

DRAFT MINUTES OF PAKENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Thursday, 18th May 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: 17 members of the public attended
Mrs S Brown parish clerk took the minutes

The Chairman of the Parish Council Nick Davey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** No apologies received.
2. **To sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18 May, 2022:** All present agreed that the minutes should be signed as a true record
3. **County Councillor's Report:** Councillor Hopfensperger attended the annual report had been received with a copy attached to the minutes. The headlines from the Annual Town and Parish Newsletter 2023 was read out. The report for Pakenham was read to the meeting which included: Pakenham Fen – Sizewell C as part of the environmental impact of Sizewell C application it was agreed (despite opposition) to use part of Pakenham Fen as an offsetting exercise transporting material from Minsmere to the Fen I've been engaging with various interested parties on this to ensure that this is handled with the best interests of Pakenham in mind. I've made it clear to SCC that there is to be adequate representation and interests taken seriously as part of the application. As part of these conversations, I've also been engaging with Pakenham Mill with regards to their interest and I've also asked Jo Churchill MP to be involved in this important subject.

The process of adding the footpath to the definitive map is going ahead there have been other priorities and we will just have to wait for the process to take place. I will continue to put pressure on this to get it resolved.

The closure of the bridge and diversion of the traffic off the A1088 has caused issues with increased traffic using Pakenham in particular HGVs who are finding it hard to navigate the street. I've been pushing to try and get this work concluded earlier to minimise the impact on the village, also to improve signage to show where the suitable routes are. The police have said that they will continue to monitor the situation as will highways.

I was pleased to be able to support the parish with funding towards purchasing mugs in celebration of the Queens jubilee.

Potholes – I know this is the bane of everyone's lives including myself and the state of the roads is not acceptable. We now have the perfect opportunity with the change in the highways contract to look at how we can better deal with the potholes by firstly doing a better first time fix and also doing all potholes in one area irrespective of whether they meet the intervention criteria. We need to continue to report them, I can continue to escalate. The reason temporary repairs are completed is because of the road management needed for permanent repairs may take longer to organise and also depends on how much material the truck can carry. We have had a particular hard winter for the roads with lots of salting that has affected the roads, to put the number of defects (potholes) into context there are around 1,800 in the system with 125 being added on a daily basis. The government recognised that potholes are a national issue which is why SCC got nearly £5million for pothole repairs, this is why first time fixes are important to ensure that the money is spent in the most efficient way.

4. **Borough Councillor Report:** Councillor Andrew Speed attended the annual report had been received with a copy attached to the minutes. Cllr Speed stated good communication is the key and residents were to feel free to contact him on any issues and would like to work closely with the Parish Council. He had taken on board the issue for the village post office with increased energy costs and was looking at potential grants for support. A brief overview

was given of his role as District Councillor. The annual report from the previous district councillor Simon Brown was read to Council which included: it is first, with much sadness, necessary to reflect on the passing of Henry Painter. As Chairman of Pakenham parish council he took on much responsibility and in particular over the past year helped see us through the back-end of Covid. Planning applications increased, more community activities were planned and Councillors and residents all had a lot of energy to give within meetings that required facilitating. Henry did that fantastically well. I've spent many a time over the past 8 years at various Council meetings and can confidently say that Henry chaired these meetings extremely well. We may not have always agreed with his or other people's views, but all had the opportunity to give their opinion. Henry was a great asset to the village and Parish. It's great that Nick Davey has stepped into the role as Chair, who I'm sure will chair meetings equally well and with aplomb, for the benefit of residents. There are ongoing challenges from last year to manage, such as Thurston housing developments, increase of traffic through Pakenham, the Bunbury Arms junction, sewage in the stream and regular planning applications. These are all matters we have responded to locally over the past year and will continue to be there for the incumbent district councillor Andrew Speed this year. The community activities went well with a recent £500 donation from the locality budget towards a summer event, such as with the pub or playing field committee. They have greatly helped bring the village together, maybe more publicity and support can be given to community activity at the Watermill this year, closer to residents in the Fen Road area of the village. The past year has been good and I wish the very best to all in the forthcoming year. Looking forward to a bacon roll and coffee at the Village Café.

