

# ***Cogenhoe & Whiston Annual Parish Meeting***

## **Minutes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm via zoom**

### **1. Welcome, Mr. Jon Bailey, Chairman Parish Council**

Cllr Jon Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Before the meeting commenced a picture was presented to DCllr Steven Hollowell as a thank you to him from the residents of Cogenhoe & Whiston for his service to the villages and to mark his retirement. He was thanked most sincerely by Cllr Bailey.

### **2. Apologies**

None

There were 29 resident attendees & one non-resident.

### **3. District & County Councillor's reports**

DCllr Hollowell reported that South Northants council had now ceased to exist which he was saddened by as it had always been a well performing district council with a high level of customer satisfaction. He explained how his Father had been part of the original council and then he had been part of it when it came to an end. With the transfer to West Northamptonshire Council having taken place residents have probably not noticed much change, The Forum is still operating albeit with most staff still working from home. At the beginning of his 16 years service, he had inherited some problems some of which have still not been resolved. He was sad to see the growth of high boarded fences adjoining the highway which if less than 1 metre in height did not need planning permission, but he felt removed residents from village life. He gave a warning that having fought off a huge planning application for the rural areas, with Northampton town now being part of West Northamptonshire Council, the borough boundary had in effect been removed and there would be a need to protect the open countryside from development and there maybe future battles to come.

### **4. Signing of Minutes of last Parish Meeting 28.10.20**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were signed.

### **5. Matters arising**

The Clerk reported that the gravel lorries travelling through the village at speed that were complained about at the last meeting appear to have stopped. The new data collector that the Parish Council has purchased will help gather evidence of any speeding which will also help address the problem. The dust that had been blowing across the valley had been reported to The Environment Agency for investigation.

### **6. Police Report – submitted by email**

South Northants Neighbourhood Teams

The last 12 months has presented some interesting challenges for Police and public alike. COVID19 has reshaped the structure of our lives and how we interact as a community. Community heroes have emerged bringing light to some dark times for many vulnerable persons. Restrictions have been ever changing and this has caused confusion and misinterpretation on occasion. Police now receive a vast number of reports of persons or businesses acting in apparent breach of regulations. Each of these reports has to be assessed and often officers are deployed to make checks. On occasion these reports are found to be incorrect but made with good intention. Others have been malicious however there have been a number of situations within South Northants where breaches have been identified and fixed penalty notices issued.

As more people are remaining at home and exercising locally there have been many more chances to interact with local officers. There have been no additional officers brought into the South Northants area due to COVID however people are seeing more of us due to the circumstances of the lockdowns. Northants Police has committed to increasing the establishment of Neighbourhood Policing Teams and as such there will be additional Police Constables posted to South Northants over the coming months in order to continue the problem solving work that the team currently undertakes. These officers will each take ownership for smaller defined areas which will increase their visibility and accountability to the larger public. The teams based at Brackley and Towcester will continue to provide sector-wide coverage in support of each other however communities will benefit from having specific named officers as their points of contact.

Over the last year Policing Priority surveys have continued to highlight that theft from vehicles and drugs use/supply are the most significant areas of concern for most people. As such these are the issues that you can expect the South Northants Neighbourhood Teams (NPTs) to be working on as a priority. Another topic that features frequently is 'Police visibility', especially within rural Communities. The increase in establishment of Neighbourhood Officers will seek to address this concern and allow officers to work more closely with key partners and agencies in tackling anti-social behaviour and crime. There also continues to be interest in parishes sponsoring their own Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

A sponsored PCSO is paid for by the parish and their sole responsibility is for that parish area. This means that the officer will focus their daily activities on issues and concerns as identified by that Community that are suitable for Police intervention. The officer works as part of the larger Neighbourhood Team and as such can rely on their team colleagues to also be involved in solving more significant issues that may arise within the area. If you would like more information regarding sponsoring a PCSO please contact the team. We already have a number of sponsored PCSO posts around the county that can provide examples of the effectiveness of the scheme.

