



Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Hundred Acre Way, Red Lodge, Suffolk, IP28 8FQ 01638 551257
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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 30 May 2023

Time: 19:00

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

Present: Cllr. Susan Houlder (Chairman)
Cllr. Richard Saul (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr. Chris Davison
Cllr. Sandra Dwan
Cllr. Angie Sewell
Cllr. Ian Thompson
Cllr. Ioana Tofan

In Attendance: Clerk/RFO

Non-Attendee: Cllr. Ryan Bell
Cllr. Barry Botwright

Members of Public: 2

	Item	Action
1.	Chairperson's welcome	
2.	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr. Bell - work commitments, Cllr. Botwright - family commitments, D.Cllr. Dicker – holiday and 1st Red Lodge Scouts – holiday. Noted	
3.	Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council The Chairman read out the following report: We have had a very good year and to summarise 2022/2023 has seen a slight increase in events hire and we have welcomed several new groups to the pavilion. The hire of the MUGA has decreased a little and the use of the pitches has remained the same. The football pitches are still being well used by the under 9s, under 12s and under 15s teams as is the rugby pitch. An outside gym has been installed in the area next to the pavilion play park. This was purchased using section 106 money. It is being well used every day by people training and by others for regular exercise. There has been no major work at any of the play parks but minor work has been undertaken such as repairs to swings. The trampoline, at the pavilion play area, still needs to be repaired but this requires a specialist to undertake the work. Recently there has been intentional damage to the wet porous surface at both the Heathersett Way and Orchid Drive play areas and this is being investigated. There has been an extension to the MUGA using Section 106 monies, which was undertaken by Sawscapes Play Ltd. The rugby posts have been replaced as they were not wide enough. A legally required play area sign was damaged during the year at the pavilion. This had been replaced and the cost recouped. We have been without a groundsman for the best part of a year and this has meant that the Supervisor has had to work extra hard to keep up with the various jobs he has to undertake in the village. I am delighted to say that we have recently recruited a person which will help Andy enormously. We are still waiting for Suffolk County Council to install the no parking restrictions along Hundred Acre Way. The consultation has now taken place and we expect this to happen later this year. A second SID was installed on Warren Road and this appears to be working well. The Barratts Estate, off Turnpike Road, has now been incorporated into Red Lodge following a boundary change during the year. Previously this came under Worlington.	

	In case you are unaware Sunnica Ltd has submitted its proposal for a massive 2,500 acre solar farm situated across the borders of West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire and would affect our Parish. Following the examination, which took place in December, all has gone quiet regarding Sunnica. A decision is expected in September. Both the Chairman and Clerk of Red Lodge Parish Council spoke at the open floor hearing at the examination. The Parish Council, along with other local Parish Councils, contributed to the cost of hiring Michelle Bolger, who is an expert in landscaping, for her expert advice. The Parish Council also assisted in 'Say No To Sunnica' in conducting a traffic survey near la Hogue. This was to prove that this is a busy road. In June 2022 we held a very successful Queens Platinum Jubilee event. The weather was very kind to us and we were amazed to see how many people turned out to join in. Very recently we held a Kings Coronation Family Fun Day which again was extremely successful. The weather forecast was not in our favour and so we were delighted to see so many people attend and also that the rain held off! We have also held an extremely successful quiz night and a bingo session. We intend to hold more of these so keep a look out on Parish Council website, facebook and the notice boards. My thanks go to everyone who has volunteered their time and all the effort that has been put in to make these events such a success. The Millennium Centre together with the Sports Pavilion are holding a Race Night on 23rd June at the Millennium Centre. This has been advertised on Facebook and all profits will go back into the community. Many of you know that Vanessa Kovacevic retired as a Councillor during her term of office due to ill health but was keen to still sit on the events group. She has been doing this until recently when reluctantly she decided that she was no longer able to help. I would like our thanks recorded for all the work Vanessa undertook whilst she was a Councillor and all the help she gave to the events group. Donations of £200 each had been given to ten local organisations and a grant of £12,000 had been given to the Millennium Centre. The office software had been upgraded to Windows 10. Asbestos, which had been dumped on the heath, has been cleared. The cost incurred was split between money from our County Councillor and the Parish Council. The Turnpike magazine is now being produced more regularly again and the Parish Council are still supporting its production. More volunteers are needed to deliver the magazine so if you are able help they would be delighted. Likewise, they would also be delighted to receive articles for publication and for people to advertise.	
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	At this time the Parish Council have made a decision not to pursue the expansion of the Pavilion due to the costs involved. However, the pavilion working party are going to look at seeing if, in the future, the kitchen could be enlarged. Setting our budget was extremely hard this year and some budget lines had to be drastically cut so that we did not increase our precept by too much. I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for giving up their time to be part of Red Lodge Parish Council and for all the work that they do. On behalf of Councillors I would like to thank the Clerk for all her very hard work that she does on behalf of the Council and also thank all the staff at the Sports Pavilion for all the work they do. It is all very much appreciated. Noted	
4. 4.1	Reports from County and District Councillors County Councillor The following report was read out on behalf of C.Cllr. Drummond: I'm the Newmarket & Red Lodge division, Suffolk County Councillor which covers half of Newmarket - that being the North ward and half of East ward. The division also covers five other parishes: Red Lodge, Kentford, Moulton, Dalham and Herringwell which completes the division. In addition, for the last four years I have been on West Suffolk District Council representing West ward. On West Suffolk District Council, I was portfolio holder for Regulatory and the Environment. I'm also on Newmarket town council - which is where it started for me back in 2003 so I have just completed twenty years as a councillor. I am now representing Icen Ward on West Suffolk Council – I decided to make this change because it's within my county division and I live in the village of Herringwell so I can vote for myself! In this political climate we Conservatives need every vote we can get! On county I'm a member of the development and regulation committee - a kind of planning committee - not for housing because that's the remit of West Suffolk - but for development that county has the powers to determine itself such as public rights of way, schools, and mineral extraction. I have chaired 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 town and parish meetings that occur in my division - it can be complicated because they are sometimes on the same night. For example, on	

