

# Wilby Annual Parish Meeting 2021

Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 6.30pm  
via Zoom.

**Councillors Attending: Cllr Ian Williamson (Chairman), Cllr Karen Collins, Cllr Robin Cross, Cllr Steve Lee, Cllr Rebecca Regis.**

**Also attending: District Councillor Julie Flatman, Roisin Wiseman & Julie Collett Clerk.**

- 1. Introduction and welcome by Chair of the Parish Council.** Cllr Ian Williamson welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence.** Received and accepted from Mary Pipe, Alison Taylor and Carol Cropley.
- 3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes.** Minutes agreed and no matters arising.
- 4. To receive a report from the Parish Council.** Cllr Ian Williamson presented the council's report. Appendix A
- 5. To receive reports from:**
  - 5.1 Wilby School-Appendix B
  - 5.2 Wilby WI -Appendix C
  - 5.3 Wilby PCC -Appendix D
  - 5.4 Coronation Hall -Appendix E
  - 5.5 District Councillor -Appendix F
  - 5.6 County Councillor -Appendix G
- 6. Public Forum.** An opportunity for members of the public to express views or ask questions. This will be limited to 15 minutes at the Chairman's discretion.

No public present.

Meeting Closed 19.09

Signed as a true record.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appendix A

### **WILBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021**

#### **REPORT FROM WILBY PARISH COUNCIL**

As Chairman I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Parish Council. This year there have been no changes in the composition of the council with five members continuing to serve the community. There remain two vacancies on the council and I would urge any resident, who feels that he or she is able to make a contribution to the village and its future development, to consider joining the Parish Council. Like any organisation the council benefits from the interests, knowledge and experience of each of its members and it remains important that they are representative of the various elements of our community. Because of the Covid pandemic the council has met less frequently than in the past and with one exception has held its meetings virtually using Zoom. In the last year there have been five scheduled regular meetings and six extraordinary meetings to discuss domestic planning applications and to approve the Neighbourhood Plan.

The outstanding achievement of the last year has of course been the preparation and publication of the Wilby Neighbourhood Plan. This has entailed an enormous amount of work by those directly involved, much of it in out of hours time, and has engaged a very significant number of residents who participated in the public consultation events providing views and suggestions on a range of relevant topics. Our thanks are due to the Volunteer Group who guided the development of the plan and in particular to our Vice-Chairman Steve Lee, to Stuart Banks whose civil service background was invaluable and to Andrea Long our very dutiful consultant who together drafted the plan and oversaw its development and production. Tomorrow the Wilby Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum and I have every confidence that it will receive an affirmative vote.

From a financial perspective I am pleased to report that the Parish Council's finances are well founded and that we have not incurred any adverse audit observations. For this careful management of our accounts thanks are due to our Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Julie Collett. In the financial year ending 31 March 2021 our income was £6473 and expenditure £5927. Income was primarily from the precept whilst expenditure included the Clerk's salary and expenses, purchase of a new laptop for the Clerk and a range of regular donations including the St Mary's Church (towards churchyard maintenance) and other local charities. Our reserves amounted to £7400. The latter figure has been updated for the current financial year to allow for expenditure on items identified in the Neighbourhood Plan and to provide an additional cushion against any unforeseen expenditure arising.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow councillors for their diligence and duty on behalf of the residents of Wilby. We all, I am sure, would wish to acknowledge publicly, our debt to our Clerk, Julie Collett, who has continued to provide an excellent service to the council, arranging our meetings, providing the relevant papers and taking required follow up action, whilst ensuring that our proceedings and decisions remain within the law. In addition she has taken in her stride the organisation and management of Zoom meetings. I am happy to say that where there have been differences of opinion around the council table, which one should expect in any council doing its job properly, we have never got anywhere near appearing on Youtube!

