

DRAYTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Drayton's Annual Parish Meeting held on **Thursday 1st May 2025**, 6:30pm at King George V Pavilion, Drayton High Road, Drayton, NR8 6AW.

Present: Drayton Parish Council Chairman, Cllr. G. Everett presided over the meeting and the following Councillors were present; J. Anderson, C. Brown, A. Crotch, J. Edwards-Smith, H. Kisby and S. White.

In attendance: Drayton Parish Council Deputy Clerk and Facilities Manager, Rachel Catto and 9 members of the public.

Meeting Opened: 6:30pm

MINUTES

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed members of the public.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2024

The minutes were **AGREED** as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman

3. To receive reports and aspirations from schools, groups and organisations within the Parish.

3.1 Drayton Parish Council

The report from Cllr. G. Everett was received (Appendix A).

3.2 Drayton Junior School

The report from John Neenan was presented (Appendix B).

3.3 The Way Church

It was reported by Pastor Kiera Long that the church was run by volunteers and had an outward focus, with members aiming to make a positive difference in the local community. The Church ran a youth club every Friday night, hosted a weekly coffee morning and raised funds to help charitable organisations.

3.4 Drayton South, Broadland District Cllr. P Auber

It was reported by Drayton South, Broadland District Cllr. P. Auber that ideas and suggestions from community groups and residents were always welcome.

3.5 Gardening Club

It was reported by Gardening Club Secretary Brenda Laydall that the club comprised approximately thirty members, all of whom were like-minded gardeners. It was confirmed that the Club met on the first Tuesday every month at the Village Hall, organised three shows every year and a plant sale once a year. It was noted that there was potential for collaboration between the Gardening Club and local schools.

3.6 St Margarets Church

It was reported by Sylvia Barwick that Church services were held on Sunday and Wednesday every week. It was confirmed that the Church was unable to hold the village fete in 2025 due to a decline in the number of available volunteers. However, a smaller event would be held in the Church in June 2025. The Parish Council were thanked for support with the fete in previous years. It was noted that the regular coffee mornings taking place on the 3rd Friday each month were well attended and that the recent visit from local school children was warmly received. It was confirmed that the Church yard was maintained by volunteers and that the Church was planning an up-date to the heating system and kitchen, to ensure compliance with the Church of England's plans for net zero carbon by 2030.

3.7 Drayton and Horsford, Norfolk County Cllr. T Adams

It was reported by Drayton and Horsford, Norfolk County Cllr. T Adams that key areas of work over the past year were planning and arrangements for the Carter Road closure and the new electricity cable for the Drayton Surgery. It was noted that complaints continued to

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be received regarding parking and traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. It was confirmed that a site meeting had taken place with the Highway Engineer, Beat Manager and Chairman of the Parish Council in regards to traffic management at the Triangle junction, but that regrettably without significant funding from central government improvements were not possible.

3.8 Bowls Club

The report from Treasurer of the Bowls Club was presented (Appendix C).

It was suggested that it would be pertinent for Open Spaces and Property Committee to consider the issues raised in regards to KGV car park congestion on Wednesday evenings.

3.9 Thorpe Marriott Village Hall 8th

The report from Chairman of Thorpe Marriott Village Hall was presented (Appendix D)

It was reported by Tony Yousefian, Chairman of Thorpe Marriott Village Hall that there had been an increase to private hires and income, but that running costs had increased significantly. That whilst finances were currently contained, the facility had large up-coming expenses that would be difficult to fund and that fund raising had not been as successful as hoped due to the limited number of volunteers. However, that the former Chairman was seeking to form a friends of Thorpe Marriott Village Hall Committee, with the aim of increasing volunteer engagement. It was noted that any assistance that the Parish Council could offer would be gratefully received. It was confirmed that there were on-going issues for Thorpe Marriott Village Hall and other tenants of the Square due to drastically increasing car park maintenance charges. It was noted that Thorpe Marriott Village Hall had attempted to contact the owner of the car park to request clarification regarding the justification for additional costs but had not yet received a response.