	Monday 15th May there are meetings at Newmarket, Herringswell and Moulton that all clash. 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 to the parish clerk anything that I can't answer on the night. During the month I cascade information that I receive to parish clerks such as deployment dates of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera which is hopefully shared with local members. I'm contactable on: Andy.Drummond@Suffolk.gov.uk if you have any issuespertaining 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 andanother for Highways issues. I will now detail where I have been spending these on various projects across mydivision: NEWMARKET December 2022 – supported the Lions Club Christmas event £250 January 2023 – refurbished the toilets/showers Newmarket & Mildenhall Sea Cadets £1,000 Newmarket Academy – support for Cambridge Science Centre School Road Show £400 Laureate School PTA – enhancements to learning environment in 2 year old room £450 RED LODGE October 2022 – removal of hazardous fly tipped asbestos from Millennium centre £195 Hundred Acre Way Traffic Regulation Orders (£10,000 committed - £4654.58 spentso far)	
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4.2	MOULTON Traffic survey Newmarket Road £365 Traffic survey B1085, School Road, Chippenham Road £327.50 Speed limit report Moulton Road (west of village) with a view to extending the 40mph speed limit by 1,000m (sadly not supported by the Police and therefore not justified by the head of transport strategy £400 On a positive note, bend warning signs and SLOW road markings have been agreed for Moulton Road. KENTFORD Supported in previous years but no requests received this financial year – so any requests for 23/24 will be considered favourably. HERRINGSWELL Defibrillator £1,625 May 2022 Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations £1,000 Repairs to war memorial £900 DALHAM November 2022 interior decoration of Dalham Village Hall £1,600 Stores Hill – various traffic schemes £3,500 committed. Annual Town & Parish Meetings 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! With respect to the meetings that I can attend I look forward to finding out what issues are of concern to residents. Thank you. Noted District Councillor No reports Noted	
5.	Reports from Mildenhall Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team None Noted	
6.1	Reports from Groups attending the meeting Red Lodge Conservation Group read the following report: The Red Lodge Conservation Group has held regular work parties each month weather permitting, with additional time spent mowing paths, litter-picking and maintenance work on signs. Paths have been mowed, overhanging branches cleared, bracken, scrub and saplings have been removed. Areas of grassland have been	

	mowed to encourage the growth of wild flowers. Information boards have been cleaned and maintained. The Group has tried to improve the conditions in the sandy area to increase the spread of Breckland Thyme and it was encouraging to see orchids growing there for the first time. At the beginning of 2022 asbestos was found on land near the Millennium Centre. Determining the ownership of the land was a lengthy process. The Group would like to thank the Parish Council for the grant of £200 towards this. The site was cleared eventually, although it remains vulnerable to littering and encroachment due to the absence of a secure boundary with the grounds of the Millennium Centre. Unfortunately, misuse of the site by members of the community continues. Recently, an information board was covered in graffiti, cleaned, but sprayed again. Other signs have been removed. One major cause for concern is the ongoing encroachment and damage to the site by residents living in Green Lane. Several of the fence panels beside the footpath on White Mullein Drive have collapsed during storms or removed by residents to gain access to the SSSI. A recent inspection of this area showed damage to trees, earth dug up to make ramps for cycling and large amounts of fly-tipping and litter. This is concerning as it is close to the area where Breckland Thyme is found, which is a key species for the designation of SSI status. In March 2023 the Group was informed that Natural England will be conducting surveys of the site from April to October 2023. It is hoped that the results will show that Red Lodge Heath is in a favourable condition and still merits its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It does hold value as a place for wildlife and as only 2% of Suffolk's land is designated for this purpose deserves to be protected. It is a challenge for the Group to recruit new members and we have recently opened a Facebook page to encourage more interest. I would like to thank the members of the Conservation Group for their hard work, and the Parish Council for their financial support. However, Red Lodge Heath needs the support of the whole community in order to survive and thrive. Noted	
6.2	Suffolk Libraries The following report was read out on behalf of Suffolk Libraries: Average visits so far this quarter = 35 Number of borrowers = 120 Red Lodge Friends have a Chair and Treasurer - we still need a Secretary and more Trustees. We will be running the Summer Reading Challenge and welcome volunteers age 12+ We would also like to be able to offer the Home library Service (HLS) to anyone housebound in Red Lodge - volunteer needed Noted	