Repeated national lockdown has created differing levels of demand for Policing within the county. Behaviour trends have changed and opportunities for acquisitive criminal activity have reduced by virtue of people working from home or being subject to restrictions on movements. There have been increased reports of anti-social behaviour in locations previously identified as vulnerable and also in some new locations as young people seek to let off steam. Your local Neighbourhood Team gather information from active reporting of these situations and adapt their patrol plan to cover these locations. As you might imagine the summer months and an easing of restrictions brought a significant number of issues sometimes leading to community tensions played out over local social media. Higher priority locations were subject to a partnership working approach and this will continue in anticipation of spring and summer 2021. Towcester town now has some CCTV cameras managed by Northampton Borough Council and accessible by Police. These have already paid dividends in identifying persons involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour who are now subject to legal interventions.

Team members will monitor local social media sites where they can and often note comments regarding a lack of Police in an area or that a crime or anti-social behaviour would have been prevented if there were more Police about. We have also noted comments such as 'there's no Police so why bother reporting it'. All communities have a Neighbourhood Policing Team. Some teams are bigger than others due to area trends and demographics but all are available to tackle issues identified as an area of concern by the community. Many issues go unreported and as such Police are not aware. You have an opportunity to shape Policing activity by reporting the issues that affect you; including those daily ongoing situations that are considered as anti-social behaviour. If you are not telling Police that there is a problem in your part of the community then our resources are likely to be focused elsewhere where an issue has been identified and reported.

Your Neighbourhood Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester Police Stations and are often the first port of call for an emergency as the closest Police resource. This will always take priority especially where there is a risk to life. The teams also have a wealth of other responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable people, working with educational establishments, crime investigation and intelligence gathering. The team are dedicated problem solvers and will seek to address long-term issues which range from low level neighbour disputes, persistent anti-social behaviour to larger volume crimes.

Crime and anti-social behaviour will always happen due to constantly changing social and economic factors but we can

be better prepared to fight it as a cohesive community. Effective community cohesion may be achieved via; public consultation (Independent Advisory Groups, Policing Priority surveys etc), the identification of capable guardians and community champions (Emergency Services, Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch, clubs and organisations) and partnership working with a problem solving approach. You can join and/or support the people that work within your Community and help us make the area less attractive to criminals.

As a team we use social media (Twitter: **@SthNorthantsNPT** and Facebook: **'Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team'**) and Neighbourhood Alert in order to inform you about crime and incidents relevant to your area and some of the work that the team undertake. Unfortunately there are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report back on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved. You are also able to follow the work of our Rural Crime Team via Twitter: **@hutch472** & **@NorPolRural**

**Neighbourhood Alert** is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can sign up to. In registering your email address you will receive up- to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity and crime prevention advice. You can sign up to the Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System at: [www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk)

## 7. **Chairman's report Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council** – Jon Bailey

### Changes for Parish Council

No changes this year though after the elections on 6th May there may well be. We have 10 candidates for 9 Cogenhoe positions.

I would personally like to thank again the Clerk (Deborah Rush) for her great efforts over the last year which have resulted in the Village Hopper continuing to run and the parish council to continue to be run very efficiently. She has also taken on the extra load of helping run the village hall.

### Village Hopper

The bus has continued to run during the pandemic with a small but regular usage primarily workers. We have continued to receive grants to enable us to continue to run. We reduced the weekday service on 1st February during the middle of the day (as required by the government) during which time we put the two drivers on furlough (without decreasing their wages). Given the loosening of the lockdown we will return to a full timetable on May 1st.

The bus mileage is over 116,000 so we are looking at how we might replace the bus before the end of the current lease.

A grant of £10,000 was gratefully received from South Northants towards the continuing costs of running the bus service next year. We received a similar grant from Awards for All to help compensate for the loss of fare income. We have also received significant grants from the Bus Operators Grant Fund and have continued to receive reimbursement from Northants County Council for the concessionary pass users. The result of all these grants means that we are definitely funded for the next two years

For interest in Dec 2019 we sold 895 tickets of which 668 were concessionary fares and in Dec 2020 we sold 333 of which 218 were concessionary fares. The quietest month was not surprisingly April 2020 with 152 tickets.

