



Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Hundred Acre Way, Red Lodge, Suffolk, IP28 8FQ
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Minutes of the Red Lodge Annual Parish Meeting

This is an informal meeting for all local government electors registered in the parish.

Date: Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Time: 19:00

Venue: St. Christopher's Church, Boundary Road, Red Lodge. IP28 8JQ

Present: Cllr. Richard Saul (Chairman)
Cllr. Barry Botwright
Cllr. Susan Houlder
Cllr.

In Attendance: Clerk/RFO
C.Cllr. Andy Drummond
D.Cllr. Dawn Dicker
Members of the public: 12

Notes: The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:-

- Agenda for APM 03.05.22

	Item	Action
1.	Chairperson's welcome	
2.	Apologies for absence Cllr. Davison due to family commitments and Cllr. Sheedy due to work commitments. Noted	
3.	Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council 3.1 The Chairman read out the following report: 2021 / 2022 has been a difficult year for 'I suspect' the majority of those clubs / societies and organisations attending this evening. Certainly, Covid has had a big impact on the activities and running of our Sports Facilities. The hire of our facilities reduced significantly through this period. Clubs/teams such as the American Football team were unable to continue and most of the indoor activities ceased or suspended their sessions, much of 2021 was a non-starter for many. However, we are starting to see an up-turn in use of the facilities with the possibility of new hire agreements in the near future with enquiries from proposed new sports teams. There was a window of opportunity with a relaxation of Covid restrictions in July where the Parish Council arranged a Covid Freedom Fun day. We had an excellent attendance and great feedback from residents. The Red Lodge in Bloom certificates were awarded in August, but the indoor events at Halloween and Christmas were once again considered unsafe in the restricted space of the Pavilion with Covid numbers rising once again in the Autumn and Winter months. Unfortunately, we had one of the most pro-active members of the events team retire from the council late last year. I have to give a mention to Vanessa K, who fortunately was co-opted back onto the events team and hopefully will continue in that role. Vanessa has continued to work with an events team over the last 4 months to put together a special Queens Jubilee event on the 3rd June, a day I hope we will be reporting at the next APM as a great success! Further, we need to now look at the opportunity of re-starting some of the events in the second half of this year with Covid now out of the way (fingers crossed). The Turnpike magazine lost all of its advertising revenue and the Parish Council stepped in to help continue its production albeit less frequently and a few of those circulations were restricted to just one page. We are now back to 8 pages with a few adverts appearing, hopefully with the extended support the Parish Council have offered, we can get the Turnpike Magazine back on a level footing with a more regular circulation. I'm not going to mention Sunnica other than to say that our Parish Clerk managed to bring both Sunnica, TV crews and the press to the Pavilion for what was a very challenging evening, let's hope the work & support for the campaign by the Parish	