6.3 Lightwave

Lightwave read out the following report:

Lightwave is a Christian community. We have fun, support each other and try to put our faith to work in practical care for friends, neighbours and the most needy in our society. Lightwave is inclusive for the whole community.

Investing in children and youth

With the growing number of **children and youth** in the village engaging with the various programs offered by Lightwave, we have increased the number of groups that meet weekly from two to four groups. These groups cater for children and youth aged between 4 and 16 years old. There are currently 74 children and youth engaged regularly in one or more of the weekly groups.

These groups offer creative activities, cooking or baking, a short life lesson, sports and importantly a safe space where children and youth can meet, make friends and build a healthy community with adult supervision.

Lightwave Cafe have supported and invested in the youth and young adults supervising **three** Duke of Edinburgh, **one** from The Prince's Trust and **two** from the



Government Kick Start programme.

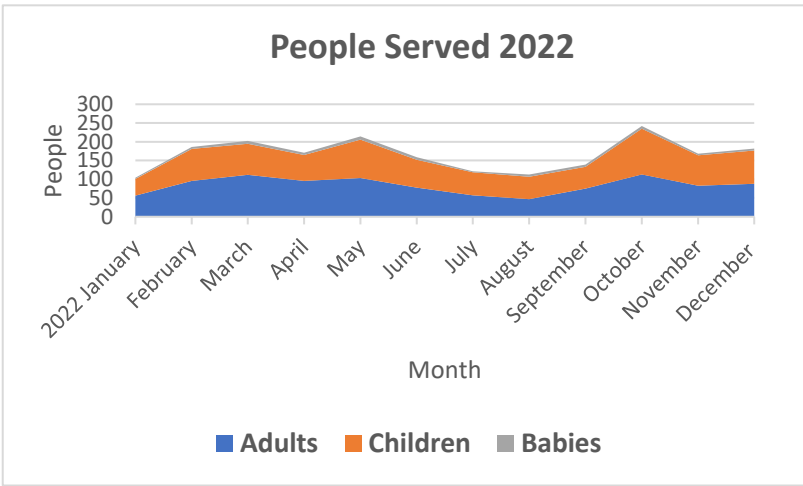
The summer holiday club attracts over 80 children each year and we expect that this summer will see the same attendance. There has been an encouraging number of secondary school aged youth engaged with volunteering at the holiday club and in the cafe.

There is no charge for these services, so we rely on grant applications, donations and the proceeds from the cafe.

	In order to maintain a safe and meaningful engagement with the children and youth and expand our youth activities, Lightwave is making grant applications for a full-time youth worker and have secured part of the funding for this. Community Engagement Employing a dedicated cafe manager has seen the cafe open an extra day in the week. We have now extended our services to pensioners offering a cooked lunch, puzzles, scrabble and card games on Friday mornings and lunch time. Pensioners enjoy a 20% discount off an already reasonable priced meal. People who have been, widowed or have a partner with early onset of dementia as well as those living alone needing to be collected come to the cafe each week. Toddler cafe on Thursdays offer a play area, crafts and singing for toddlers, parents and carers. We have seen many new parents appreciating a place to meet new people, this alleviates isolation and loneliness. Children also have an opportunity to socialise with others. There are approximately 50 families that visit the toddler cafe over the month, many use the space as a meeting and play area rather than a cafe. Youth cafe is well attended with 40+ youth attending the cafe, Lightwave provides free hot dogs and squash for the youth. The youth cafe is supervised by four regular DBS approved team members that engage with the youth, playing volley ball, football, board games, table tennis and so on. Saturday cafe caters for the sports teams, many of the visiting teams have commented on just how great it is to come to Red Lodge and have the Lightwave cafe services offering breakfast, baps and drinks. The Lightwave Cafe caters for the trophy evenings for some of the children and youth football teams. All proceeds from the cafe are used to support the youth and children's work in the village. Helping Hands In 2022 we distributed £15,000 of household support grants to pensioners and vulnerable families plus £2500 post Covid grants distributed to help alleviate poverty. Lightwave have run three money management courses involving 21 participants, helped five people sign up to free debt advice provided by Citizens Advice, StepChange and CAP. We have helped six people apply for Surviving Winter grants and three applicants for the Suffolk Local Welfare Assistance Scheme. We have assisted people to apply for disability and other allowances. Our food bank is supported by grants from Red Lodge Parish Council, Suffolk County Council and donations from Tesco customers. One family came to our food	
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bank during Covid as they were on benefits. We helped one parent to re-establish their right to work in the UK by funding their passport renewal, updating their CV and supporting them with job applications. This past week they told us they no longer needed food bags but will continue to participate in youth and family activities.