I would also wish to extend our thanks to others who have supported us directly. Our District Councillor Julie Flatman has kept us regularly up to date with District Council and other matters and has been most helpful in ensuring access to her locality budget from

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which the council and the village hall have benefitted. County Councillor Guy McGregor has seldom not been able to attend our meetings and brief us on the development of County Council policy. He also has made funds available to the Parish Council. Tomorrow he stands for re-election and we wish him well. Alison Walls had to relinquish her post as our Footpath Warden on moving house but we are most grateful to her for the highly effective way she discharged her voluntary duties. We are still looking for a replacement. Julian Roughton has continued to give generously of his time as our Tree Warden and the fruits of his labours are evident in the new planting on London City Road and his careful monitoring of the preservation of historic hedgerows and woodland.

That concludes the report from the Parish Council. I would be happy to answer any immediate questions arising from the report.

**Ian Williamson**

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## Appendix B

### Wilby CEVC Primary School. April 2021 summary for 2019-2021

In November 2019 we were visited by two Ofsted inspectors who conducted a two day Section 5

inspection. The outcomes were extremely positive:

Behaviour and Attitudes Outstanding

Personal development Outstanding

Leadership and Management Outstanding

Quality of Education Good

EYFS Provision Good

The report contained a number of highly encouraging observations including:

⌚ Staff go the extra mile to provide exciting and enriching experiences for all the pupils and set high expectations for all.

⌚ Leaders relentless ambition and drive ensure that all pupils learn well and develop pupils personal development exceptionally.

⌚ Pupils are caring and respectful of one another. Their exemplary behaviour makes the school a welcoming and happy community.

Despite the national lockdown/school closures in March 2020 and then again in January 2021, the school has also continued to grow from strength to strength in terms of pupil numbers, with children on roll anticipated to be well over 90 by the beginning of the Autumn Term 2021.

After a wonderful Autumn Term back in school in 2020, we were all devastated to hear that due to the rise in Coronavirus cases across the country, we had once more been thrust back into lockdown. Wilby CEVC Primary School continued to remain open for vulnerable pupils and the children of our key workers. Approximately one half of our pupils were taught in school and the rest were educated at home.

Our brilliant teachers worked hard to provide pre-recorded daily face to face lessons which were posted, along with all the associated resources, onto the website each day. It was great to see photos of home-learning and to 'chat' to parents on a daily basis about how things are going via Class Dojo (online messaging system). Pupils also got the chance to chat together in a weekly live lesson where they shared an area of research or interest with each other or took part in a class activity. With their other hats on, teachers and TAs kept life as normal as possible for our pupils in school and as always staff did all they could to ensure that they still benefitted from the provision of a wide and exciting curriculum. The school worked very closely with parents during this time and the feedback we have received from our survey about the quality of home-learning resources/lessons provided was extremely positive.

Thankfully schools were able to open again just before Easter this year and we were delighted to welcome all of the children back for a full-time education in school.

In order to manage the risks from Coronavirus we operate an adapted school day with staggered start, break, lunch and end to the school day, which enables the different bubbles of pupils to maintain social distancing. We are continuing to ensure that increased hygiene, hand-washing and cleaning regimes are in place and the installation of six additional sinks to the outside of the school building has greatly assisted in the logistical management of this.

Currently school trips and visitors can only happen within class bubbles and with careful risk

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assessments in place. Therefore, trips thus far have remained local and we have only welcomed visitors into school via Zoom and other online media sites to provide curriculum enrichment opportunities. This term all classes will venture further afield to Thorpe-woodlands for outdoor adventurous activity days and we will be welcoming local author Sophie Green into school for the day. Slowly the range of activities that we can safely offer is increasing and when the Covid Roadmap allows we even anticipate holding our annual sports day. Wren Class (YR and Y1) continue to enjoy Forest School learning on Monday afternoons- it has been great to see the children enthusiastically engaged in den building and nature explorations - whatever the weather!