	Council in the last 12 months brings about significant changes to the Sunnica proposals in the next 12 months. The play parks at the Pavilion and on Heatherset Way had works undertaken to repair significant areas of the wet pour costing over £10,000 and we have continued the monthly H&S inspections maintaining a high standard of safety in our six play areas. Residents have for a number of years complained about the parking problems and speeding along the arterial routes through Red Lodge. 2021/22 the council have reviewed the issues raised and have after consultation with County Council highways and affected residents, agreed to install a second SID on Warren Road similar to the one on Turnpike, an ANPR speeding check, additional safety measures by the school crossing and No Parking restrictions in several areas all along Hundred Acre Way. Parish Council members met with Worlington Parish Council to discuss a boundary change and both agreed that the new Barratts estate currently within the Worlington Parish boundary should be amended to incorporate the estate within Red Lodge. This is now a draft recommendation in the County Councils Community Governance Review and hopefully will be approved later this year. In 2019 / 2020 the Parish Council had considered 3 options to extend the Pavilion, to provide better facilities. The initial proposal was to invite the residents of Red Lodge to view the proposals to better understand what the views of the residents might be. Covid almost bought this initiative to an end with the unknown of how long the strict rules around the entertainments industry would last. However, the Parish Council voted to take the proposals to planning and the good news is that we have had confirmation that any future application (with provisos) is likely to be granted permission. We have now put together a fresh team to look at what the village might want (not just the Pavilion proposal) and will undertake a public consultation later this year. Historically the Chairman has now read out a string of Financial numbers, which I suspect in isolation has meant very little to those listening. So I do not intend to bore you to death with the figures, other than to say for the last 12 months we have had a very successful and productive team, from our Proper Officer/Responsible Finance Officer, right through to our cleaner and I would like to minute a thank you to the whole team for their hard work through the last year, - let's not forget they manage a budget and revenue stream the size of a small town. However, we have ended up the year with expenses outstripping income and although some of that is due to the impact of Covid, the trend is almost certain to continue in vain with the cost of living increasing almost daily - there are not many lines on our budget sheet that are not subject to the current rates of inflation. So this has to be a focus for the council in the next 6 to 12 months. Noted	
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4.	Reports from County and District Councillors	
4.1	D.Cllr. Dicker reported that the locality budget had been used to provide funding for various groups including, Mildenhall/Red Lodge Rugby club, Brownies/Rainbows, Christmas lunch at the Millennium Centre, Over 65's club at the Millennium Centre, sewing club at the Millennium Centre, Turnpike magazine. Lightwave are an asset to the village. Funding will be provided for future events including St. Christopher's fun day. The Mildenhall hub opened on 1st June 2021. West Suffolk Council paid millions of pounds to businesses to get them through the pandemic. West Suffolk Council is working on a local plan. The locality budget is available for funding applications from local groups. Noted	
4.2	C.Cllr. Drummond read the following report: I'm the Newmarket & Red Lodge division, Suffolk County Councillor which includes this parish. I also cover part of Newmarket - that being the North ward and half of East ward. My colleague Councillor Rachel Hood covers the rest, being West ward and the other half of East ward. Curiously there isn't a South ward. I also cover Kentford, Moulton, Dalham and Herringswell, which is where I live. In addition, I'm on West Suffolk District Council where I'm portfolio holder for Regulatory and the Environment. I'm also on Newmarket town council - which is where it started for me back in 2003. On county I'm a member of the development and regulation committee - a kind of planning committee - not for housing - that's the remit of West Suffolk - but for development that county has the powers to determine such as public rights of way, schools, and mineral extraction. This year I chair the county wide committee of portfolio holders with responsibility for the environment. Hopefully you are aware that Suffolk County and all the Districts and Burroughs within have declared a climate emergency and intend to be carbon neutral by 2030. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the emissions measurements so that they can all be added together in a tangible way - and be sure that we are on target to meet our goal. I try to attend all the parish meetings that occur in my division - it can be complicated because they are sometimes on the same night - I've just come from a development control meeting in Newmarket. At the parish meetings I usually give a verbal report. A written monthly parish newsletter that covers Suffolk is sent to your members electronically. I take questions and feedback anything I can't answer on the night to the parish clerk. I'm also contactable on: Andy.Drummond@Suffolk.gov.uk if you have any issues pertaining to county which could include: • Roads and transport • Care and support for adults • Children, families, and learning • Fire and rescue services • Trading standards • Waste recycling • Culture, heritage and leisure County councillors have two types of locality budget - one that's non-specific and	

