



# Raynham Parish Council

## Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 14 May 2024

---

Parish Councillors present: David Sidell (Chairman), Richard Brooke (Vice Chairman), Tim Mudd, Barry Sergeant and Tom Raynham. Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk), there were 4 (2 joined from item 6) members of the public present .

---

### 1. **Welcome and receive apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from Andrew Buck and Nigel Housden (District Councillor). Apologies accepted.

### 2. **To receive Chairman's report**

Chairman would like to thank his fellow Councillors for their support this past year, including our newest member, Cllr Raynham.

Over the past 12 months the new trod on The Street has occupied the agendas, however this is now hopefully nearing its completion.

The Parish Council is still unrepresented by the Kiptons, however a site meeting is planned in the future, together with District Councillor Nigel Housden, which may encourage someone to come forward.

### 3. **To approve the minutes of meeting held on 23 May 2023**

The minutes were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 4. **To hear from NCC & NNDC Councillors, if in attendance**

Cllrs were not present. Reports will be published on our website once available.

### 5. **To hear from Tom Raynham of Raynham Estate.**

Tom Raynham reported that plans are progressing for the new brewery, including the single storey barn and old stables. The whole site is undergoing rejuvenation. The farm shop application was withdrawn, but everything else was accepted. There will be a different scheme coming in the next few months for the farm shop. They have a potential client hoping to take it on and will include a farm shop, retail and café restaurant, a very exciting project.

Work on the lake is entering the final phase, the spoil will be dumped next to the lake and reinforce the track so it will not have to be moved to the lagoons. They will reshape the bank on the 'road' side and work will start within the next month, once the weather has dried out.

The lake is now classified as a reservoir, it's now down to the IDB to ensure the river does not encroach into the lake.

Over 5000 trees have been planted and there are plans to hopefully start breaking out the lagoons in June/July, some exploratory digs have already occurred.

The track along the side of the river, which is an IDB track but is also well walked by members of the public, will be cut but there have been restrictions, due to ground conditions which have been levelled now and the IDB plan to cut it all the way along if possible.

Planning applications are still in for the lodges on the lake, the only thing outstanding is that the Environmental Agency believes they are on a flood plain, even though this is not correct and their maps are outdated. The Estate has therefore been working with the IDB to re-do the flood maps. This is ongoing but they have the support of the planners.

Another exciting project is a pop up restaurant in the park. There is a barn where they will have restaurant nights, mainly during the summer months, with an exciting chef coming out of Norwich. with a menu based mainly on grill cooking and pizza ovens.

The farm has been battling some pretty bad weather – the farm team has coped well and all crops are in...with the last of the maize being drilled in next week. Tom believes this has been possible due to calling on the 'old farming ways/'turnip' ways'.

The Estate are working in partnership with NNDC & NCC to help provide wetlands. Three wetland areas are planned to help reduce phosphates and nitrates in the river. Development is ongoing with Anglian Water and is based around nutrients and neutrality.

School update – all the work has been finished, the children are ready to come in and they are just waiting on the Education Department to sign off. This was expected 2 weeks ago so should be any time. They are planning to start with 8 children and look to expand to around 15. The hope is for 1 year group from prep through to secondary school age. The ratio will be 1 to 1 or 2 to 1. Thanks, given.

## **6. To hear from representatives of local clubs or organisations, if in attendance**

Solar Fund

Cllr Brooke reported on the Solar Committee and the allocation of funds this year.

Last year applications exceeded the funds available, so some applications had to be declined. Successful applications are published in the local newsletter and last year's included a summer party, first aid & defibrillator training and replacement defib pads at The Orchards, contribution towards the Open Gardens catering and advertising on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Community Christmas Party at the Village Hall, Fish & Chip Supper, Quiz Night, Bird feeders and seed for the whole community, Which Magazine subscription for the reading room, and

the PC's application for a contribution towards the Trod. The funding window will be open again in July. Thanks, given.

#### Village Hall Committee

David Stubbs reported that there is a small committee at the moment, every Friday night the bar is open which is doing ok, it fluctuates but it is important to keep it going.

The Committee is going to try to organise pool and darts tournaments in due course.

Solar applications have helped fund activities that have utilised the hall.

A framed portrait of HRH King Charles was obtained by the Parish Clerk and it was suggested this could be displayed in the hall. The reserves are healthy, thanks to the Covid19 grants that were made available, and the running costs are covered by the income stream at the moment. There were no questions for David. Thanks given.

#### St Margarets Ruins

A group of volunteers have been working to get the ruins stabilised which needs a significant amount of funding. They are in talks with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

They should hear by the end of June whether they have been successful with the development phase application, the next step would then be to progress with the full application. The ruins are in a precarious state, but the issues have been assessed.

The Reading Room may be tied in as an accompanying heritage centre for a heritage trail which could also include the new farm shop. Raynham Estate, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Diocese and Historic England, among others, have been very supportive.

'St Margarets in Ruins Trust' is now an official charity.

### **7. To hear from members of the public**

The two members of the public arrived a little late and enquired about the school. Cllr Raynham kindly gave a brief summary of his earlier report.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.14pm.

Signed: ..... Date: .....