3.10 Drayton North, Broadland District Cllr. A. Crotch

It was reported by Drayton North, Broadland District Cllr. A. Crotch that opposition had been raised in regards to the proposed solar farm at Reephams Road and the flats at the Square. The low crime figures in Drayton were noted and the police thanked for their efforts in serving the local community.

3.11 Trinity Church

It was reported by representatives from the Trinity Church that the Church was Methodist and Anglican and had developed a close relationship with St Margaret's Church. It was noted that Church services were held weekly on Sunday's at 10am and that regular craft and chat and whist groups met during the week, in addition to hot soup lunches being offered during the winter months. The representatives confirmed that the Church regularly contributed to two charities: one local and one international.

It was noted that the Trinity Church had also been impacted by the significant increase in parking maintenance charges at the Square. It was noted that a letter from the local MP might encourage a response from the car park owner. Therefore, it was suggested that tenants at the Square collectively approach the local MP in an attempt to acquire their support.

3.12 Drayton Village Hall

The report from Cllr. Carl Brown was presented (Appendix E).

3.13 The Bob Carter Centre

The report from Cllr. J. Anderson was presented (Appendix F).

3.14 Women's Institute

The report from Cllr. Hilary Kisby was presented (Appendix G)

4 Public opportunity for questions to Councillors

It was noted that the work already undertaken to clear brambles and vegetation from the David Rice footpath had been positively received.

That hedging and weeds were protruding onto the pathway near the Hurn Road bus stop (on Drayton High Road) which resulted in difficulties navigating the pathway with pushchairs or at night when visibility was reduced.

Meeting Closed: 7:30pm

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2024-25

Chair's Welcome

As we come to the end of another year, the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to reflect on 2024-25 and look ahead to exciting new projects.

We are pleased to share key staff updates from the past year. We warmly welcome Rachel to the new role of Deputy Clerk & Facilities Manager, bringing enthusiasm and support to the team. Amy has transitioned into the role of Parish Clerk & RFO where she continues to bring her experience and dedication to the role. Meanwhile, Ray remains a familiar and valued presence, continuing to provide excellent maintenance services across Parish Council sites under his new title of Parish Ranger. We thank them all for their hard work and commitment to the community.

We also said goodbye to our previous Parish Clerk, Sarah, who left us in the summer to take on a new role elsewhere. We thank Sarah for her hard work and contribution during her time with us and wish her all the best in her new position.

Finally, I would like to thank Council members for their continuing work and support in making improvements to Parish Council facilities to the benefit of the residents of Drayton.

Drayton Junior School Council Planting

Children from the Drayton Junior School Council helped bring new life to Florence Carter Memorial Park during the Spring by planting shrubs and flowers. Supported by a local contractor, the children worked hard to create a vibrant display, funded through the Clean Up and Bloom Grant from Broadland District Council. The children designed a new flowerbed sign as part of a competition and the winning sign is now displayed for all to view.

A big thank you to everyone involved for helping make our community spaces even more welcoming.

Improved Footpath

We're pleased to let residents know that works to improve the pedestrian walkway from Layton Close through to Drayton High Road have now been completed. The improvements, which include the installation of a new handrail, paving slab treads and a tarmac pathway have enhanced both accessibility and safety for everyone using the route.

D-DAY 80th Anniversary

Drayton Parish Council and the Bob Carter Centre teamed up for a commemorative event for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on 6th June. The event paid tribute to local people who remember D-Day and WWII, with their stories and memorabilia on display. Children from Drayton Junior School painted a number of commemorative pebbles, and residents donated books, models and old uniforms to the display.

The event was also joined by local Bag Piper, Denise Ramsbottom, who played following a minute's silence. The Council thanks everyone for coming and those who took time to share their experiences.

Garden Competition

This year saw the introduction of an exciting new category – Best Young Gardener – alongside our usual best kept garden award. It was wonderful to see young residents getting their hands dirty and nurturing their garden spaces with care and enthusiasm. Each winner received a trophy and a voucher generously donated by Taverham Nursery Centre. Our thanks to them for supporting local talent.