	another for Highways issues. I have contributed towards a Speed Indicator Device and to her majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village and I'm working with the parish council on some Highways matters in Hundred Acre Way to improve safety - the feasibility study is an example of where some of my Highway's budget has been spent - but these budgets do have to be spent across my whole division. Red Lodge was one of the first villages to have its street lighting upgraded to LED which cost a fraction in running costs and which are fully programmable. Over 40,000 lamps are being replaced across Suffolk. An issue that affects Red Lodge is Sunnica. Suffolk County Council have objected, as has our MP – Matt Hancock. This scheme will be determined by the planning inspectorate because it's a national infrastructure project. There is currently a hold up in the processing of the application because an upgrade to the Burwell substation connection to the grid is necessary to accommodate the scheme. Sunnica had to respond to the questions asked by noon on 28th April – the response would feed into the examining authorities decisions in setting out a revised timescale. It would be wrong not to mention Covid. Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk District council have both offered support over the last two years that in my opinion has been superb. The parish council have also done their bit and have learned new skills in Teams and Zoom meetings - keeping the council ticking over so that key decisions could be made. And also wrong not to mention Ukraine. At a Suffolk County Council meeting on 24th March we voted for a motion to condemn the war in Ukraine and support refugees arriving in Suffolk. I have already been contacted by a Red Lodge resident who has joined the homes for Ukraine scheme and I commend them for doing so. It has been a pleasure working with parish council members over 2021/22 and I look forward to continuing our excellent relationship over the coming year. AGMs are always a good way of getting a feel for what's going well and what's not – contentious issues draw big crowds whereas small crowds indicate satisfaction. I look forward to listening this evening to find out what issues are of concern to residents. Noted	
5.	Reports from Mildenhall Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team	
5.1	There were no reports from the police. Noted	
6.	Reports from Groups attending the meeting	
6.1	Red Lodge Rainbows/Brownies, read the following report: Having opened in 2018 we have faced a few hurdles to remain part of the future of Red Lodge village community, over the last year we had to find a new venue and basically start from scratch in terms of girls and funds. As all groups across the village Covid hit us hard. we have a very healthy start to our rainbow group but our brownie numbers are getting quite low, there are 18 Rainbows and 6 Brownies. We are looking for an area for a dedicated campfire and to put up tents for sleepovers. We are hoping to secure some funds to help towards a shed/storage and new	

	program resources. We are looking to recruit more girl's brownie age and hopefully a couple of young leaders which we can help with qualifications and training. The group requested funding from the Parish council. Noted	
6.2	Red Lodge Lightwave, read the following report: Current Activities & Impacts of Red Lodge Lightwave Youth and Children Opportunities for Children to engage in meaningful activities • 80 children attended holiday club • 30 attend a weekly faith group for KS1 and KS2 Outreach for high school age group • 34 teenagers attending the youth café on Fridays. Outreach for families Weekly toddler café attracts young families with their children as well as grandmothers, carers and people who are new to the village. We have seen many friendships form, which reduces isolation and created healthy communities. Messy church, a family oriented meeting, started in April 2022; some of these parents now volunteer and attend our other services Community Café Successfully established and run a community café, providing a hub for building community relationships, and now older people attending post-covid. Employment placement for six months provided to two young people as we partnered with the Government Kick Start scheme The café is providing income generation towards Lightwave Red Lodge's activities. The café also offers opportunity for volunteers to gain work experience and give something back to the community. The café hosted the White Ribbon Campaigning for domestic violence against women and recently met with Suffolk Police to raise awareness on trafficking and other issues of exploitation in the community. Public meetings are planned for alter in the year. Helping Hands Social Support Activities • Established Food Bank supporting 180+ people a month. We distributed £650 supermarket vouchers for Christmas and Easter to the most needy clients. • Financial support including budgeting, debt management and applying for benefits and grants for those struggling financially We encourage and support all families that come to food bank to get budgeting support and debt management as many people struggle with energy bills. ○ We distributed £5000 to 21 local residents in need through the Suffolk Foundation Support Grant ○ We distributed £5000 to 12 local residents in need through the government Household Support Grant provided through Suffolk County Council ○ Distributed £2500 to those with energy bill arrears through the DWP Winter Fuel Grant	