5. Annual reports:

- **Allotments** – The Clerk to the Council advised two full plots (4 & A) and one half plot (12) were currently vacant with no one currently on the waiting list wishing to rent a plot. Rent of £220 received with £20 outstanding.
- **Pakenham Charities** – The treasurer from Pakenham Charities was able to attend a report was read to the meeting: Pakenham Charities for the Poor is one of three charitable trusts for the parish, originating in bequests dating from centuries ago. The income is derived from the rent and investments, plus one third of the income of the Pakenham Town Estate Trust. The remaining Town Estate Trust income is divided between the Church and the Education Trust. This report concerns only the Charities for the Poor. Income for the Charities for the Poor is used to make a small annual grant, intended under the trust deed for the purchase of fuel, to elderly, disabled, or disadvantaged residents. Grants are also made, on a one-off basis, to individuals with particular needs, and to organisations of benefit to the residents of Pakenham parish. The trustees at the close of 2023 were the vicar, the Reverend Katherine Valentine (Chair), Mrs Marion Sargent and Mr Karl Scott as co-opted Trustees for the Charities for the Poor, Mr Cedric Palfrey and Mr Derek Dorling, representing the Parish Council and Ann Harrison and Martin Harrison, Churchwardens. The Charity Trustees have increased advertising this year to reach out to village residents in need during these difficult times for families and have responded to three one-off requests for grants during the year, resulting in a total of £1,000 awarded for specific assistance. Advice is also made available on other local organisations to which residents may apply. The Charities were grateful to receive a gift of £100 to the Poores from a resident and another resident has kindly renewed his offer of immediate funds if required. Income to the Charities for the Poor, totalled £6,510 for the year to December 31st 2022. The annual allocation from the Town Estate was £5,500, with the remainder of the income received from investments, rents, bank interest and donations. There was also £2,593 in a savings account at the close of the year. The Pakenham Charities for the Poor

Trustees met as usual in early December to decide on the main allocation of available funds. A total of £7,183 was allocated as charitable grants to individuals and organisations in 2022, with individuals benefitting from a total of £6,620. Ixworth Patients Association, the only organisation currently receiving assistance, was awarded £500. At the annual allocations meeting, the Trustees responded to further increases in investment income during 2022 by awarding a fuel grant of £185, a £10 increase over 2021. Three fewer village residents, 28 in total, received fuel grants this year. The total cost of fuel grants was £5,180. In addition, three gifts of £100 were made to former Pakenham residents now in residential care. Ongoing monthly support continues for an alarm and monitoring system for one village resident. The total cost of supporting this system was £140.40 during 2022. Income received from wayleave is divided between the Charities for the Poor and the Town Estate, accounting for £13 paid annually to the Town Estate. A donation of £150 was received from a village resident, with the provision that £50 would be paid to the Educational Trust. Administrative expenses were £275 in 2022. The Charities for the Poor responded to three individual appeals for assistance during 2022, totalling £1000. A new leaflet providing contact details for the Spring Stanley Trust and other local charities, such as those distributing food parcels, has been prepared for the information of our applicants. As always, Pakenham residents are welcome to approach the clerk with requests by letter, telephone or email at any time during the year. All applications will be dealt with promptly and in strict confidence. Sally Smith (Clerk to Pakenham Charities), assisted by Sharon Ungless

Pakenham Charities for the Poor Accounts 2022 are attached to the minutes

- **Pakenham Village Hall & Playing Field Association** – The Chair of the PVH & PFA attended and gave a report 2022 - 2023: Thanks were given to the Parish Council for their continued support. In general the hall is well used. Issues dealt with over the last year included the AGM, planning for the Flower & Produce Show, request for baby changing facilities, Austin heating carried out works in the hall, three quotes received with one provider chosen, the Flower & Produce show had to be cancelled because of lack of entrants, a clothing bank has been installed at the pavilion car park for St Nicholas hospice which has been very successful, two quizzes had to be cancelled due to lack of a compere but was hoped one had now been found, Christmas tree bought and new decorations for the hall, broadband was installed at the village hall, a price increase for hall hire came in on 1st April 2023. It had been difficult to raise funds and they were looking at Easy Fund Raising on the portal through the Village hall facebook page and they were hoping to raise funds this way.
- **PCC: Churchwardens Report** – The Churchwardens were unable to attend but had sent through a report which was read to the meeting: Seven funerals took place in the Church during 2022. There were no Baptisms or Marriages during the same period. On the death of her Majesty the Queen on 8th September 2022 a Book of Condolence was placed in the church for parishioners to sign. Festival services were well attended as was the Remembrance Service in November. A Memorial Post erected by the Parish Council in the Cemetery and dedicated to those who lost their lives in war, was blessed by Revd. Katherine Valentine during a short Act of Remembrance. The Deanery service for Ascension Day was held at Pakenham. A monthly prayer vigil for Ukraine began in the spring and continued throughout the year. The church continues to be open daily for visitors and private prayer. We are grateful for the support of our Reader Di Barker and Assistant Curate Revd. Jay Price and our Elders Jan and Max Bacon. Thanks also go to our Organists, Harry Carroll-Davies, Elizabeth Moore and Margaret Salmon and to the Bell Ringers who attend our services whenever they can. We would also like to express our gratitude to the volunteers who help to keep the church clean, provide the floral displays and help

with general tasks such as unlocking and locking the church. Visitors often comment on the bright and welcoming atmosphere in the building. The hot water boiler in the Martin Room was replaced with a grant from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. In the North Transept new shelving has been added and the stairs to the mezzanine floor were renewed. Following the failure of the old unit, a reconditioned heating boiler has been installed, and the heating system inspected and repaired. A new platform was built in front of the Reading Lectern and an old barrier in the church repurposed as a safety rail behind the platform. In May a bench was installed in the churchyard in memory of Derry Higson and a crab apple tree was planted by Carol Reavell in memory of her husband Clive. Regular cutting of the churchyard continues at intervals to allow growth of low growing wildflowers. Some designated areas are cut once a year. A food bank was set up under the 'Pantry in the Porch' scheme in partnership with Pakenham Christian Fellowship. Food is donated from a variety of sources including donations from the Pakenham community and can be collected from the back of the Church or in the porch. Craft packs were produced and distributed to some of the children living in the village at Easter and Christmas, funded by a grant from the Diocese Growth Fund. We were pleased to continue the summer outdoor theatre event after the break for Covid with the welcome return of the Immersion Theatre with a performance of Rapunzel. A larger audience than expected enjoyed the performance and their picnics in the beautiful weather. Several said they would be back next year and would recommend the event to their friends. A big thank you to all the volunteers from the church and community who helped support this event and enabled it to happen. In September we were entertained by a wonderful concert from the Bury Male Voice Choir who stepped in at the last moment when a performance from another artist had to be cancelled. St Mary's Church also hosted a performance of The Nutcracker in November as part of a fundraising event for Stowlangtoft church. The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust 'Ride & Stride' took place in September; thank you to everyone who walked, cycled or stewarded the event. In the same month a bric-a-brac sale was held in the Village Hall to raise funds for the church. We have begun to host Afternoon Teas in the Martin Room, including a Christmas tea, which has been much appreciated by those attending. Thanks go to Anne Rose, Jan Bacon and Anne Harrison for all the hard work which make these events such a success. *Anne and Martin Harrison* (Churchwardens)

- **Threads** – A report was received and read to the meeting: Threads is a weekly group that meets Wednesdays from 1.30 – 4.30pm for sewing, knitting and crochet. A charge of £3 each week covers the hall hire. The group has been self-funding and manages to pay for the hire of the village hall each month along with most trips and Christmas meal covered by excess funds.

Tree Wardens Report – The dry summer of 2022 was a difficult time for trees in general but Pakenham seems to have not been too badly affected. Moving on to 2023 Urban Forestry have just carried out the latest 3 yearly H & S survey of mature trees on land which the Parish Council owns or is responsible for. We are particularly grateful to Graham who does monthly H & S walks round the village looking for potential hazards (fallen branches etc) and reporting back to us. The Parish Council continues to be very happy with M&TJs who carry out most of our day to day horticultural maintenance most efficiently. The PC would also like to thank James Beatty and his partner Jenny together with neighbours Bunty and Carroll Davis family for keeping Church Green Wood so well, the show of spring bulbs this year was beautiful. There was also a good display of snowdrops in The Dell which has benefited from a bit of bramble and ivy clearance by a neighbour unknown to whom the PC is extremely grateful. It would be good if this work could be expanded upon.

