

Minutes
Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood's
Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 18th May 2023, Cantley Village Hall,
6.30pm

Present: Dot Machin (Chair of Parish Council), Peter Key, Jan Davis, Kevin Francis, Melanie Eversfield (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Norma Knight, Steve Bennett, Brenda Pawsey.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th April 2022 were approved.
3. Parish Council Reports:
 - a. Chairman's Report was presented by Dot Machin
 - b. Financial Report was presented by the Clerk
4. Reports from Outside Bodies were not received.
5. Reports from Local Organisations:
 - a. Cantley Village Hall
6. General Parish Issues
There were none.

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Annual Report of the Parish Council 2023

In many ways Council and Local Government have been playing ‘Catch Up’ in the last twelve months following the impact of The Pandemic which has meant slower progress in several areas, and in some cases a breakdown in progress which has meant we have had to rethink a way forward.

However, work was completed on the TROD (footpath) from The Church to Station Rd., and although somewhat unsatisfactorily finished, Highways did return to make some improvements, particularly in terms of a safer surface at the exit of the site onto Station Rd.

We continue to try to get a meeting to discuss possible improvements to parking on Langley Rd.

We have resolved the issue around the availability of car parking at the train station.

We have ordered a SAM2, resulting from a successful Parish Partnership Bid, at a cost of £1714 to the Parish Council, which can be moved around the area to help control speeding.

We attempted to submit a further Parish Partnership bid for an extension to the TROD, but this failed due to a lack of timely response by NCC.

Village Green

For various unavoidable reasons, including sickness, avoiding nesting times, etc., work on The Village green was not completed by October last year, with the result that it became overgrown, but significantly, further tipping took place. To clear this would be prohibitively expensive for Council, so we have agreed to revert to our original plan and revisit the attempt to land- swap this area for the land adjacent to Limpenhoe Village Hall.

Cantley Pond

Norwich Fringe Project has cleared the site, pruned the Princess Diana Willow Tree, and we have purchased and installed a new bench. The Fringe Project will re-visit to keep it managed, by request, and it is still hoped that a group of local volunteers might become involved in some low- key maintenance work.

Cantley Beet Factory

The Village Sign has been beautifully refurbished, repaired and reinstated at a cost of £500 plus 10%. British Sugar reimbursed The Council £500 as they originally committed to the maintenance and upkeep of The Sign, for which we are extremely grateful.

A fire at the pavilion on the British Sugar recreation ground destroyed the building, which was already in a very poor state of repair. The Tree Warden and Jan Davies have planted some trees where the building stood, as part of a 1500 tree planting project in The Parish, also involving Cantley School. However, British Sugar are not in agreement with any additional projects on the recreation ground, such as wild meadow or community orchard, which we had asked them to consider.

The late Queen’s Jubilee was celebrated in the Parish with a Cantley Fun Day organized by The Cantley School Association, supported by British Sugar, and The Parish Council, an excellent event with thanks to all who contributed to an appropriately great day

British Sugar took steps to reduce noise disturbance for Limpenhoe residents, which we had highlighted, and this has improved the situation.

An accident at the Factory has resulted in The Campaign being prematurely ended this winter. We have been reassured that all will be back to normal next year. They continue to actively seek ways to responsibly manage the factory’s carbon emissions.

General Matters

As a precaution against a severe winter The Parish Council’s resilience plan was updated.

All policies have been reviewed and updated where appropriate.

Health and Safety Checks have been carried out to monitor the condition of street furniture which is the responsibility of The Council.

The Chair and Vice Chair have completed the Annual Staff Appraisal with The Parish Clerk.

Accounts have been checked, audited, and approved appropriately.

The Chair continues to attend Parish Cluster meetings to represent The Council and share ideas initiatives and good practice with other local Parish Councils.

In response to a County Council proposal to site a Traveller Site on the junction of the proposed dualled A47, at ‘The White House, Council has written to object on the grounds that it is a wholly inappropriate site for residential purposes.

Cantley Staithe

Electricity has been installed at the Staithe, with a security box to limit access to those paying for moorings. The hedges have been trimmed by British Sugar, and the fire extinguisher checked and service.

Derek Allen continues to keep a watching brief and takes responsibility for much of the work that goes on there. Following an account being set up with Rhino services, Derek ordered granite to resurface the subsiding area of the surface and a small group of Staithe users raked this into position. Thanks to Derek for his valuable contribution to The Staithe.

The Parish Clerk is still trying to get the Broads Authority to renew the illegible safety notice boards.

HM King Charles' Coronation

All current councilors are subject to election in May.

We have committed a donation to The Village Hall committee to help fund a celebration on Sunday 7th May and are planning gifts of Coronation water bottles to all under 16's in The Parish.

This will be advertised to all via noticeboards, and in The Parish Newsletter which is to be delivered in time for this information to reach everyone.

All current Councilors are seeking re-election. Whatever the outcome of those elections, I hope The Parish Council will continue to work harmoniously and effectively for the future benefit of all residents of the Parish of Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood.