

# Sutterton Annual Parish Meeting

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SUTTERTON HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025 AT 6.30pm IN THE COMMUNITY LOUNGE AT SUTTERTON VILLAGE HALL

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**Present:** Cllr D Sands – Chair  
Sarah Smith – Clerk  
10 Members of the public

**Apologies:**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies received.

**2. Minutes And Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 were approved as a true record.  
No matters arising.

**3. Chair's Report**

Good evening and welcome everyone. This last year has certainly flown by, but I am pleased to say the Parish Council is in good order. I would like to thank all the Parish, Boston Borough and Lincolnshire County Council Cllr's for their hard work and team spirit whilst working together or individually on projects around the village. On behalf of the Council, I would like to say a big thank you to Sarah, the Clerk, for keeping us all in order. This time last year she was new to the role of Clerk and has worked so hard and achieved so much in such a short space of time. I would also, on behalf of the Council, like to thank all contractors and volunteers for the work they do in and around the village.

So, what have we done this year? The play area has seen some major works, mainly the zipwire which took a while and although expensive is now up and running and enjoyed by many. The entrance to the Park from Spalding Road has also had a facelift and is now a concrete path instead of grass. The solar powered speed indicators have taken a while but they are now installed, one for each of the 4 main roads in the to the village. These will record the speed data and hopefully help slow down the traffic. We also joined together with Algarkirk Parish Council and SAAG (Sutterton and Algarkirk Action Group) to oppose plans for an industrial estate to be built on open green agricultural land. Boston Borough Council went in our favour and so far, no further development has taken place. We now have a Cemetery Committee within the Parish Council, Cllr's Cantwell, Bateman and Rushworth with Sarah as the Clerk who have all attended training on all matters to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of this very important part of the village. The PC is financially in a good place but did raise the precept this year as, with everything, costs have risen but we did keep it as low as possible. Once, again I hope to see the PC moving forward and working together with all residents in the community so we can all feel proud to live in Sutterton.

**4. Fourfields Primary School Report**

No report was received.

**5. Village Hall Report**

Chair of the Village Hall, Lesley Ingham, gave a report.

The Village Hall is financially secure. New events are taking place and the hall is booked every night of the week apart from a Monday which is allocated to the School. The table top events have increased from 7 tables to 27.

#### **6. Sutterton Parochial Charity Report**

Chairman, Peter Copley, provided a report which was read out by Debbie Sands. Everything is going well with the Parochial Trust. A further contribution was given to the young girl in the village to help with Dance school fees. Qualifying Christmas applicants received a cash gift at Christmas. The Pools field has been re-let to a new tenant with different horses. Bell Mere Pool has re-opened to the public with kind permission of the tenant.

#### **7. St Mary's Church Report**

Unfortunately, no one was able to represent St Mary's Church but a report was given to Cllr Malbty from Churchwarden Janice Despicht.

Another year has passed in our Church calendar. Our Jelly Church has gone from strength to strength with a regular attendance of 20+ children accompanied by their parents. Many thanks to all the helpers and also to Vicar Mark for his help and entertaining skills. We have enjoyed pop-ins every Friday morning and our coffee mornings in the Church until December. During the colder months, many thanks go to all who held them in their homes. Fourfields School held their end of term services in the Church and we have had 5 Christenings.

The following events have been held:

In June we had a lovely Cheese and Wine evening with a Pianist playing at Janet & David's home. Also in June we held an Open Gardens weekend. In August we enjoyed Afternoon Tea and in September we celebrated Harvest in the Church decorated with flowers and delicious food. This went on for 3 days. In October we held a Parish lunch. We decorated the Church with Poppies for our Remembrance Service and also held a short Service at Sutterton's War Memorial. The village Carol evening was attended by many villagers and children. This was taken by Vicar Mark and the Methodist Vicar Luke. Christmas Eve saw us holding our wonderful Christmas Mass in a candlelit church with Vicar Mark and over 100 people. We held an Ash Wednesday service and on Mothering Sunday we all celebrated our mothers with Vicar Sue. We ended our service with Prosecco, cake and daffodils. It was so good to see children in our Church on this day. On Good Friday we had our pop-in with children from Jelly Church who put crosses on their Easter Gardens. We all enjoyed hot cross buns and the children had an Easter Egg hunt. The highlight of the day was the wonderful service from Vicar Mark. All the children and adults participated well and we all went home feeling inspired by all Vicar Mark had said.

We have held services each Sunday at 9am and have welcomed new people, it is great to have you all. We have also welcomed Vicar Alan who has taken services with Vicar Mark. Easter Sunday service was led by Vicar Mark and Simnel cake and Easter Eggs were enjoyed by all. We are lucky to have Dave Shepherd to play the organ for us once a month.

There are many people who help our Church to continue. You know who you are and so many thanks to you all for all the help you give us. Many thanks also to Vicar Mark for always being there for us and also to Vicar Sue and our hardworking PCC; without you, David and myself would have had a very hard year.

Last, and most importantly, all of us at St Mary's Church, Sutterton, offer a sincere thank you to David for all his work as our Churchwarden. Thanks to David we were able to secure a large lottery grant to help fund the substantial advantage our kitchen, toilets and vestry has

given this Church. David and I have been Churchwardens for many years. While I have chosen projects I have felt comfortable with, David has always tackled the more difficult things. I personally would like to say a big thank you to David for the help and support he has given me. You need not think you are totally going to retire as I am sure we will continue to call on your knowledge in the future.

I would like to finish my report by wishing Sutterton Church many more years of the goodwill and community spirit we have at our Church.

#### **8. Sutterton Playing Field Report**

Chris Firth attended as representative for the Playing Field.

No one is currently using the Playing Field apart from local children. Interest has come from various football clubs, however, nothing further has progressed from this. Income is relied upon from Grant Funding and sponsorship. It would be good for the field to be used for other activities apart from sports.

#### **9. GP Surgery Report**

No report was received.

#### **10. Methodist Church Report**

Sue Ward gave a report on behalf of the Methodist Church.

The Methodist Church have had their Flower Festival, Sutterton's only Flower Festival now, which was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> May. Although it did okay it was noted that the attendance by the village was very disappointing. Most visitors were from other villages. They are just keeping their head above water. Large meetings are taking place with respect to Methodist Lincolnshire. This will be finalised over the next 2 years which may, possibly, be detrimental to the village as Sutterton and Bicker are the smallest of the Churches. Sadly, this means there is a possibility the Church may close due to lack of people. They are hoping to make it to December 2027 which will be the Centenary and have a village event for all to attend.

There are 2 events being held this year – an afternoon tea on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and the Salvation Army Band will be attending on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. You do not have to be a Methodist to attend the events and support from the village would be greatly received.

#### **11. Women's Institute Report**

Unfortunately, no one was able to attend from the WI but new members are most welcome. Meetings are held monthly. Please contact Janice Despicht for further information on 01205 460 590 Ext 2.

#### **12. Open Session – Parishioners may raise any matters of their choice (15 minutes maximum)**

Discussion took place regarding attendance of the meeting. It was noted that although the village is getting larger, sadly there appears to be less support and participation from residents. It was thought that COVID has played a large part in this and may also be due to busy lifestyles. It was suggested that next year the Annual Parish Meeting be moved to a date separate from the Parish Council meeting in order to encourage more residents to attend.

Signed.....

Date.....