Having been Tree Warden for a large number of years now it is pleasurable to watch the progress of tree and hedge planting scheme's that the PC having carried out over time, and the one that I particularly enjoy currently is the Queen Diamond Jubilee oak tree that we planted in front of the Watermill and is there for future generations to enjoy. The other side of the job is occasionally having to remind people of their responsibility as land owners to manage overgrown trees or hedges. More difficult is sometimes getting this work carried out, with people being unwilling, unaware and sometimes unable to afford the cost of carrying out the work. Let's hope 2023 is a good growing year for all our beautiful Trees and Hedgerows. Derek Dorling.

- **Village & Church Newsletter** – The Editor was unable to attend but had sent a report which was read to the meeting: Eleven publications of The Village and Church News were produced for the twelve months from January to December with a combined December/January edition. Restricted to multiples of four, I usually like to produce forty-four pages for each edition. Contributions vary from village to village and a lot more local news and articles would be appreciated. I have received several positive comments from the readership, but I would welcome suggestions where improvements are required. The level of revenue generated from advertising remains constant, however printing costs are increasing so we are grateful to those who support the magazine with their patronage. Our thanks are due to all those who contribute and those volunteers who help with the distribution of the magazine. Martin Harrison (Editor)
- **Women's Institute** – The Women's Institute Chair attended and gave a report: The Committee has worked hard to give a varied programme, 'ladies who lunch' once a month, birthday posies and raffle table, minutes taken, gift aid and annual return for the charity commission. Talks this year included: Medical dogs, hedgehog rescue, tax wills and LPAs, hi-jacking of Edith Cavell, lace makers of Eye, visit to Kampala, Christmas meal, quiz and social evening, garden party, Artefact Brewery, visit to Yum Yum fudge factory in Woolpit, Norwich for shopping, Queens jubilee, Macmillan coffee, appeal for Ukraine, jumble sale. A big thank you to Mary for leading our WI this year, to the cake and tea makers and to everyone who comes. Full report is attached to the minutes.
- **Parish Council Report** – The Chair gave a report: A warm welcome to everyone here this evening. This meeting is tinged with sadness, our chairman of the last 16 years sadly passed away a few weeks ago after a short illness. Henry Painter took the Chair back in May 2007 and has been a stalwart in the running of Pakenham parish council ever since. His knowledge in everything 'village' was incredible. Whoever takes Henry's place will need a huge pair of shoes to fill the void Henry has left. It goes without saying that all here tonight send their condolences to his wife Linda and family. A big thank you has to go out to all the parish councillors who take their free time to help run the village council. Their knowledge and input is vital to the running of the Parish Council, some have been here since Noah was a boy some relatively newer to the council, me included, but the knowledge all put together is vital. Thanks to the Clerk for her support. Thank you to the Community Council and village organisations for their involvement. The previous year has seen 17 planning applications, which for a small village is huge. Some were successful and some were not. Work was carried out on the access to the lawn cemetery. The Oak memorial was installed at the church and is magnificent, special thanks must go to Maurice for his 'ingenuity' at getting people to volunteer their expertise in making this memorial. Pakenham and the country celebrated the Queens Jubilee with the parish council providing free celebration mugs for the children. The Fox pub, village organisations and volunteers put on a brilliant weekend of food, music, games and general

celebrations. It's lovely to see our local pub going from strength to strength and being enjoyed by those near and far. We have a village pub, we have a village post office and a small convenience store which many villages would dearly love to have. We are so lucky and we need to strive to keep these village amenities. Thanks must go to Ross at the Fox and special thanks to Barbara at the post office for all her help throughout the year, much appreciated. Finally, thank you to everyone in the village for making Pakenham such a lovely village. Nick Davey Chairman.

Open Forum: A resident expressed their concern at Sizewell C's proposed works on Fen Meadow Pakenham, he gave a presentation and provided a short-written report with map which included the importance of the ditching system. Cllr Hopfensperger confirmed she has had a meeting with the Watermill to discuss the issues and concerns and how this will be monitored also working with Jo Churchill MP on this matter. It is hoped that a site visit will take place which will include various representatives.

The resident was invited to discuss the issue further with Cllr Hopfensperger. A number of questions were asked and opinions were given. It was advised the Parish Council had discussed this matter a number of times over the last few years.

It was asked if the parish council could look at the disabled access to the Church as it was difficult or impossible for wheelchairs/buggies to go over the new hump on the driveway which was installed to stop the run off of gravel.

6. Date of the next meeting: The date of the next meeting to be confirmed.

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 8 pm