We're now planning this year's competition and would love to hear your ideas, whether its more categories, a wildlife-friendly focus or a community garden challenge – let us know. Thanks again for all those who took part and happy gardening.

Christmas Lights Switch On

The festive spirit was alive and well at this year's Christmas Lights Switch-On held at Florence Carter Memorial Park. This year was the brightest yet, with our new colourful string lights and local food vendors Tatos and Dough-hut brought warmth and sweet treats to add to the festive cheer. We wish to extend a huge thank you to Drayton Junior School Choir for their carol singing and leading the countdown to flip the switch and illuminate our beautifully decorated Christmas Tree.

The event wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of our Parish Ranger and TT Jones for installing the tree and lights safely and Anthony Thomas for supplying the Christmas Tree.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended. We've received wonderful feedback from residents of all ages and it was a joy to see the community come together in celebration. We look forward to seeing you at the next switch-on.

Looking Ahead

SAM2

In response to residents' concerns about speeding on Hall Lane, a Speed Monitoring Device will be installed later this year to help improve road safety. The SAM2 will monitor vehicle speeds and raise driver awareness, supporting efforts to reduce speeding and ease traffic flow. We will continue to work closely with the community to monitor the impact and consider further measures if needed.

Resurfacing 3G Pitch

We are excited to share that the Council will be resurfacing the 3G pitch at Longdale later this year. This important upgrade will ensure the pitch remains safe, high-quality, and accessible for all users. The work will help extend the life of the facility and support sporting activities for the community. We will provide further updates on the project timeline as plans progress.

Grass Pitch Maintenance

We've secured a Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund grant from the Football Foundation with an aim of improving the quality of our grass pitches at Longdale. The grant enables us to increase the levels of maintenance works carried out on our pitches over a 6 year period to get them looking their best and works are scheduled to begin later this year.

Neighbourhood Plan

We're pleased to let residents know that the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group has begun work on reviewing Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood plans help shape development and growth in the area, giving the community a say in what is built and where, as well as protecting important local spaces. Over the coming months, we'll be consulting with the community to gather views and ideas. Please keep an eye out for updates and opportunities to get involved as the review progresses.

New Website

We're excited to announce that the Council's new and improved website is now live. Designed to be more user-friendly, easier to navigate and mobile friendly, the updated site makes it simpler than ever to find information, access services and stay up to date with the latest news. We invite you to visit and explore the new features.

Stay Connected

To keep up to date with Parish Council news and upcoming events:
Visit our website: www.draytonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Follow us at: www.facebook.com/DraytonParishCouncilNorfolk
Attend our monthly meetings in King George V Pavilion



Report to the Parish Council

Recent Successes

I am delighted to share that we have had a wonderful start to the year at Drayton CE VC Junior School. Our pupils have engaged in a variety of enriching experiences, including:

- **Exciting Trips and Visitors:** We have organised numerous trips and welcomed several visitors to the school, which have brought learning to life and provided our pupils with invaluable experiences. We had a very positive visit from Alice MacDonald MP who listened to children and staff. She recognises the very difficult position all schools find themselves in at the current time.
- **Successful Residential Visits:** Our residential trips have been a highlight, allowing pupils to build relationships, develop independence, and enhance their learning through hands-on experiences.
- **Strong Links with Local Care Homes:** We have established excellent connections with local care homes, which have provided our pupils with opportunities to engage with residents through various activities. These interactions not only enrich our pupils' understanding of community and empathy but also foster intergenerational relationships that benefit both our students and the residents.

I have a very hardworking team who show great dedication in organising and delivering these activities. Their commitment to our pupils' education and well-being is commendable.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce that we have a new Chair of Governors who brings a wealth of experience to the role, alongside several new and experienced governors. Their support and guidance will be invaluable as we continue to drive the school forward.

One of the most inspiring aspects of my experience, so far, at Drayton CE VC Junior School has been witnessing the strength and dedication of our staff team. Many staff members have been with the school for over a decade, and their unwavering commitment to our pupils is truly inspiring. I feel privileged to lead such a solid and experienced group of professionals.

