

Sutterton Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th MAY 2026 AT 6.30pm IN THE COMMUNITY LOUNGE AT SUTTERTON VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies:

Chair welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and explained there will be a slight change to the agenda in that the WI will report first.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies received.

2. **Minutes And Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2025 were approved as a true record. No matters arising.

3. **Chair's Report**

Another year has flown by, and I am pleased to tell you that the Parish Council is in very good order. I would like to thank all Parish, Boston Borough and County Councillors for the work they do, be it together or individually on projects within the village. As always, a Council cannot run without a Clerk and on behalf of all the Councillors, a big thank you to Sarah for all her hard, sometimes frustrating, work. Keeping us all in order is no easy feat but she does it with a smile. I would also like to thank all the contractors and volunteers for the work around the village.

So, what have we done this year? Nothing major comes to mind as in big things but we have had a few new Committees on the Council, one being the Resilience Committee which is headed by Cllr James Cantwell and he has worked with other villages including Fosdyke, Bicker, Algarkirk and Wigtoft. Also, the Cemetery Committee have done quite a lot of work in the Cemetery. Topple testing has taken place. We have also made use of the Lincs County Councillor Volunteer Scheme where they provide volunteers and we provide the materials. This is available for local groups as well. They have cleared the ivy away from the front wall in the cemetery and are currently halfway through re-painting the bus shelter. Tree work has taken quite a lot of money this year, mostly in the cemetery, but around the village as well.

All policies are up to date and have been adopted by the Council. A new one we have done this year is a Grants policy which will be available from this budget. The Council have also sub-sponsored the local football group who play and train on the playing field.

To finish, I hope that the Parish Council can continue moving forward and working together with all residents and community groups to achieve a happy harmony within the village.

4. **Fourfields Primary School Report**

No report received.

5. **Women's Institute Report**

President of the WI, Carole Thackray, gave a report.

Good evening everyone and thank you for inviting me to your meeting tonight. My name is Carole and I am President of Sutterton WI. I was elected in March after Janice stepped down after 47 years of being our President. Last year we had 42 subscribed members.

Our year began in May 2025 with the launch of a new programme. We discussed the resolution for the year before enjoying a selection of delicious puddings kindly made by some of our members. Throughout the year we welcomed a wide variety of speakers and entertainers. Lorraine Appleby spoke on Up-cycling clothing. Christine Cassit spoke about Seasonal Gardening. Sue Stenner gave a talk on 100 Years of Women working on the Farm. Kenneth Moore, ex-RAF, entertained us with his humorous talk "You Will Fly Laughing". In June we enjoyed a trip to the Gordon Boswell Romany Museum in Spalding where we learned about life on the road and admired the beautiful ornate travelling caravans. We held our annual meal at the Thatched Cottage in August and several of our members attended an Archery taster session. At our Harvest meeting we had a Scarecrow Drive, a take on the Beetle Drive, with several of our members dressing up as scarecrows. In November we enjoyed a talk from Mee Blueberries to tell us how their business began and to tell us about their produce. Members enjoyed tasters and had the opportunity to purchase items. Our festive meeting was made special when Alfie Cook, the Boston Showman, brought along his 21 key fairground organ and cart and shared fascinating stories from his remarkable 60 years in showbusiness. He also brought along his fairground and therapy dog named Tilly. The evening ended with cheese platters and wine accompanied by festive tunes from the organ. January of this year started with Vice Presidents night where we had a pyjama party with pass the parcel, a fun quiz and various other fun games. We then had a catwalk in order to show off our pyjamas. We enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine and finished the evening by joining together in a circle and doing the Hokey Cokey. In April of this year we celebrated our 75th birthday and were entertained by Magician, Paul Vickers. We enjoyed a buffet and finished off the evening by members joining together to sing happy birthday. In April our first sub-group was formed, The Cuppa Club. 10 members enjoyed refreshments at Victoria House Tearoom in Gosberton. Members are eager to repeat this on a monthly basis and so the next get together is booked for May.

