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SEDGEFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
AGENDA
WEDNESDAY MARCH 15th 2023 AT 18.30
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, JARVIE CLOSE

1. WELCOME: Ms Crump welcomed all in attendance to the meeting.

PUBLIC: There were 7 parishioners present (this includes Parish Councillors), together with one Borough Councillor.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

3. THE CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT:

The year since March 2022 has seen complex factors at national and international levels as well as at more local levels have a profound effect on the cost of living for all of us.

The Parish Council has been alert to funding available to finance local projects to benefit our community and also support individuals and families experiencing particular difficulties. One example was the grant towards electricity bills obtained in April and repeated in December, which benefited 35 households.

Increasing fuel costs have an impact in many ways. One long-term project, now nearing completion, was the installation of a new heating system at the Village Hall. This will save money for many years to come and also make a positive contribution in relation to climate change, through its use of renewable energy sources. Another example was the Hot Spot at the King William, providing a warm room, free refreshments and an opportunity to meet and chat.

The Parish Council was also successful in obtaining funds to redecorate the Village Hall and Pavilion, purchase a new modular stage and install new external fire doors at the Hall. The Village Hall is a very important "hub" for the village and the Parish Council continues to support it in any way it can.

The circular walks project is almost completed and the intention is to have the first leaflets printed and signs in place by late spring or early summer.

Five hundred trees/whips were planted in conjunction with the Borough Council, at Jarvie Close, with a view to improving the wildlife habitat and creating a more pleasant amenity green space.

As in the previous year, the Parish Council has been asked to comment on a variety of planning applications. Some were straightforward, involving minor improvements or extensions to existing dwellings to accommodate changed requirements. Others have proved more complex and are ongoing. One of these is the construction of housing at the former school and another the possible development of the former tennis centre. Both buildings have in the past been amenities available to local residents and, in both instances,

the Parish Council is in active communication with the owners, discussing ways in which these developments might benefit the community.

Other work by the Parish Council continues as before: regular review and updating of policies; checking the assets register; reviewing contracts and ensuring we select the best options when renewing insurance policies, grass-cutting agreements, etc.

Looking ahead, we will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles in May and the Village Hall Committee is planning a range of activities for the coming year, which the council will be supporting.

The schedule for local elections means that voting for Parish Councillors will take place on Thursday 4th May. It is not too late to seek nomination: if this interests you, please contact the Clerk, Roger Quick, or speak to one of the current councillors.

I would like to conclude by thanking everyone who has contributed towards making Sedgeford a better place to live, work and spend leisure time. Roger Quick, Councillors Bernard Clark, Paul Coleman (who was co-opted to replace Tamar Crosley), Kevin Miller, John Palmer, John Ward and Liz Wilce. Our Borough Councillors, Stuart Dark and Terry Parish, and County Councillor Michael Chenery. Also all those who play a part behind the scenes, picking up litter, cutting back over-hanging brambles, watering saplings or reporting problems, for example with blocked drains or leaking pipes.

4. ANY FURTHER REPORTS OR ITEMS RAISED FOR DISCUSSION AS RAISED BY THE PARISHIONERS: None

The Meeting Closed at 6.38pm