The school has made good use of video conferencing. Our first parents reading workshop delivered via Zoom- 'How to get the most out of your child's reading book' was well attended and also, delivered via Zoom, parents have enjoyed our Harvest Festival and Christmas Zoom plays. We are also working with Hartismere Place to provide contact and support for the dementia patients in the unit there. The children's face on screen isn't as good as their actual presence in the Home but it nevertheless seems to be very well received by the residents there. We are all adapting to the 'new normal' and absolutely determined whatever future restrictions may need to be put in place, to make the very best of every opportunity.

The staffing structure at the school has remained very stable but we have appointed a new High Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs Karen Maurice, who has been employed to help to deliver the 'Catchup' education support which is much needed after the disruption to education caused by the two school closure periods. This term we also welcome Mr Mark Easton who will be providing maternity cover for Mrs Brooke Dillimore.

The school continues to provide support for headteachers locally in terms of headteacher's mentoring and also through headteacher's locality steering groups.

### **Church/school links:**

The school continues to work closely with St Mary's Church in Wilby and we have recently begun to resume our regular trips down to the church with two excellent sessions led by Reverend Burrell in order to explore the importance of taking communion and the significance of this ritual for Christians.

Throughout the last two years, when restrictions have allowed, we have continued to worship in church particularly when marking special celebrations in the church calendar. We were also fortunate in January 2020, just before restrictions were imposed, to work with In with a company called iSing POP. iSingPOP are a Christian organisation who help to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of pupils and their place in the community. The children learnt a number of specially written songs, which support our school values as well as the children's learning in a range of subjects including Music, RE and Citizenship. Both performances in the church had a professional feel about them partly due to the high quality lighting and sound systems used but also because, as usual, our children sang their hearts out and sounded wonderful. Our thanks go to St Mary's Church for making iSingPOP possible it was a great way to unite school, church and community. We loved it and look forward, as restrictions allow, to making closer links once more with both our local and wider communities- enjoying what they have to offer and in turn, looking for **opportunities to enrich the lives of others where we can.**

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## Appendix C

### Wilby WI Annual Report 2020

Members number 24

Our many plans for events, meet-ups, clubs and of course meetings have mostly been put 'on hold'. We have risen to the challenge of remaining in contact by the creation of a Whats-app Group in March, with probably half of our members actively sharing their 'Lockdown' lives through the early part of this year - this proved to be a great support and often highly amusing, bringing much needed laughter during a difficult time.

As soon as we were able to "go-out" again, we held Wilby's 'Summertime tWist' (afternoon tea party) hosted by one of our members in her delightful garden/outside space. With Government Covid Guidelines/Rules slightly lifted, another member opened her garden for an afternoon's viewing - again, a much needed 'boost' to lift spirits! We were able to keep one of our planned speakers (albeit altered to an Outdoor event), which was to hold a Tai-Chi session with interested members - the weather was lovely and the session was a great success.

Our Programme for this year has been:-

January - Group meeting fun and games with buffet

February - talk by Colin Barker on Paddle Steamers & The Ipswich Docks

Since March we've not been able to return to our hall for Monthly WI Meetings, so with the thought of 'keeping our communication flowing', we have introduced a Monthly Newsletter. It is still in its infancy but being very well received - we highlight events, news and lay-down mini challenges to keep our members 'on their toes'!

Naturally Covid-19 has made a big impact on the lunch club, book club, banner & bunting

group, walking netball, crochet club and walking group with many venues not being available or members shielding and therefore not able to take part.

However, as soon as there is the opportunity, we will be back doing all the things we most enjoyed.