Moving Forward

While we have much to celebrate, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges we face:

- **Financial Challenges:** Like many schools, we are encountering significant financial pressures. As a leadership team, we are making difficult decisions to ensure we can continue providing the highest quality education for our pupils.
- **Falling Roll:** We are also aware of a declining pupil roll due to low birth rates both locally and nationally. This trend will undoubtedly impact our school and others within the community, and we will need to collaborate effectively to navigate these challenges.
- **Local Authority Schools:** We are working together with other Local Authority Schools within area to help support and provide professional challenge, this includes Taverham Junior School, Queens Hill Primary, Catton Grove, Costessy and others. These are schools who are not in a MAT (Multi Academy Trust)

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our upcoming SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection within the next year. We are committed to ensuring that spirituality is embedded throughout our curriculum, reflecting our strong Christian ethos and values.

Good Evening, my name is Paul Webb and amongst the many duties I have, I am the Treasurer and Captain of the Bowls Club next door. My wife has recently become joint secretary for the club so we are keeping it in the family!!!

We have set up a good relationship with Amy and Rachel and between us have arranged several risk assessments for the clubhouse in order to keep it in a good state. The reports of yesterdays Fire Risk assessment will come direct to the Parish Council and I believe we will have to have a meeting to discuss one or two issues that were brought up. Tomorrow we are having our 5 year electrical check up.

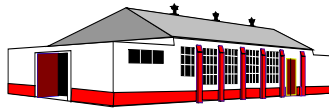
The club continues to host county games and the Norfolk federation team will have two games on the green during this year. Last year we hosted 4 games but that is only because the home /away rotation of the scheduled games is different. We also hosted the County knock out semi-finals and finals last year which were very successful and brought a great credit to the club and hence the area. The club had success at these finals and two members of the Bowls club went on to win National honours at Skegness.

Car parking is a major issue for the club on match evenings especially on a Wednesday when there is slimming world in this building and a home cricket game. When we have a home game we tend to completely fill the area behind the club (non asphalted area) blocking each other in because we know who we are blocking in and we are the last people to leave the car park. However because we are not the first to arrive at the carpark, weightwatchers and cricketers not only park in the area behind our club, but park very badly so it is not possible to get the maximum number of cars in that area. Bowlers who arrive later then block cars in not knowing they are not bowlers they are blocking in!. Last year we had a lady who burst through our clubhouse, ran directly onto our green (in the middle of a game) demanding a certain car was immediately moved. Unfortunately she got the wrong details and nobody volunteered to move a car!! I am sure she would not have run onto the cricket pitch in the middle of a game to make the same demand!!

Finally I would like to say that the club is having an open day on Saturday (May 3rd) as advertised on the banners outside and you are all welcome to see the club and try out the game of bowls. I have distributed many flyers in the local area to promote this open day.

Thorpe Marriott Village Hall has had a successful year in terms of private hires have increased and we managed to recover some lost monies from our utility company ensuring essential maintenance work could be carried out inside the hall building. Financially, the hall is in a very similar position to the last few years with income slightly increased but outgoings increasing at a faster rate, especially with higher utility and insurance costs. We have not been able to host as many fundraising events (and therefore lost out on that source of income) due to lack of volunteers to organise and run these events but are hoping to restart these with new input from local people. The ongoing issues with the landlord who owns the land surrounding the hall has also made marketing the hall more difficult.

The previous chair resigned due to ill health just over a year ago and we now have another chair who hopes to continue and build on previous successes. During this transitional time, we are trying to ensure that the decisions we make now have the best and most positive outcomes for the future of the hall and its place within the local community. We hope to recruit new committee members to achieve this goal and would ask that if any grants become available, we are informed and able to apply for them as any additional support, financially, at this time would be most welcome.



DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date : 20 April 2025

Annual Report Parish Meeting

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report for Drayton Village Hall. Over the past year, we have continued to serve as a vital hub for our community, providing a welcoming and well-maintained space for local groups, events, and activities. Despite ongoing challenges, our small but extremely hard working team of trustees, volunteers, and supporters have ensured the smooth running of the hall and its continued success.

