

BEACHAMWELL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2024
commencing at 6.30pm in the Beachamwell Village Hall.**

Present: Parish Council Chair Diana Lambert (Chair)
Clerk: Mrs Sarah Hunt
16 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Welcome and short report - Chairman of the Parish Council

. The meeting was opened by Parish Council Chair Diana Lambert who welcomed those in attendance.

2. Approval of minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting on 15th May 2023

The minutes from 15th May 2023 were AGREED as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. To receive reports from those present, to include:

- 3.1 County Councillor Fabian Eagle - apologies
- 3.2 District Councillor Peter Wilkinson.

Cllr Wilkinson gave an overview of the Nationally Award winning Inspiring Communities Project which is a place based health and social care project delivered by Breckland District Council. This offers support to residents across all areas of society. Breckland is also offering training for mental health champions within Parishes.

- 3.3 Mr Peter Berendt presented an update on works at St Mary's Church. The fire at the church took place in February 2022. Rebuilding works are now well in hand – with roof trusses made from English wood being craned into position in October 2023. The thatch is now in place, and windows are netted to allow air to circulate to dry out the plaster. There is in excess of 6 tonnes of water to evaporate. The plans are to lower the North Porch floor and regrade the path to enable accessibility to the new structure. The West end will be raised to allow level access through the North door and a ramp down into the church itself in the South Aisle. There will remain steps in the nave, with a reinforced and turned oak balustrade and handrail. This is to illustrate the 'new' build. The seating area will be raised, with moveable pew seating to enable multi-use of the area. The floor is currently all in storage and going back into the church. The local MP has been approached to get the necessary permissions from Westminster expedited. The plain glass windows should be installed in March. These will be protected as the

Chairman's signature.....Date.....

lime mortar gives off an acidic 'mist' when drying out which would damage the glass. The power should be back into the building very shortly. The Motto Chest, a wooden box inside an iron box with brass banding, survived the fire intact – so did the paperwork stored within the chest. The stone ledges of the altar floor, wall memorials and war memorials have all been removed and will be reinstated either repaired or replaced. The stained glass windows will be replica as they are part of the history of the church, a third stained glass window is being considered to reflect more modern history and the fire itself.

If the necessary permissions can be hurried along it should be completed by Easter 2025 and re-opened.

- 3.4 Mr Colin Friend gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall. The village hall has a new website; www.beachamwell.org.uk which also connects to the church and friends of the church websites. Bookings and invoices can now be automated. It is a community website designed to bring the community together. Future plans include a refurbishment/replacement of the play area. The fencing has suffered strimmer damage, replacement was expensive so this is being repaired by bracing the posts rather than replacing.

The kitchen needs new equipment and there are modifications planned to increase the area.

The building is going to have works to increase the insulation and environmental aspects. There is currently no cavity insulation and the current ceiling needs removing and replacing, it is a long term project to ensure the longevity of the building. Many events are planned for 2024.

4. Open Forum – parishioners' questions, comments, points and views

Fly tipping has been an issue in specific places with the parish. Breckland will action if reported, and clear if it is on public land. They will attend all instances in an effort to identify and fine the criminals.

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/flytip>

Peter Wilkinson said that a CCTV surveillance camera can be brought in along with signage to monitor any area where there are repeated issues to obtain evidence. Parishioners were reminded that SERCO offer a service to remove heavy goods.

Large agricultural lorries are using the Beachamwell to Shingham road, Shingham Lane, and then having to reverse back out as it turns into an unmade track. No through road sign needed.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date.....