	Managing these grants is time consuming in identifying potential recipients, allocating fair shares to those most in needs and arranging direct payments as we are not allowed to provide cash. This is all done by volunteers in the Team. We are grateful for the Parish Clerk's assistance in this process. • Employment support & volunteer development, We have 40 volunteers of which 20 are people who have an opportunity to gain work experience through the foodbank and the café. Three have obtained jobs through this beginning. • Emotional support and signposting for People with physical and mental health problems, relationship breakdowns, addiction, domestic abuse and bereavement. We have supported 35 families; this number is increasing • Support and training for Christian churches in surrounding area. Reestablishment of Sunday café church in Beck Row and Red Lodge attracting a mix of non, lapsed, and regular churchgoers. Approximate attendance 60 people 80% unchurched • Signposting. We encourage people to seek help from other agencies and organisations where we do not have capability. These include: Citizens Advice, Turning Point, CAP Debt Help, Womens Refuge Lightwave Red Lodge's Need: The lack of a Suitable Venue Lightwave Red Lodge services are currently delivered in three temporary rented venues. None of these three venues are suitable for expansion of services. There is no other suitable community venue or rentable premises in the village or surrounding area. • Red Lodge Sports Pavilion: Current venue for: Themed cafés, food bank. Youth Café and activities, Helping Hands, Sunday breakfast chats, Messy Church. Lightwave pay £625 per month for a block booking, it is our understanding that the venue needs to be used more by sports groups now Covid restrictions have ended. • St Christopher's Church Red Lodge Venue for Sunday afternoon informal worship service This is a small building. There is no space in the building to offer any other services or support to the local community. • The Parish Hub in Beck Row, the next village Current venue for Sunday breakfast chats, youth club. This is a multiuse facility for the local community to hire. Lightwave use this building for youth work and Sunday breakfast chats with the community. This building only offers limited ad-hock hire when available. New Christian Centre Project The Church of England has agreed to set up a project to build a new Christian Centre in Red Lodge to meet the expanding needs of the community. This project is being developed in collaboration with St Christopher's Church and the Methodist Church. We have been looking for a suitable site since West Suffolk Council Planning Department advised us and the Parish Council that the land next to the allotments was unavailable as it is a designated Public Open Space. We are eagerly anticipating the public consultation on the master plan for Red Lodge North (WS208) as we were involved in initial discussions in October 2020 but that dried up until we received notice of the public consultation meeting on 24 May 2022.	
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	WS208 is earmarked for housing (330 units) 8ha employment and 3 ha education. We are interested in seeing what provision is planned for community use. We are also in direct discussion with Mr Hugo Upton about identifying other possible sites. We are undertaking a 'community audit' and later in May we will be asking local residents to complete a simple questionnaire about the village, its current provision and use and community needs to inform planning for future services. Funding We receive direct funding from the Church of England for core staff costs under the Lightwave project up to December 2004. From 2025 we will have to become self-funding like other churches. We are slowly increasing donations and will continue to apply for grants, especially those that will contribute to staff and other overhead costs e.g., rent. £2439 West Suffolk Covid Restart Fund – covered costs of making our café 'covid safe', providing laptops and wi-fi at the Sports Pavilion for our clients and publicity to announce the restart of our activities. £1400 West Suffolk Councillors grant – carry over from 2020/21. Grant used to top up non-food items and install additional shelving in the food bank The café generates a surplus which is reinvested in our community support services. The group requested funding from the Parish council. Noted 6.3 Homestart read the following report: <u>Red Lodge- Home-Start Perinatal Mental Health and Universal Service</u> <u>Background information</u> Home-Start have been delivering a Perinatal Mental Health service across Forest Heath for the past two and a half years. This service runs alongside our Universal service for families with from pregnancy to age 11 years. Our PMH service began in 2019 as a pilot scheme in 2019 providing home-visiting support, weekly group support and access to a range of project workshops. The PMH support group then moved to a venue in Newmarket in 2020, Mildenhall in April 2021 and to Red Lodge in November 2021. The change of venue was informed by feedback from families and other organisations, the changing needs of families and referrals received. Following the success of the initial pilot scheme we now provide PMH support groups and specialist PMH home-visiting support in Red Lodge, Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, Needham Market, Sudbury and Hadleigh. <u>Provision & Impact</u> Families in the local area have been able to access a wide range of support both professional support and crucial peer support within our PMH group in Red Lodge. Referrals: April 2021-April 2022 • 30 referrals received for home-visiting and group Group support: Families have accessed our weekly group support which provides opportunities to meet up with others who have similar experiences/struggles with mental health,	