At the beginning of the year we had a new President, Vice-President, Treasurer as well as three new Committee members. The newly formed Committee were just 'finding their feet' when Covid-19 was announced - 'Lockdown' for the country. However when Covid Guidelines/Rules allowed, our Committee returned to meet regularly again. Also in the summer, additionally we had a change of Secretary, but a few months in, all 'replacement & existing Committee roles' are working very enthusiastically together and as the poor weather frequents us, Committee have now taken to holding their meetings via **Zoom!**

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## Appendix D

### St Mary's Church Wilby Report 2020

This is the occasion when we have the opportunity to look back over the previous year. And what a year 2020 has been. Last year we spent much of the time in lock-down. In the first lock-down the church had to be closed in line with government regulations. When we were allowed to open for public worship, we did hold some services with social distancing, face masks and no singing. With cases escalating and the safety of all in mind we ceased public worship again in November and are now looking forward to re-opening again soon. Normal patterns of services and events did not happen. Even our Christmas services only happened on zoom. Zoom has been a great boon and Rev'd Chrissie Smart, Rev'd Ron Orams and Sheila Pipe have become very adept in creating services for all. One spin off is the Friday Celtic morning and Wednesday evening prayer. This year we have had more people attending the Lent course than ever. Zoom is such an easy way of getting people together without having to turn out in the cold and wet but remain in the comfort of one's own home.

Many things that were planned for the last 12 months had to go on hold and it may be that they have to go on hold again for this year as well. However assuming lock-down will be lifted some fund raising and social events may happen later in the year. We are looking forward to when we can all meet once more in our church.

Once again we have managed to pay our Parish Share in full which is a wonderful achievement. This is paid to the Diocese and goes towards the priests salary and other central church expenses. On top of this we have to pay large amounts of money just to upkeep, insure and run this beautiful building.

We have strong links with the school and they usually come to the church for their Christmas and Harvest services. Also they often visit the church for other activities throughout the year either as part of their collective worship or as part of their studies. The highlight for 2020 had to be the IsingPop event in conjunction with the school – a week of song and dance in school followed by two professionally produced performances in church, we were so lucky to get this event in before the onset of the pandemic.

Our churchyard as always is well maintained and this is down to the hard work of a small band of people in the village who help with grass cutting, strimming, hedge cutting, tidying and sweeping up the leaves. We are most grateful to them all and if you want to get involved please contact either of the churchwardens.

Finally thank you to those in the village who support us in so many different ways. We hope that we will continue to receive this support in the future – the church is here for you and **we need your support.**

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### Appendix E

**Wilby Village Hall Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 5th May 2021** Prior to the 'Lockdown' we had spent a lot of time and money on our hall upgrade project. A big thank you must go to Ian Taylor (Treasurer) for his persistent and tireless efforts in organising the upgrade. Having finally secured a disappointing nominal payment from Mid Suffolk we agreed to go forward with our original proposed plan to upgrade the hall's facilities funding the majority of the costs ourselves. Many of you might think that we have been doing very little, but it couldn't be further from the truth. The following improvements to the hall have been made both pre and post pandemic. The installation of a new sewage treatment plant, interior decoration of the hall area, saving the original beechwood sprung dance floor and restoring it back to its former glory, removal of the old lounge carpet and fitting new, extensive electrical work to install new heaters in the lounge and hall areas and finally solar batteries to compliment the existing solar system, hopefully helping to keep down the electricity costs and reduce the facilities carbon footprint. The hall is now future proofed and should be both more appealing, comfortable and ecologically friendly. Throughout the 'lockdown' and its various guises the hall has been holding 'virtual' Pub Nights via Zoom, LK's school of dance also continued when restrictions allowed. Thankfully the charity (village hall) has been in receipt of Covid grants helping to restore the village hall's funds to a more healthy state. We are always striving to improve the facilities of our important community building for all to benefit from and enjoy. With a team of volunteers, recruited via Nextdoor, we recently spent a morning cleaning/tidying up the outside of the hall and another session is planned soon. We look forward to a more 'normal' future when the hall can be enjoyed and used for a variety of purposes such as meetings, classes, training sessions, parties, weddings and much much more. As chairperson I would like to thank the committee for their work and mention a date for the diary of the 2nd July (Friday). This is the date that we intend to open again for a Pub Night (more details will be in the May Newsletter), so we look forward to the communities support. Alison Taylor Village Hall Chairperson

