

# **DRAFT MINUTES OF PARHAM'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**7pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

*Parham Village Hall*

## **1. Chair's welcome**

Michael Block, as Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone.

Present:

Michael Block	Jonathan Cottrell	Michael Gray	John Patrick
James Rogers	Jason Wood	Lydia Kindred (minute taker)	

## **Apologies for absence**

These were received from County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes, District Councillor Vince Langdon-Morris, Charlotte Stanley, Phil Simmons (Village Hall) and Alan Gray (Village Hall)

## **2. Minutes 2024**

The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were noted as an accurate record of the meeting.

## **3. There were no matters arising.**

## **4. Parham Parish Council**

Michael Block outlined the Parish Council's achievements from the year and thanked Councillors and the clerk for their continued support.

## **5. Village Hall Committee**

A written report, including financial information, was received from both the Village Hall and the Parham Hut Charity.

It was noted that the Village Hall continues to provide an important meeting place and valuable facilities for the local community. Regular events include monthly bar nights, which are increasingly well attended, as well as quiz nights and other social activities. The report also outlined the hall's regular hirers.

Members noted recent changes to the management committee, with Alan Gray appointed as Chair, Mary Simmons as Treasurer, and Phil Simmons acting as Secretary.

The report highlighted improvements made to the kitchen and toilet facilities, along with plans for further developments in the coming year.

It was further noted that the main challenge facing the committee is the lack of new members joining the Management Committee, particularly in order to encourage new ideas, activities and greater involvement from newer residents of the village.

## **6. Village Recorder**

The Parish Recorder reported that heavy rainfall in February demonstrated the effectiveness of recent drainage works carried out by the Highways Authority. Water flowing down Hall Road did not result in flooding, in contrast to the situation experienced on 20<sup>th</sup> October. However, it was noted that the culvert at the bottom of The Gull had still not been cleared by the end of the year.

It was further reported that weather conditions had been challenging for local farmers. Crops were affected by the inability to drill in the previous autumn, and, although sown in

spring, a cool summer resulted in yields being reduced by approximately a quarter of a ton per acre.

Members noted that The Old Schoolhouse, an important part of the village's history, had been placed on the market but remained unsold at the year end.

The Parish Recorder also highlighted the introduction of regular monthly bar nights at the Village Hall, with catering provided by Sandra Poacher.

#### **7. Parham Airfield Museum.**

Lydia Kindred, as a Trustee of the Museum, gave a verbal report. The museum became a CIO in 2024. There are no paid employees and admission to the museum remains free.

2024 was another successful and rewarding year for the museum with strong support from the public, good visitor numbers and much appreciative feedback. There were a total of 5,317 visitors, including several descendants from America of Veterans who were based here during WWII. The museum received a Trip Advisor Traveller's Choice Award for the second consecutive year. The watch tower on top of the Control Tower was demolished in autumn 2024 and replaced with a new replica which meets modern building regulations.

The museum continues to seek new volunteers to help deliver its aims, including working towards accreditation.

#### **8. Corrance School Trust**

A written report explained the origins of the trust and the current trustees. The trust accrued £509.32 interest and made two grants totalling £200.

#### **9. Biodiversity Group**

Michael Gray gave a report on the Biodiversity Group, which manages the three village greens. It was noted that the greens were inspected in January 2025 as part of a DEFRA review. The inspection focused primarily on whether the greens met the required grass coverage and usage, which was confirmed.

The report highlighted that the village is well placed against the criteria required to qualify for funding. A payment of £1,949 has been received for the management of the three greens. This funding is currently due to continue until 2028 but that the payment scheme is presently under review, with the possibility that funding levels may increase.

*Copies of all written reports have been filed with these minutes and will also be shared on the village website.*

#### **10. County & District Councillors**

Written reports from County Councillor Burroughes and District Councillor Langdon-Morris were provided and will be published on the village website.

#### **11. Open Forum**

Attendees were disappointed to note such low attendance at this meeting, with no residents present who were not Councillors. It was agreed to do a poster for the event next year and to ask Annette Gray to invite everyone on the village mailing list.

*Michael Block thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 7.20pm.*