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	isolation/loneliness, low self-esteem and confidence. Group provides a safe and supportive environment with time to chat and time to share play experiences with baby. This has helped to improve parental mental health and wellbeing and bonding with baby. This in turn has improved outcomes for babies learning and development. Group Attendance: April 2021-April 2022 • 18 families registered for group support – 12 attending regularly Home-visiting support: April 2021-April 2022 Families have been able to access 1:1 bespoke home-visiting support alongside group support which has helped families with a wide range of difficulties including mental health, illness, disability, children's development and/or special educational needs, financial, housing, relationship breakdown. • 12 families accessing home-visiting support Project workshop attendance: April 2021-April 2022 Families have been able to access additional support through attending our termly workshops : Treasure Basket & Sensory Play Musical Babies Baby Story Sacks Baby Yoga Mindfulness Sleep Clinics Families have enjoyed attending, building their knowledge and skills and gaining ideas for play with baby at home. • 12 families attending <u>Additional Support</u> 3 families have accessed financial support through our Hardship funding 1 family has accessed support for household items through LWSA 3 families have accessed support with domestic violence <u>Funding</u> Our Universal and Perinatal Mental Health support services are currently funded by the National Lottery. This funding is for 3 years – October 2019 until October 2022. As this funding is due to end this October we are looking to secure further funding to be able to continue this much needed service for families in Red lodge and surrounding area. We have already secured funding for our home visiting service but require funding for our PMH service and project work. The running costs for our PMH weekly group and workshops is approximately £9,000. This includes venue hire, staff costs, costs for resources and refreshments. We also continue to run fundraising events to add additional funds for services we have a Buggy walk planned for the summer term in Red Lodge. Other walks – buggy walks and toddler treks will also be run by all our other groups across Mid and West Suffolk.	
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	<u>Perinatal Mental Health Service Development</u> Further to the success of our current provision some of our families are now leaving the current group as babies are over the age of 1 year. As these families are continuing to need weekly group support we would like to offer a follow on group for parents with babies aged 1-2 years. We are exploring options for an additional group – possibly a follow on PMH group or alternatively a universal group for parents and toddlers aged 1-2. The latter may help us to reach more families and also allow continued mental health support. Following advertising our project workshops we have had a huge response from parents in Red Lodge wanting to attend a group for this age group but do not have a mental health need. This highlights a need for another baby/toddler group in Red Lodge. Our advertising generated an additional 35 enquiries from families who did not meet the criteria for perinatal mental health support. <u>Volunteers</u> Home-Start has a team of dedicated volunteers that complete training to support families within home visiting and in some of our groups across Mid and West Suffolk. We currently have 3 volunteers in Forest Heath visiting and supporting PMH families in Forest Heath. We would therefore like to recruit new volunteers in the area to enable us to reach and support more families and invite anyone interested to attend our next Volunteer Preparation course. The group requested funding from the Parish council. Noted 6.4 Red Lodge Scouts <u>Report for Red Lodge Parish Council 2022 re 1st Red Lodge Scout Group</u> 1st Red Lodge Scout Group has been meeting back Face to Face at the Millennium Centre since September 2021. At first we kept to strict Covid infection mitigation restrictions, but are now operating almost as pre Covid. Our numbers are very good with 70 plus young members between all 3 sections, aged from 6 – 14 years. In addition, we have 7 young leaders aged from 14 – 18 years involved too. We have 13 adults volunteering, split between the sections including myself. This team of dedicated leaders readily give their time not only on a weekly basis but at some weekends too and I thank them all for everything they do. However, it is only a small team and recruiting more adults is always an ongoing concern. Binge able to meet up together again means we have been able to do many activities to achieve badge requirements. Last Autumn, we planted yet more daffodil bulbs in the village. We took part in the small gathering at the Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and although there was no formal parade we formed our own, parading along Bellflower Crescent through to Warren Road and the Memorial. One area where we really struggle is doing scout outdoor activities as we have no outdoor space to safely do this. We have to organise to go outside the village to another Scout group premises or to a Scout Camp site. This limits our programme possibilities. We have therefore been striving to highlight our need to the Parish Council in the hope an area of land, perhaps in the new development, can be allocated for our use.	