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## Appendix F

### Wilby Annual Parish Meeting 5th May 2021 by District

Councillor Julie Flatman

What a year we have all had and how well we have supported each other. I think local businesses have been absolutely marvellous staying open where possible to provide essential services. Volunteer groups have rallied to deliver medicines, provisions and vital transport. Radio Stradbroke have entertained and informed. The post office a lifeline for banking, books, the greeting card and the friendly face. Life slowed down for some, you had time to actual speak to one another in the queues. Some of us got fit and some of us spent far too much time in front of a screen working.

Some communities slowed down and didn't do a lot to warrant a locality grant. I'm pleased to say this did not happen with my wards. I spent every penny.

Wilby Village Hall £378.00.

Obviously not all projects have started due to lock down, but I look forward to seeing the finished or started projects.

Covid-19 and Grants - how council adopted over-night workfrom-home and distributed grants as soon as they came through from Government.

Many businesses received grants and yes, they did come from central Government, but it was left to the district council to administer which was time consuming to say the least.

The housing team worked around the clock to get all the homeless off the streets and into accommodation we worked closely with hotels that were shut.

Mid Suffolk Communities team worked closely with the County Council to provide The Home but not alone line.

Offices dealt with many complex cases that really were more suited to qualified health specialists.

We also deployed staff from other departments to help with the volume of calls.

**Hot of the press.**

**Mid Suffolk District Council awarded community grants close to a 1 million in the 2020/21 financial year – supporting the district's Covid response and enabling improvements to local community venues and sports and leisure facilities.**

During the year, council officers have worked with clubs and organisations in the district to identify need and ensure that vital grant funding has made a real difference to Mid Suffolk's communities.

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The council has also acknowledged the key role of community groups, along with town and parish councils, in easing the challenges faced by residents during coronavirus, and a new dedicated Covid-19 Emerging Needs Grant opened last May to help the district through the peak of the pandemic. More than 60 organisations benefitted from over £100,000 in funding, including good neighbour schemes, foodbanks and community outreach projects.

A new Covid-19 Recovery Grant, set to be launched next month, will allow this crucial support to continue and enable communities to safely return to normality following the further easing of restrictions.

The pandemic also highlighted the importance of securing bright and healthy futures for Mid Suffolk residents, with grant funding approved for walking routes, leisure equipment and local sports clubs over the past twelve months.

This includes over £50,000 in Section 106 funding – collected from developers when they build new homes in the district – towards new play areas in Badwell Ash and Elmswell, along with capital grants of £36,500 for Mid Suffolk tennis clubs and a £2,000 discretionary grant to establish a new Park Run at Chilton Fields.

Elmswell also benefitted from Section 106 funding of £76,585 to facilitate the extension of the village's Blackbourne Centre – providing five different spaces for community use to accommodate a wide range of needs.

Numerous other community venues across Mid Suffolk received funding for much-needed improvement works, with £28,000 in capital grants approved for Haughley's Ron Crascall Pavilion – forming a key part of the project to regenerate and revitalise King George's Field.

The Museum of East Anglian Life – Suffolk's largest independent museum, set in 75 acres of beautiful Stowmarket countryside – also received a capital grant of £18,400 towards various improvement works to support its community-focused initiatives, whilst the town's community centre secured £17,340 in Section 106 grants to fund accessibility improvements.

In addition to grants to improve facilities, the council allocated over £229,000 in revenue funding to support charities serving Mid Suffolk residents, including Community Action Suffolk, Homestart, Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice, Rural Coffee Caravan and Lighthouse Womens Aid, among others.

We have seen growth through lock down The Regal theatre being re-built, our leisure centres being re-furbished, Needham Lake visitor centre hopefully commencing shortly we know that steel will be a wait.