We continue to be very grateful for the two main drivers (Lisa and Gary) who have continued to drive throughout the crisis and been very flexible in helping us when we have had to take the bus off the road.

COVID related

Zoom meetings continued which as usual are open to all. The minutes of the meetings are published on the parish council website but given that they are not a verbatim account of what is said if anyone wants to see what goes on then do please join the meetings.

#### Other Achievements

After some delay due to supplier problems, we have now acquired a speed monitoring device and will shortly be installing it. This will capture speed data and we then be able to better ask the police for their support in enforcing speed limits at any 'hotspots' that we find.

2,000 daffodil bulbs were planted last autumn by the path from The Piece to Church Street following a very kind £100 donation from a resident. Favourable comments have been received.

#### Pocket Park

Philip Hollowell very kindly solved the drainage problems at the pocket park. Our two parish council members (Cllrs Cunnington and Biggs) and other villagers have continued their very good work to maintain the pathways and water course at the park. The park has seen increased usage during the lockdown periods.

#### Village Hall

Report to follow.

#### Grants Made/agreed

None

#### Finances as at 31st March 2021 (unaudited)

##### Parish Council Precept

Next year's precept will be £30,000 which will be a decrease on the previous years.

##### Parish Council

Current balance £32,000 with small surplus for the year.

##### Village Hopper

Current balance £47,800

##### Village Hall

Current balance £48,336

Since then, approval granted for 20K for the internal changes and £2k changes to the playing field.

#### Reminder

All meeting minutes are published on website and all council meetings are public currently on Zoom. Anyone is welcome to attend to address the meeting or simply to listen.

Q Do the existing vehicle activated speed signs collect data.

A No they just warn drivers of their speed.

### **Cogenhoe & Whiston parish Council - Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee**

#### Parish Council

The parish council took over the running of the village hall in September and since then all committee meetings have been carried out on Zoom and (as with the parish council) all minutes are published on the parish council website. If you wish to see how we run the hall then do please attend a Zoom meeting.

A lot of work was initially carried out by the Parish Clerk to enable this handover to occur and thanks to Elizabeth Packer for assistance.

#### Hall and Playing Field Users

We have had very few users of the village hall aside from the continuing use by the pre-school 4 days a week.

Due to the use of the field by the cricket club the Saturday dog users and also the Tuesday evening dog users will not be returning to use the field.

As soon as government rules allow and subject to a risk assessment, we expect others users like the Mature Movers and Slimming World to return to use the hall.

We have successfully operated a jigsaw and book swap area in the lobby of the village hall. This is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday.

#### Finances

We had a COVID grant from SNC of £10,000 at the beginning of the pandemic and a further one more recently and this has enabled us to continue to have good reserves.

#### Village Hall Development

Plans were drawn up and approved by committee for internal changes. This will enable the pre-school to be secure in their own area in the main hall and therefore enable us to use the York Room, main kitchens and toilets while they are occupying the rest of the building. We applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness from SNC which has been granted.

The plans include new toilets, a small new kitchen off the main hall, the refurbishment of an old storage room which the pre-school will use for their own storage and meetings. There will be a back entrance (accessed through a new gate in the fence off the carpark) that will be used by the pre-school children and parents.

As per parish council rules this was put out to tender on the government website and we had a number of responses. Most of the builders visited the hall and, in the end, we had 8 formal responses with a large variance in quoted prices. The responses were discussed at village hall committee and a preferred supplier was identified. On the 29th March full Parish Council approved the expenditure of £30,000 to cover the building work, a contingency and potential other minor works at the hall and the supplier (RJ Installations) was informed.

The builders started work on 3rd April and have continued ever since. They have been working mainly while the pre-school has not been occupying the building and so far good progress has been made. They hope to finish week commencing May 3rd.

At the appropriate time we will have a grand re-opening.

#### Cricket Club

The village hall agreed a service level agreement with the Cogenhoe Cricket Club to enable them to move their club back to the village hall and playing fields. They will be playing every Saturday afternoon from about May to September and with some mid-week evening matches for the Youth under 17's and All Stars and under 9s.