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	Recently we were able to hold a group campfire evening on land near to the A 11 roundabout by kind permission of Mr Upton (Upton Farms). We invited parents along too and it was a very successful evening. Covid has prevented us from being able to do our usual fundraising events for the last 2 years and unfortunately, we did not qualify for any of the Covid support grants available to some groups. This has meant the group financial reserves have depleted. We would therefore like to apply for any funding available from the Parish Council. Over the summer months we will be looking at the possibility of opening a further section, Squirrels, for children aged from 4 – 6 years. This will great depend on, volunteer adults coming forward as leaders to run the new section and also a meeting place with a suitable time available for them to meet in. Finally, we are very proud that one of our Scouts, Tristiaan Wagenaar, has been selected for the Suffolk contingent attending the next World Scout Jamboree 2023 taking place in South Korea. We are therefore helping him to raise the necessary £4000 needed for his attendance. There will be a fund raising stall at the Jubilee Fun day. <u>Land for the group to use for outdoor activities</u> 1st Red Lodge Scout Group would like an area of land we could securely fence in and safely use for outdoor Scout activities such as • learning to safely light a fire • cooking on fires • learning to use axes and saws safely • pioneering projects • outdoor games • practising putting up tents • camp fire singing Currently to be able to do these, we have to go out of the village to either another Scout Group HQ property or to a Scout Camp site. This limits our programme possibilities and also relies on parents being able to transport their young members. We would also like to store our group trailer there and relocate our storage container so equipment can easily be accessed. In addition, ideally we would like access to a water supply. An electricity supply would also be very useful so we can install some lighting and we would then be able to use the area in the darker evenings too. If we can also install toilet facilities/drainage, we can make even better use of the area for a longer periods of time and be able to do one-night camping experiences for a small group of young members. We would like to manage the property ourselves but would be very willing to loan it to other groups at times we are not using it ourselves. We're happy to pay a reasonable annual ground rent. A long term project for the group would be to be able to build their own HQ building which can be used for weekly indoor activities. The group requested funding from the Parish council. Noted	
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6.5	Red Lodge Conservation Group The Covid pandemic has had an impact on the activities of the Red Lodge Conservation Group. Lockdown restrictions meant committee meetings were cancelled until November although a couple of on-site meetings were held with our link contacts at West Suffolk Council. Work parties continued when possible, following the regular tasks of clearing encroaching vegetation, managing the habitats to benefit plants and insects, maintaining the information boards and removing litter. The group would like to thank the Parish Council for their grant of £250 which will contribute to repairs to the tyres of our tractor mower, which is used to keep footpaths accessible for the public to walk on the site. In July a group from Anglian Water visited the SSSI site to do some voluntary work and joined us for a litter pick. As in previous years the conservation Group has had to deal with challenges caused by local residents. Fly-tipping, damage to fencing and littering in the area around White Mullein Drive is an ongoing issue. Despite notices being displayed at every entrance, dog fouling is evident. Being surrounded by houses and with open access makes the heath vulnerable to misuse. In March I was asked to write an article about the heath for the Turnpike newsletter. I stressed the importance of the heath for the wildlife reminded residents to treat the site with respect, with guidance based on the Countryside Code. In the article I made a plea for more volunteers to support the Conservation Group. We are very small in number and it would be good to involve a younger generation to continue the work that has begun. I hope it will be possible to encourage residents of Red Lodge to value the heath and keep it an asset to the community. Noted	
7.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2021. The Minutes of the Red Lodge Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman. Resolved	
8.	Public Session – General questions & discussion 8.1 Requests for funding from the parish council was summarised: i. Red Lodge Under 11's football ii. Red Lodge Under 8's football iii. Red Lodge Under 14's football iv. Team Arli adult football v. Combat Kickboxing vi. Red Lodge Rainbows/Brownies vii. Homestart viii. Red Lodge Scouts ix. Lightwave	Chairman
9.	Confirmation of the date for the next Annual Parish Meeting on 2nd May 2023 The date for the meeting above was confirmed. Noted	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:40.