Hall Usage and Community Engagement

This year, we have seen a small increase in one off bookings for the hall and a new Yoga group taking a regular booking slot. Existing regular users, including fitness classes, local clubs, and social groups, have remained committed to using our facilities.

On the downside, primarily due to personal issues the Drayton Players were forced to cancel their two planned plays.

The hall continues to be a central point for the community, fostering social interaction and engagement. A listing of all the activities taking place in the Hall is posted on the notice board monthly

Financial Overview

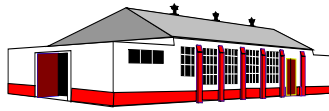
The charity's financial position remains stable, with revenue generated from our primary source of hall hires, monthly coffee mornings and book and jigsaw sales, jumble sales and miscellaneous fundraising efforts covering our outgoings.

We, like everybody else, have experienced increases in operational and utilities costs but continue to manage our finances prudently to ensure long-term sustainability.

Very early in the year we received notification that the Village Hall had been left a substantial bequeathment from a local resident, which is to be used solely for the maintenance and improvement of the Hall.

Maintenance and Improvements

Over the past year, we have undertaken several small maintenance projects as funds had allowed to enhance the hall's usability and safety. The one key improvement was the decision to install energy-efficient LED lighting throughout to reduce running costs and improve the ambiance in the Hall.



Volunteer Contributions

A heartfelt thank you goes to our volunteers, whose dedication and hard work help keep the hall running smoothly, their contributions are invaluable. Specific thanks go to our bookings secretary, Margaret, who continues to manage the lettings diary. **We would like to encourage more community members to get involved and support this vital local asset.**

Looking Ahead

Our priorities for the coming year include:

- Expanding community engagement by encouraging new user groups.
- Strengthening our committee members and volunteer network to ensure continued operational success. We remain committed to making Drayton Village Hall a thriving and accessible community space for all.
- Completing essential improvements on a priority basis utilising funds from the bequeathment

In Conclusion, my personal thanks to all the committee members, volunteers and bookings secretary for your help and support throughout the year.

Carl Brown
Chair of Drayton Village Hall Management Committee

Bob Carter Memorial Trust**Report for year to 31 December 2024**

The year was primarily spent on consolidating work began in the previous year undertaking essential repairs and completion of reviewing and updating policies.

Running costs of the Centre are beginning to become an issue with significant increase in energy costs, National Living Wage and National Insurance Contributions but at present they are not having significance on the day-to-day operation of the Centre.

We have a good working relationship with the Drayton Leisure Centre Club that is showing a good increase in membership numbers, with the sale of food and drinks showing encouraging growth.

Many events have taken place during the year including hosting and supporting the local Food Bank in their major fund making event of the year. A special event, jointly staged with Drayton Parish Council was held to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-day landings. Wartime memorabilia were exhibited; war time food was made available and residents of local care homes attended.

Finally, I offer my thanks to manager, staff and fellow trustees for the support given in this difficult year.

Jeff Anderson

Chairman

1st May 2025

DRAYTON EVENING WI REPORT

We have had a good year in spite of suffering like many organisations from falling numbers. In 2022 we had nearly 50 members, now we have 31 because we are of an age when people get too old, get ill, die! This impacts on our income, we haven't the funds for expensive speakers for our monthly Monday evening meetings. But we have had some excellent speakers on subjects such as the Broads (with a visit to How Hill), bee keeping, Harriet Martineau, Caleys chocolate. The sixties (we all remembered them!) and we have tea, coffee and biscuits, sometimes cake and a chat. There are regular walks, lunches, outing and visits. We raise funds with a Race night. A garden party, quizzes, competitions, and raffles. We are a really lively group but don't attract younger women although we do updates in the local magazine. Our other problem this year(and this is partly due to our age) is putting out and putting away heavy and bulky furniture. We have been helped by the husband of one of our members and now by Sam from the Village Hall committee and her husband but we are hoping for a more permanent arrangement when the Village Hall has more funds.

So we are a friendly and enthusiastic group just managing to keep going and have lots of plans for the coming year .