

DRAFT MINUTES OF PAKENHAM PARISH MEETING
Virtual meeting held on Wednesday, 21 April 2021 at 7pm

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

The Chairman of the Parish Council Henry Painter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies received from West Suffolk Cllr Simon Brown
2. **To sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd May, 2019:** All present agreed that the minutes should be signed as a true record
3. **County Councillor's Report:** Councillor Hopfensperger attended and gave the annual report a copy of report was attached to the minutes. Cllr Hopfensperger advised she hoped to receive more information from Highways on cycle routes as well as two residents had contacted her advising they would be happy to be involved in any working group on cycle routes, they were happy for their details to be passed to the parish clerk. Cllr Hopfensperger had also been contacted by a resident in regards flooding issues on Church Hill which has been reported to Highways who will be jetting out the whole system. It was also advised when the work to alleviate the flooding issues next to the A143 two drains were uncovered which were overgrown with vegetation and mud. Highways were due to come back to jet these out. Cllr Hopfensperger to check this work had been carried out. A brief discussion took place on cycle routes/highway issues to place on the agenda for the May meeting. Cllr Hopfensperger was thanked for all her work for Pakenham over the last year.
4. **Borough Councillor Report:** Cllr S Brown sent a report which was read out by the Clerk and was attached to the minutes.
5. **Annual reports:**
 - **Allotments** – The Clerk to the Council advised all allotments were currently being rented with three on the waiting list and three plot holders who would be happy to rent another plot as well.
 - **Pakenham Charities** – The treasurer from Pakenham Charities attended and gave a report a copy of which is attached as well as a copy of the accounts.
 - **Pakenham Village Hall and Playing Field Association** – Very little was required by the committee due to the Covid-19 restrictions as all events were cancelled although some limited use in the early stages. Any matters arising were either dealt with by the Chair or by email with committee members. The only real issue of note was the new circular bench outside the Post Office which was badly damaged and had to be removed for repair. The repairs have been quite costly but it was hoped the insurance may cover it. Financially, they have been well supported by Government grants and the committee have agreed they will help all village clubs to use the village hall free of charge until everything is back to normal. A vote of thanks was given to the Chair and committee of PVH & PFA for letting the village groups use the village hall for free, it is much appreciated.
 - **PCC: Churchwardens Report** – No report had been received.
 - **Threads** – Threads have not met in the Village Hall since the pandemic started. A small WhatsApp group have stayed in touch and are eager to resume the Wednesday afternoon session once the Village Hall opens again.
 - **Tree Wardens Report** – The year started with a work party in early Feb which was organized by James Beatty at Church Green Wood. James who lives in 3 Church Green Cottages has taken on the role of Warden and has made a big impact with constructing dead wood hedges, planting Ash sapling

stools, splitting and increasing the snowdrops, constructing eco piles and making a rustic seat for visitors to the wood. A big vote of thanks to James and his partner Jenny for all their hard work. It was also time to carry out the Three-Year H&S Tree Inspection on Parish Council Property. A number of large Sycamores in Church Green Wood and in The Dell were found to be unsafe and were felled with trunk and brushwood left on site as habitat for wood boring insects. Deadwood removal and raising the crown to the large Cedar and Beech tree in the Parish Burial Ground was also carried out. One particular tree which made a significant impact to residents along the Fen was the large Oak near Butchers Corner, which blew over in one of the many gales of 2020 taking the Fibre Broadband wire leaving us with no HS connection for days.

- **Village Newsletter** – No report had been received
 - **Women’s Institute** – The Women’s Institute Chair attended and gave a report a copy of which was attached to the minutes.
 - **Parish Council Report** – The Chair thanked everyone for their work this year as well as Cllr Hopfensperger and Cllr Brown for all their help in Pakenham. The Parish Council have worked well through the last year using Zoom for meetings although at times it has been difficult. There are three items causing the most concern:
 1. Roads and the extra traffic coming from Thurston.
 2. Water in the stream which is affected by the sewage works.
 3. Fenland created as compensation when fen land is taken when they build Sizewell C.
6. **Open Forum** – A member of the public highlighted the number of large delivery vehicles using the Broadway/Fen Road. Item to be discussed in the next parish council meeting.
7. **Date of the next meeting:** The date of the next meeting to be confirmed.
- There being no further matters the meeting closed at 7.35 pm