



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 7 May 2024

Time: 19:00

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

Present: Cllr. Susan Houlder (Chairman)
Cllr. Michael Berry
Cllr. Stewart Hobbs
Cllr. Ian Thompson

In Attendance: D.Cllr. Dawn Dicker
Clerk/RFO

Non-Attendee: Cllr. Andy Drummond
Cllr. Sandra Dwan
Cllr. Angela Sewell
Cllr. Ioana Tofan

Members of Public: 5

	Item	Action
1.	Chairperson's welcome	
2.	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted for the following: Cllr. Drummond – holiday; Cllr. Dwan - work commitments; Cllr. Sewell – away. Noted	
3.	Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the following report: Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. The Sports Pavilion is regularly used by various groups ranging from dance, yoga, martial arts, Red Lodge Lightwave charity, adult and youth football, rugby and the very popular Football Fun Factory. 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 work to be carried out this summer. These are some of the things that have taken place during the year: • A new footpath has been installed near the Sports field, connecting the new housing development to the rest of the village. • A salt grit bin has been purchased, courtesy of Cllr. Dicker and installed in the Pine's Primary school car park. • The clothes bank in the Sports Pavilion car park is reported as one of the most popular in the region. By September 2023 it had recycled over 4 tons of clothing. We are in need of a larger bin now. • Some dog bins have been overflowing post lock down, so a larger capacity combined waste bin has been installed on the sports field as this was constantly overflowing. • Sewing Angels sewing group has recently returned to the Sports Pavilion, if there is anyone who has a passion for crafts they are welcome to come along on Wednesday mornings. • Red Lodge Lightwave received an award (from CAS/SCC/SALC) for their charitable work. • A Police Constable has been assigned to Red Lodge, if you have any issues that they can help with please do contact her.	

	• A Parish Council Surgery is being trialled for six months. Sadly, after four months not many people have attended. The two remaining surgeries are being held on 8th May at the Sports Pavillion and 5th June at the Millennium Centre. • Recently a thermal imaging camera was loaned to the parish council. This has proved popular with residents enabling them to check on whether their insulation is adequate. • In May 2023 we held a very successful Kings Coronation event. The weather was mixed but we were amazed to see how many people turned out to join in. Tickets to the children's Christmas party, held in December, was sold out. The children enjoyed being entertained by a magician and father Christmas was in attendance. Recently family bingo sessions have been held. In June a Circus Big Top family day is being held. Fingers crossed that we have beautiful weather. Later this year it is planned to have a cinema bus visit the village. Our 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. I would also like to thank both District Councillors, Cllr. Dicker and Cllr. Drummond for their contributions to the various events. Their help is very much appreciated. • The Parish Council will be celebrating D-Day on 6th June, a service will be held, please look out for details soon to be published by the Events Working Party. • Donations of £100 each have been given to several local organisations and a grant of £6,000 has been given to the Millennium Centre. • Recently Lightwave installed a new cooker in the kitchen and we would like to thank them for this kind gesture. • Temporary repairs have been made to the veranda but it is planned to replace the whole of the veranda once inspected by a structural engineer. • An application has been submitted for electric car sockets to be sited in the Red Lodge Sports Pavilion car park. • A Part-time Administrator has recently been appointed to work in the Parish office. 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.	
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	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 this would affect our Parish. Following the examination, which took place in December, all has gone quiet regarding Sunnica. A decision was expected in September and then in January, but still nothing has been heard. 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. Plans have been submitted to West Suffolk Council for the construction of 300 homes on land north of Acorn Way in Red Lodge, along with a new local centre, which may include retail and public open spaces. Other than that, planning applications have been mainly for small extensions. Plans are also being put into place for a new secondary school in the village. A site has been identified outside of the parish of Red Lodge, with intentions of the school being occupied by 2026/27. Sadly, Vanessa Kovacevic, who was a parish councillor for many years, died last year. She was a stalwart of the Parish Council and was part of the group organising events and instigated the best kept front garden competition. Setting our budget was extremely hard this year and we had no option than to increase some budget lines because of cost of living increases. The MUGA only has a limited life span and money has had to be earmarked in readiness for when work will need to be carried out. I would wholeheartedly 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 undertake. On behalf of Councillors, I would like to thank the Clerk for all her extremely hard work to ensure that Council runs smoothly 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: Good evening, My name is Andy 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 Herringswell which completes the division.	

