 31 soon to increase to 32 which will have doubled our membership within 5 years.

We hold 4 meetings annually in the Village Hall, on the 2nd Sundays in March, June, September (AGM) and November (Remembrance). Meetings are normally followed by a sandwich lunch. After the meeting on 10th June 2018, 10 members lunched at the Bedingfeld Arms, Oxborough. On Remembrance Sunday after the Service of Remembrance in St Andrew's Church and the sherry which follows the service, there is always a seated lunch in the Village Hall which includes anyone from the village wishing to attend.

This last year was rather different. The village was represented by Tom and Heather Foy at the Grand Pilgrimage which took place in Ypres, Belgium 5th to 8th August 2018 – with Tom carrying our Standard and Heather acting as Wreath Bearer. Over 1,000 Legion Standards were present at the event. Our Standard now contains a scroll "Ypres 2018" and the branch has been presented with a certificate in recognition of its attendance.

On 14 October a Presentation was held in the Village Hall entitled 'Here But Not Here'. This related to the sacrifice made by the 16 whose names are recorded on our War Memorial from World War 1. The object of this exercise was to use the context of the war to bring back to life our 16 war dead so that details of their lives and military service became known, thus enhancing their memories which previously had been names recorded on stone. 10 transparent seated perspex figures were received from the 'There But Not There' charity. 6 more were generously donated by villagers and friends of our village. The 16 ghostly figures faced an audience of 58 and many members and friends donated their services to act either as readers of poems or to eulogise individuals who had died. It was emotional. A letter received afterwards from one guest, the Legion's Norfolk County Chairman, said: "the presentation was easily the most clearest, powerful and soulful I have witnessed and truly gave reverence and meaning to the lives of the 16 servicemen inscribed on your war memorial."

Remembrance Day was on Sunday 11 November 2018, the centenary of the Armistice in 1918. The estimated attendance in Church was over 100. Lunch afterwards in the Village Hall with all seated around one long table, was attended by 27. At 7.00 pm in the Parish Council's cemetery, the village's 'Beacon of Light' or 'Light of Hope' was lit, accompanied by the ringing of the church bell. The beacon had been made by Bonnett's and was erected by West Dereham Plant. This same ceremony was replicated across the UK at over 1,000 venues. Attendance at the ceremony was estimated at 60-70. 40 villagers then gathered in the Village Hall for the singing of WW1 songs, arranged by Chris Young who acted as the choir master.

Peter Starling continued as Branch Chairman until 11 November when he handed over to Fred Lucas. Peter is now Branch President. Jack Walker is Vice Chairman, Lorraine is Treasurer, Tom is the Standard Bearer, Paula co-ordinates the Poppy Appeal, Richard French acts as our Welfare Officer and I'm the Secretary. Our small branch fulfills its purpose in support of the aims and objectives of the Royal British Legion as contained in the Legion's Charter. Any person over 17 years of age who accepts the Legion's aims and objectives contained in the Charter may become a member. The annual subscription is £17.00.

10. Saint Andrew's Church Report (written by Graeme Pressley, Church Warden given by Peter King)

Saint Andrews church is a welcoming, friendly place to worship. Our ministry team or family as they call themselves is now official with Ken being made our priest in charge earlier this year. This family means we can have weekly Sunday services as well as pastoral care for the village. Our team also covers other churches such as Beechamwell who have no lay ministers of their own.

Our congregation varies between 12 and 20+ now that we have efficient heating and a large disabled toilet / baby changing room. This is up from the 10+ we used to have. We still attract people from other parishes, but the local worshipper is much more prevalent now. Our team of Janet, Michael, Peter and Ken have had a 100% success rate in running services even with holidays and sickness. I wish to thank them for service above and beyond the call of duty.

The Saint Andrews ministry team led by Janet also run Cre8 which will probably have its own report. This brings the church community, young people and villagers together for fun events 4 or 5 times per year and every Wednesday morning for coffee, cakes and play (all ages) in the village hall.

The church building is in good order with the toilet / organ room coming on. Chris has converted the pews removed earlier in the works into wood panelling and is cladding the outside of the plain white room to make it more of a fit into a medieval church. I think that when it is complete, we will have a room that will compare with much more expensive rooms in other churches and cathedrals. It just goes to show that quality work can be produced by a volunteer workforce, led by experts.

Being a medieval building means repair work is never complete and future works will involve the roof of the Nave which has some loose tiles and poor standard leadwork. The church yard is kept under control and the area to the west which is only cut twice yearly is developing into a suitable wildlife area. There have been complaints about memorials not being readable or reachable! But it will take several years for the nettles to be replaced by rough pasture so please respect the aim of the planting scheme in our attempt to encourage wildlife into our church yard.

Talking about wildlife the rabbits have been devastated by the new myxomatosis but are now starting to recover in numbers. This means that we must either put up with collapsing headstones, undermined walls and holes in the grass or find a replacement for the professional rabbit catcher we had. He retired about ten years ago, and I have not yet found anyone who had the same professional care that he had.

I must now thank all those who clean, provide flowers or music and who without them St Andrews would be a much duller place. The church is a team effort and I am proud to be involved as Church Warden. We are always looking for others to join our team, which while very poorly paid has the fringe benefit of huge satisfaction of glorying God by your works.

I will finish now by asking Gods Blessing to fall upon all of you here tonight. God Bless, Graeme

11. Public Forum

Paula Kellingray noted that the Norfolk British Legion Grand Pilgrimage Standard Bearers are meeting in the Village Hall on Tuesday evenings to practice for the GP90 event.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and commented that she felt this was a healthy set of reports and said thank you and well done to all.

West Dereham Parish Council Meetings

West Dereham Parish Council meets monthly, 11 times a year, usually on the first Thursday of each month with the exception of January. Meetings are held in the Village Hall. Agendas for meetings are posted on the Parish Council notice boards and on the Parish Council's website. Every household in the village also receives monthly notifications of the meetings including Parish Council news.