With a healthy bank balance and no problems throughout the year, we, as a WI, provide a safe and friendly environment for members to enjoy an evening of entertainment, learning and friendship. Our plans for the future are to recruit new members and offer a varied and fun new programme for the coming year. We wish to promote ourselves and do some fundraising to help with our running costs and branch out into the community.

6. Village Hall Report

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

They have had a good year. Financially everything is sound and they are doing well. They have had events on most weekends. The bingo is well attended every Friday night with nearly 80-100 people along with the Ladies Club.

7. Sutterton Parochial Charity Report

Debbie Sands gave a report on behalf the Parochial.

No one off requests have been received for assistance this year within the village. At Christmas the £75 Christmas gifts were distributed to residents who qualified.

8. St Mary's Church Report

Janice Despicht gave a report on behalf of St Mary's Church.

They have had their regular events during the last year which are Coffee mornings on the third Saturday of the month, Jelly Church the second Sunday in the month and the Church Service each Sunday. Fourfields School held all their end of term services and Harvest

Festival in the church. There have been 2 baptisms, 2 weddings and 4 funerals. The Harvest Flower Festival was held in September. The Christmas Carol event was held in December. A candlelit Mass was held on Christmas Eve with just over 100 people attending. On Good Friday 40 children along with 20 parents from Jelly Church attended. They had an Easter Egg hunt, made Easter cards and enjoyed hot cross buns. An Easter Service was held on the Sunday and they all enjoyed Easter Eggs and Simnel cake. Jelly Church is growing in numbers with about 30 children attending each month.

A new electrical system has been installed at a considerable cost following a visit from the insurance company. They are hoping to undertake more fundraising as they would like to be net zero by 2030 as per the Diocese. They would like a new infrared heating system in the Church so it can be enjoyed all year round. A Faculty has been obtained, and it is hoped the first part will be done soon. In total, it will cost many thousands of pounds and so fundraising is needed as well as looking at Grants. This will enable the community to use the Church more. One of the big fundraising events planned is an Abba Tribute event on the 1st August. The Church can accommodate about 100 people and tickets are already half sold. They would like to encourage more people to join in the Parish draw which is £12 per year. They would be interested to hear if the village would like to put anything on at the Church which could help towards fundraising.

9. Sutterton Playing Field Report

Chris Firth gave a report on behalf of the Playing Field.

It has been a good year and the bank balance is healthy at the moment. South Lincs Swifts have been using the field. They have also started to do a little with AFC Sutterton, trying to encourage more local children to use the field. The changing rooms have all had a coat of paint.

10. Methodist Church Report

Sue Ward gave a report for the Methodist Church.

Sutterton Methodist Church has seen much improvement over the last year. The congregation has increased and the twice monthly coffee mornings number between 20-30 people. Events are doing well. The 2026 Flower Festival over 2 days made £1005 with lots of visitors. We thank the Parish Council for their donation. In 2025 we had an Afternoon Tea and Jacket Potato and Dessert lunch. We are repeating our Afternoon Tea again this year on the 25th July and our Jacket Potato lunch on the 14th November. Our big event of last year was the Salvation Army band in December which saw the Chapel full. Thanks were given to the Chair for attending and to the Chair and Cllr Maltby and his wife for attending the Flower Festival. They are delighted to say the Salvation Army will be with them again in December 2026. They have applied to the Parish Council for a Grant for maintenance to the property which, as you know, with its famous yellow door, is very central in the village. As part of the community, they are also one of the emergency hubs.

11. Open Session – Parishioners may raise any matters of their choice

- Cllr Maltby explained with respect to resurrecting the Round 'N' About and there being a monthly diary of events it is hoped all the groups within the village would feed into that.
- Discussion took place about posts on Facebook that seem to disappear. Cllr Bateman explained this is due to algorithms. It was suggested rather than doing a post to promote an event, to create an event instead.

Signed.....

Date:.....