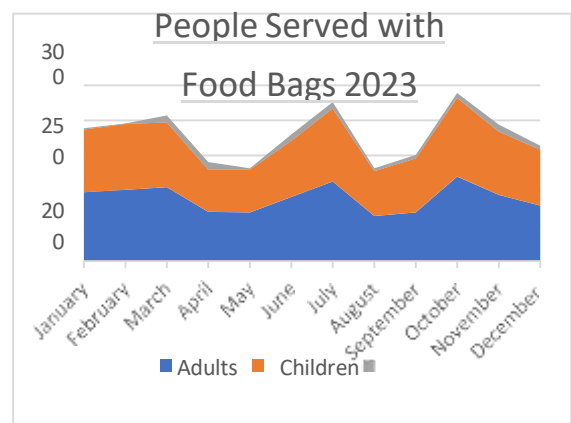
	As part of the boundary review at the next election the division will change – the Newmarket North part will move to Exning & Newmarket division and Newmarket & Red Lodge division will gain all of Newmarket East. I am now representing Icení ward on West Suffolk Council – I decided to make this change because it's within my county division and I live in the village of Herringswell, so I can vote for myself! I am also a member of Newmarket Town Council and Red Lodge Parish Council. 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 rightsof way, schools, and quarries. 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, Monday's tend to be quite busy with many meetings on the same day and time. 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 ANPR camera and road closures which is hopefully shared with local members. I'm 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 andanother for Highways issues. I will now detail the various projects across my division: NEWMARKET Newmarket Academy – Bloodhound Supersonic Car visit £400 Newmarket & Mildenhall Sea Cadets shower refurbishment £1,000 Newmarket Hospital courtyards refurb £2,000 Newmarket cinema £3,000 Rayes Lane fencing £3,000 Newmarket Youth Action Group -shelter for skate park £2,000	
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	RED LODGE Lighthouse – youth activities £500 MOULTON Looking at 20's Plenty implementation in the village and once feasibility is costed will make a contribution. KENTFORD No requests received this financial year. HERRINGSWELL War memorial repair £900 DALHAM White lining scheme around B1085 Affleck Arms bend Looking at a scheme to close Denham Road to clear the ditches to prevent seasonal black ice. 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 4.2 District Councillor D. Cllr. Dicker read the following report: My name is Dawn Dicker and I am one of the District councillors for Iceni ward, which includes Red Lodge and Herringswell. There have been huge changes in the last year. After the elections last May, the conservatives lost overall control of West Suffolk council. A new administration called the West Suffolk Working Partnership was formed containing 19 independents, 17 labour, 1 green and 1Lib dem. The new chairman was Roger Dicker and the new leader is Cliff Waterman. The new administration immediately started to work on the issues it felt important. The 1st success was introducing the Decarbonisation Fund which would upgrade all parish owned street lights to LED thus saving the parishes thousands of pounds in new equipment and running costs. Further improvements introduced includes the £200,000 investment into a better grass cutting regime. It has also been decided not to carry on with the £60m Western Way development and Bury St Edmunds leisure centre whilst interest rates are so high.	
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	West Suffolk is coming towards the end of the new local plan process. All 3 stages have been consulted on and a final plan will be eventually presented to a government inspector for approval. The district portion of your council tax has been set at a government advised 2.99%, thus enabling a balanced budget for the next two years. Also, as of this moment there is still no decision regarding the Sunnica solar farm. It has been my delight to help out with funding again this year. This started with the over 60's Christmas party. The Scouts have also benefited and were able to purchase new activity tables. Mildenhall and Red Lodge Rugby Club were able to purchase new practice balls due to my locality budget. Funding has also been provided for both upcoming events run by the parish council, the Big Top and also the cinema bus coming in the summer. Once again I will have a new locality budget for this year, so if I can help in anyway, please let me know. Noted	
5.	Reports from Mildenhall Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team The Police Constable for Red Lodge/Manor CPT informed the meeting that suitable venues are being sought to host drop in surgeries. There has been low levels of crime in Red Lodge, mostly relating to anti-social behaviour. Speed checks on vehicles have been conducted in the area. The PC is currently involved in a project to evaluate the need for ANPR's to combat speeding issues. Noted	
6.	Reports from Groups attending the meeting 6.1 Red Lodge Conservation Group read the following report: The Red Lodge Conservation Group has held three committee meetings since the last annual meeting and regular monthly work parties on Red Lodge Heath, weather permitting, and also maintenance works on other occasions. The group performed its regular programme of tasks: mowing paths and clearing encroaching vegetation, clearing seedlings and bracken, managing meadow areas, litter-picking and removing fly-tipped items. Red Lodge Heath SSSI is a dynamic site in that it responds to weather conditions. The very wet autumn and winter have raised the water level in the ponds so that they have overflowed into a large area, making the footpaths beside them impassable. It will be very interesting to discover the impact the flooding will have on the surrounding vegetation. Natural England commissioned surveys of the site from April to October 2023. In March 2024 the Group was given a summary of the results. The surveys showed that the site was 60% in a favourable condition, with several hundred insects identified. This is encouraging and the Group would like to continue to improve the	