Delivery of the joint local plan. Neighbourhood plans coming

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through, I alone have had Wilby and Laxfield.

Local Planning Applications – not everyone's favourite topic but Stradbroke continues to grow and deliver their fair share of new housing of all shapes and sizes hopefully creating homes for all. Mid Suffolk have worked closely with the parish council and individuals to create a Land Trust which is to be commended.

CIFCO Completion - we reached full investment (£50mln each) by end of year - secure, diverse, long-term income stream from outside the district now coming into the district. I acknowledge some find investing with cheap borrowed money from main Government controversial, but we truly believe it is a real legacy for the future. This enables us to spend in our district without putting up council tax significantly. Surely good business sense.

Climate emergency / Biodiversity - cross-party work continues with 'proper' money to back it up. We are the first council to change their refuse fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). Should roll out Summer 21.

Council Finances - remain strong despite Covid-19. Generous government assistance and now money put aside for future **rebuilding of the district.**

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## Appendix G

The Elections for Suffolk County Council will take place on Thursday 6 May and so this is probably the last Report, that as the County Councillor for the Hoxne & Eye Division that I will submit. It is now public knowledge that the Central Suffolk & North Ipswich Conservative Association, at Earl Soham, have determined that I am not a fit person to be the Official Conservative Candidate for the local elections.

My disagreements with the local MP are well known.

I do not share his admiration for Alexander Boris Johnson and I do not agree with the assertions in the recent White Paper, on the future of Town & Country Planning, with its emphasis on the presumption on the granting of planning permission and that the shortage affordable housing is due to restrictive planning policy.

I think that we are all proud of Suffolk's Fire & Rescue Service and I see no benefit, and considerable disbenefits, by the recent proposals from Central Government that control, and responsibility is taken over by the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Although there is no objection in principle to MPs having outside interests our local MP really needs to get resources into Suffolk especially for Education and Policing and to bring Central Government Funding closer to the English National average.

Perhaps this is a time for reflection on my time as a Suffolk County Councillor representing this Division.

I have lived most of my life in Hoxne but when I moved here from London over forty years ago I was concerned about the quality of 11+ school provision in the Division-it was only Secondary Modern schooling with the presumption that pupils left at 15! I became a School Governor at the local Secondary Schools and campaigned for improvements.

There has been an immense improvement in the quality and scope of secondary education provided for our young people. With the changes in Home to School Transport recently reduced by Suffolk County Council I was successful in minimising the impact for Post 16 students and sponsored the new services from Stradbroke and Eye to make it easier for students to go from here to Hartismere High School Sixth Form.

The refurbishment of the Court House in Stradbroke which now provides a quality library and a post office and a café has been achieved with the partnership with Stradbroke PC members.

Speeding road traffic is a constant concern of residents and in order to try and combat this I introduced "Twenty's Plenty" outside our Primary Schools and Neighbourhood Speed Watch Schemes. I am happy to work with the PC to deal with the problems in Stradbroke.

Children Centres have been in the news as many Councils have been closing them down.

In this Division the Children Centre is based in Eye with outreach from Stradbroke. This has now been refreshed and is now a Family Centre and together with the work from Stradbroke is putting more emphasis on Outreach and extending its support to parents with a wider age profile.

I have been a vigorous and successful advocate for the work to families from these centres. Although programmed by Suffolk County for some time there has been delays in the examination of HGV routes in Suffolk. This is an important piece of work.

There is now a Covid 19 Testing Point at Eye Town Hall. This is open during working hours throughout the week and is part of a County Wide Network organised by Suffolk CC.

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From the start of April all Track & Trace work in Suffolk has been transferred to Suffolk County council and there has been a big increase in the % of Tracing. Suffolk Continuous its support for Care Homes and Schools in interpreting Central Government "Guidance" and financial support + organising the distribution of refurbished Lap Top Computers.

Guy McGregor  
Suffolk County Councillor,  
**Hoxne & Eye Division.**

Draft