To enable this to happen the Parish Council applied for a grant of approximately £20K from the English Cricket Board to pay for the installation of an all-weather wicket. The village hall committee agreed that to enable this to be installed safely it would be necessary to remove the old skateboard park. This was removed and 50% paid for by the village hall and 50% by the cricket club at a cost of £3,400 excluding VAT which was significantly lower than previous estimate. Some of the bunds at the bottom of the fields were also removed and the soil was put back where it had originally been removed from where the skateboard park was. The new wicket can be used by anyone and indeed is likely to be safer as it is not surrounded by a metal fence and the surface is much softer than concrete. The bunds were remodelled and are now being used again.

The cricket club will be cutting the grass weekly during their season. In the past the grass has been cut fortnightly.

The first match of the cricket clubs' season is 1st May.

#### Football pitch

The football pitch had to be moved slightly away from the village hall and this has been remarked and used already. Portable goal posts were purchased with a 50% grant from the Football Foundation. One of these will stay permanently in place and the other will be left up when possible, during the cricket season.

#### Play Area

Following feedback, we have ordered two extra swings, a flat and basket swing which are to be installed near to the existing play area to add to the facilities that the over 8s can use. We have also ordered two picnic benches to be also located next to the play area.

A recycling bin was purchased to be located just outside the play area and the two benches have been repainted.

#### Caretaker

We now employ a caretaker for two hours a week. He carries out tasks like the risk assessment and bin emptying and other maintenance tasks. He will also cut the grass in the play area.

#### Other Plans

We have temporarily paused the purchase of an outside table tennis table until the other play equipment has been installed. We will be looking for ideas as to how we might add to the facilities particularly for children in the playing fields. Ideas welcome.

Possible 'café' facility in the hall or playing fields.

#### Maintenance

Minor maintenance has continued and we had to replace the fire alarm system at a cost of £524 as it had a fault and was not fixable given its age.

#### Meetings and Questions

All meeting minutes are published on website and all council meetings are public currently on Zoom. Anyone is welcome to attend to address the meeting or simply to listen.

Comments to the Village hall report

-How disappointing it was that there had already been dog fouling on the new wicket.

-Why were the builders burying their rubbish on site?

It was explained that they were not, the footings are for the new path to the pre-school entrance.

-When could the second swings be put back?

When the government guidelines for the operation of playgrounds permitted it.

-The new cricket wicket astro turf surface was not suitable for riding / scooting on when funds allowed could a replacement for the skate park be installed?

This will be given consideration as the re-development continues.

-Could the cricket spectators sit on the York Avenue side to allow access to the rest of the field.

Noted by the Chairman of the Cricket Club, but ultimately people can sit where they like on the field.

-As many public clocks get vandalized should the funds be used to improve the play facilities instead?

Idea noted.

-Are all dog groups being prevented from hiring the halls?

No subject to other bookings / availability.

James Howes from the Pre-School committee thanked the Parish Council for their progressive work and the excellent facilities they were providing which helped to make Cogenhoe a great place to live.

## 8. Reports from Village Organisations

### • Neighbourhood Watch

Lawrence Howes; coordinator of Cogenhoe Neighbourhood Watch

Due to Covid-19, the six months since my last report have been static for the village scheme. Our group has 130 members and continues to be one of the largest NHW schemes in Northamptonshire. This is very positive as villages with large schemes are proven to have a lower crime rate. Membership of our village scheme is completely free of charge.

Members have continued to receive dynamic notifications despite the pandemic. These warn of active scams and other crimes occurring around us. They have proved particularly pertinent as crime is increasingly moving on-line. You can choose to receive messages relating to Northamptonshire as a whole, or just those relating to Cogenhoe and its surrounds. We also have an active Facebook page which draws a good audience.

Cogenhoe continues to be a low crime rate area. You can help it remain that way by taking sensible precautions and by being in Cogenhoe Neighbourhood Watch. If you are not already a member it is easy to join up online though do make sure you select the Cogenhoe scheme. Alternatively, you may give your details to the Parish Clerk and I will contact you.