Due to the grant to fund Fareshare deliveries, we have introduced a £2 per bag contribution when clients can afford it; we do not refuse people food if they are unable to contribute. Most of our food bank clients are happy to contribute.



Building Project

Lightwave are grateful for the support of the Parish Council who have agreed to a block booking for five days a week Thursday morning to Monday evening which Lightwave pay for monthly. This also secures a regular monthly income for the Parish Council.

We have recognised the struggle of using this shared space and are working with developers of Red Lodge North in the design of a community hub that will enable Lightwave to offer additional services for the local community.

The Parish Council has offered further support by forming a working party to meet with Lightwave.

Below are the suggested terms of reference set by the Parish Council working party.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The aim of the Parish Working Party is to work together with Lightwave, Developers and Planners to secure a suitable site and accommodation, for Lightwave’s community led activities, in the ‘North Red Lodge ’

	Development. Noted	
6.4	1st Red Lodge Scout Group The following report was read out on behalf of 1st Red Lodge Scouts Group: The Scout Group continues to be active taking part in group activities, district activities as well as events in the community. Our current numbers in all sections are high, a testament again to the leadership teams and the planning of fun programmes each week. Young members are successfully transferring onto the next sections at the appropriate age. In September 2022 we opened a Squirrel Scout section for 4 – 6 year olds. We started with 2 leaders and just 8 Squirrels and this has now increased to 4 leaders and 16 Squirrels. Our young members have the opportunity to take part in many activities including camping, kayaking, hiking, climbing, abseiling, archery, air rifles, tomahawk throwing and for the youngest ones, bell boating as well as visits to a fire station, Clip 'n' Climb, Mildenhall museum, bowling and ice skating to name a few. There have been several events when the group has been altogether for activities in the village, litter picking, the village Remembrance Service and Parade and a group camp fire evening. Very rewarding to see the Squirrels joining in with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Our biggest problem throughout the group in the last 12 months has been to recruit new adult volunteers particularly for Beavers and Scouts. Not only have we been asking parents, but have also advertised within the community, unfortunately with minimum success. Our activities at the recent Coronation Fun day in the village were targeted at attracting adult volunteering and we are hoping we have had some degree of success and will hopefully be appointing at least 2 more adults. BUT this will only fill a few gaps. We urgently need more adults, either weekly, bi- or even tri weekly on a rota or even for weekend events. Our current leaders work extremely hard to plan and deliver the activities for the young members. Our next biggest problem is still unfortunately the lack of a piece of land within the village for Scouting, where we can safely meet and do traditional outdoor activities, such as fire lighting, cooking on fires, saw and axe skills etc. This is something we have been seeking / asking for now for several years. Currently we can only do these activities if we travel to a Scout site elsewhere. Hugo Upton of Upton Farms is championing our cause. He has shown myself and the Chairman Emily Bridge a piece of land on the edge of the boundary he thinks may be suitable for our use. But things move very slowly with regards to planning permission within the proposed village development plan. The Group Trustee Board (formerly Group Executive committee) continue to lobby for success. Does the Parish Council have any input into this area. If so, please can you help us. Having our own outdoor space would greatly enhance our activities and allow the group to develop. Finally, our scout, Tristiaan Wagenaar is looking forward attending the World Scout Jamboree in Korea this summer. Noted	

7.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May 2022. The Minutes of the Red Lodge Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 rd May 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman. Resolved	
8.	Public Session – General questions and discussion A member of the public enquired about the possibility of opening a post office in Red Lodge. The Parish Council considered premises for a post office and also a mobile post office for the village. However, it was concluded that this was not currently feasible both practically or financially. Noted	Clerk
9.1	Confirmation of the date for the next Annual Parish Meeting on 7th May 2024. The date for the meeting above was confirmed. Resolved	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:23