I would like to thank all the Neighbourhood Watch members for continuing to be part of village life and I especially thank the Parish Council for their constant and invaluable support.

### • St Peters Church

Jean Grubb (PCC secretary)

This last year has been a challenge for the Church, as it has been for many of us. Last spring we were in lockdown and unable to open. Services were held on line via YouTube and using Zoom. In the summer we commenced Sunday morning services initially outside. Many of the parishioners were elderly and shielding, so digital services continued. Cold and wet weather caused us to move indoors. The Church was compliant with recommended Government legislation and guidelines; everyone was socially distanced with use of face coverings and antiseptic hand gel expected. No singing was allowed.

In the post Christmas second lockdown Churches were exempt from closure and we were open on Christmas day. It was with regret that after the morning service on January 3rd the PCC closed the Church. The number of cases of the Coronavirus in nearby towns was high and the congregation vulnerable to infection.

St. Peter's reopened on Palm Sunday at 9.30am. That's where we are at today; socially distanced, still wearing masks and with no singing and like many longing for an easing of restrictions this summer. There are still services and discussion sessions on line with service sheets being distributed to housebound people with limited use of the internet. Details of services and other activities can be

found on St. Peter's Cogenhoe website. We are extremely grateful to Revd. Eddie Smith, Revd. Irene Copley and reader Jenny Smith for shepherding us through the challenges this year has brought and having to use what seemed like alien technology at first, to support the congregation.

Some of you may have heard the bells ringing again, due partly to chimes that have been reinstated. Time has not been standing still; the Church is very much alive, in spite of Covid 19. The same cannot be said of the 1838 clock. The chiming mechanism is worn out and facing very expensive repairs, in the region of £7,000. Consequently an appeal has been started to pay for this. Anyone wishing to donate, however small an amount, please contact John Grubb, the treasurer.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Monday 24th May at 7pm. It is open to all villagers, but only those on the Church electoral roll can vote.

Q A resident asked why there was another clock appeal, she had previously donated.

A Revd. Smith explained that the previous appeal had been for the repairs to the clock and to install an electric winder, unfortunately the chimes had now failed so this appeal was for that.

### • Pre-School

Ute Graham – Pre-School Manager

Before I give a brief summary of our academic year so far, I would just like to go back to our first lockdown in March 2020. As you may know, we closed the preschool completely at that time as we had very few key worker children and their parents decided to make alternative arrangements.

We managed to reopen in June 2020, initially with much reduced numbers and a whole host of measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible! The Village Hall offered us a reduced rate for this time and also allows us to keep our equipment set up in the hall. I would like to stress how grateful we are for this! Many nurseries have been brought to the brink of bankruptcy during this pandemic and we are delighted and thankful to be still up and running! Being able to leave our hall set up and walk into a room ready for the children in the mornings has also been more than simply convenient, especially as we had to (and continue to do so) support staff with children who were unable to use out of hours care for them and therefore arrived a little later and / or left a little earlier. Thank you from all the staff and the committee!

Since September we have remained open without interruption. We clean and air the hall meticulously and restrict the number of adults (other than staff) to two. Staff members have access to regular testing now, so we have done all we can to stay Covid free! Needless to say an element of good fortune helped in the matter.

We have 32 children on our register and a maximum of 24 in one of our sessions. 12 of our children will be leaving us at the end of the summer to start school and a few more may move to other settings for a number of reasons, so, as usual, September will be quieter again – a typical pattern for any early years setting. Since I started working in Cogenhoe as the Preschool Manager in November 2018 I have been fortunate to work with the same 3 staff members. It's a steady and strong team providing stability – not something every preschool can boast!

In normal times we have a busy calendar of social events involving the parents, however these have not been taking place due to the national restrictions. We still manage to keep very regular contact with our parents and have – for now - turned a little more to written communication and our social media platform on Facebook. Nevertheless, staff members still make every effort to catch up with parents personally because we all feel that no amount of virtual contact can replace a face to face conversation!

We have been delighted with the progress of the building work and the friendly and approachable builders and are very excited about the finished result which is very close!

### • Pocket Park

Cllr Jeremy Cunnington

The pocket park has been used extensively during the pandemic and is a hidden gem in the village. There have been more volunteers helping out, and more who have offered their help once

restrictions allow. The Church easter trail was held in the perk which was a great success. During Feb 2020, Nenescape supplied birdboxes which have now been put up. Maintenance suffered a bit during lockdown and the very high water table during the period caused further damage. However, the steps & benches have now been repaired and the stream diverted. Thanks were expressed to Seann Foster and Helen Wade for their help with this. Thanks were also expressed to Phillip Hollowell for his recent work in sorting the drainage problems. There are also plans to replace the noticeboard & main gate and to finish the nature trail. There is now a friends of the pocket park facebook page and the wombling group have been litter picking in the park area. The 'Wild Bunch' have been recording flora and fauna in the park to see if there is anything that needs special care or that is unusual and it is hoped that a submission will be made to Northants Bio-Diversity.

Cllr Bailey thanked Cllr Cunnington & Cllr Biggs and all the other volunteers who help with the pocket park.

### • **Footpath warden**

Terry Coles -Parish Path Warden

Footpaths in the parish were well used during the lockdown. They became very waterlogged earlier this year when we had a considerable amount of rain over a few weeks. Unfortunately, horse riders continued to use footpaths (which are not bridleways) during this period and now that we have had a period of dry weather hoof marks are quite deep, creating a risk that walkers might turn an ankle. It is frustrating that people ignore the rules regarding footpaths and nothing can be done about it.

I have been in touch with Rights of Way regarding the Nene Way path from Cogenhoe Mill to Whiston Lock. This is a permissive path at the moment and therefore not included on the Definitive Map. It will be a footpath, not a bridleway or byway, and horses and wheeled vehicles will therefore not be allowed – it is frequently used by cyclists at the moment and damage has been done to some of the “kissing gates” in order for them to pass. The process of making it a Definitive Path is at a late stage and, assuming there are no issues, it should be completed shortly.

There is also a possibility that the path through the Pocket Park parallel with the path to the ford will become a Definitive Path.

### • **Walking group**

Terry Coles - Cogenhoe Walking for Health Group

For obvious reasons, during the past year we have had no group activity. However, Government restrictions have now been lifted for organised groups such as ours. We therefore restarted our activities on Thursday, 22nd April with a 3 mile circular walk from the Village Hall car park taking in the pond at Brafield. We were pleased to welcome three new members to our group, with 28 in total walking socially distanced. Unfortunately, at the moment we are unable to have refreshments after our walk but we hope shortly to be able to meet again at the Scout Hut as we did before the lockdown.

For a few weeks, we are going to walk weekly rather than fortnightly, as in the past. New members are always welcome. We meet at 10 am on a Thursday, at the moment in the Village Hall car park but when regulations allow, in the Scout Hut in Short Lane.

### • **WI**

Maggie Irvine

During this unusual year, due to the pandemic our WI has been unable to meet. Members have been kept in touch by emails with updates of the situation. The monthly newsletter has been circulated by email to all members. Speakers have been provisionally booked for the remainder of 2021 and as soon as regulations allow we shall be back together and hope to start with a celebration meeting. Our membership stands at 17 members and I would like to thank all those who have remained with us

over this difficult time. I shall put any updates in St, Peter's Outlook and on the Village Chatter Facebook page. Please get in touch with me if you would like to join our friendly group.

### • **Ladies Fellowship**

Elizabeth Packer

Due to the pandemic the group has not met although it did hold its AGM in July 2021. This time last year there were 31 members. The group continues to meet in the St Peter's rooms and it is hoped meeting and outings can recommence in September with a combination of afternoons and evening events.

### • **Heritage Society**

Peter Alexander - Chairman

During 2020/2021 our activities have been curtailed by the Covid Pandemic and the subsequent restrictions on gatherings and movement.

Our last open meeting held in the Village Hall was in March 2020. However the Society quickly decided to resurrect an old discontinued newsletter titled "Our Heritage Matters", which has subsequently been published monthly since March 2020. This is a well researched and diverse publication full of interesting articles about our local history and also history from wider afield. This has enabled us to provide our members with a service and keep in touch with them which they have appreciated.

As 2020 progressed, it was clear that we would not be able to resume open meetings for a long time and we started monthly speaker led open meetings in December via Zoom. These have continued on a monthly basis and have proved to be very successful.

In the background the committee has been working on future projects, which involve looking at further local suitable sites for Green Plaques and considering a feasibility study as to our possible involvement in any future archaeological investigations in our area. Another project involving a separate team has been investigating old maps of the Cogenhoe and Whiston area which has unearthed some interesting findings. They have completed its first stage and are now bringing it together in preparation for publication. We look forward to the completed book being published.

As you will see, the Society has remained active during this unprecedented year and we look forward to resuming normal activities as soon as it is safe to do so.

### • **Cricket Club**

Daniel McLaughlin - Chairman

The year 2020 will go down in our club's history as one that ultimately ended with the club's future safe and secure but began with a real threat to our very existence. The decision by the Football Club to remove us from our home of 25 years was one that saw us have to fight legally in order that we could fulfil our league obligations once Covid restrictions allowed. To that end it was a very successful season with our first team finishing top of the league and reaching the final of the Division 5 Cup. Our second XI were placed in a division two leagues higher and acquitted themselves well reaching the quarter finals of the Division 8 Cup. This was even more impressive when you consider that most of the team were under 18's.

We also ran the ECB All Stars sessions for youngsters aged between 5 and 8 as well as beginning an under 9's section. The club will be running both these sections again in 2021 as well as an under 17's side for the first time in our history.

The club continues to enjoy the support of our village and despite the difficult times we find ourselves in, our financial position remains robust with our new membership scheme attracting 29 members in its first year. Vice President and Sponsor donations also rose.

The committee adapted to the new zoom style of meetings and as a club we used social media to its fullest extent in order to deal with the many problems that arose during this most turbulent year.

Ultimately our club was saved by our Village Hall and Parish Council who together provided us with a solution to our ground problem. In conjunction with the ECB the Parish Council secured the funding for the new surface at the Playing Fields and then agreed an SLA with our club which gives us security and confidence for the future. Our club will play its part in ensuring the Playing Fields becomes a focus for village life and we see it as our job to improve the field and make it a place our village can be proud of.

We cannot begin to tell you how grateful we are to the Parish Council, The village hall, the ECB, Northants Recreational Cricket and the good people of Cogenhoe. The support from everybody has been most humbling and we will repay that support by giving you a club to be proud of.

- Football Club (received grant from Parish Council)

No attendance

## 9. Open forum

To include discussion about

- Location of commemorative clock

Much discussion took place about location of a clock with possible locations being:

-as part of the Millennium sign (possibly including the village bell). DCllr Hollowell did however confirm that the bell belongs to the school and NCC had worked hard to find it a permanent & safe home there. It was agreed that this was a visible & central location.

-on the Village hall (it was agreed the Village hall was becoming the centre for village activities & events).

Discussion also took place about giving the money to the Church to repair their chimes (although Revd Eddie said this was not appropriate as it was not what the money had been raised for). DCllr Hollowell agreed that the clock had been agreed on at an Annual parish meeting so that purpose needed to be stuck to.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would research some options to present to residents.

- How the village should commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022

Discussion took place about a village carnival which was generally well received with residents recalling previous events. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would call for volunteers to form a working party.

- How to mark the efforts of local people in fighting the Covid pandemic

Discussion took place about what might be appropriate to acknowledge the efforts of residents during the pandemic. The idea of trees / village orchard was discussed, this will be researched further.

## **Any other business**

A resident raised the subject of cutting back of hedges and householders being reminded of their responsibility. The resident agreed to notify the Clerk of specific addresses and that the message would be publicised generally.

There being no further business the **meeting closed** at **9.25pm**. Cllr Bailey thanked everyone for attending.