	site. However, in a survey of sites within the wider Breckland area, Red Lodge Heath SSSI was one which was considered vulnerable because of its location, surrounded by housing and public usage. The Group is concerned by the damage caused to the site by members of the public. Two of the information boards have been targeted by graffiti, and while this can be removed, it does damage the surface of the board. Signs on the bridle path and on the gates have been removed and the insecure boundaries near the Millennium Centre and on White Mullein Drive provide opportunities for fly-tipping and damage to the site. Some members of the public are unaware the SSSI is mainly privately owned or that it is a wildlife site. Improved signage and more secure fencing might improve this situation. The Conservation Group set up a Facebook page to communicate with local residents and engages in conversations with people they encounter during work parties. Recruitment is still a problem, with no offers to volunteer within the group. This could be an issue in the near future as the current members are well into retirement age. I should like to thank the members of the Conservation Group for their hard work and support throughout the year and hope that we shall continue our efforts to protect and maintain Red Lodge SSSI. Noted 6.2 Red Lodge Lightwave representative read the following report: The Lightwave Hub Red Lodge set four goals for 2023. These focused on being light in our community, growing younger, discipleship and sustainability. Highlights • First ever award that recognizes a Faith Group at the Community Action Suffolk Awards. • Key Partnerships have helped toward being the light and love in our community: ➤ Suffolk Community Foundation funding £10,500 for cost of living and breakthrough funds. ➤ West Suffolk £8,200 toward our service to the community. ➤ Forrester Family Trust £10,000 gift ➤ Parish Council -£100 grant, District Councillor - £500 grant, doctor's surgery, local schools, parish churches and charities, Fair Share and Tesco. • Eighteen months funding secured for a youth worker • Two new gateways for youth – Lego club and bonfire group • Ninety primary school children attended the Super Hero holiday club, with twenty volunteers • Five youth volunteers including DofE and Princes Trust • Children arranging a Talent Show fund raising event. £140 was raised to support children in Kagera, Tanzania.	
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Light in our communities:
 HELPING HANDS: It is a challenge to see many families and vulnerable men and women struggle with the cost of living, mental health, social services, isolation, debt, and unemployment. Yet we have experienced blessings through listening and being able to provide through grant funding and donations. We help people with many practical needs such as budgeting, getting back to work, finding information etc.



MENTAL WELL-BEING
 Our weekly Toddler Café provides a safe space for parents/carers to meet with friends, or make new friends. Connecting with other people in similar circumstances helps reduce the feeling of isolation of many parents/carers. Alison Earl is generally available as a listening ear and to signpost to other support.

The Friday Café offers a discount for pensioners and has become a regular meeting place for some of the older folk. They appreciate a healthy cooked meal, socialising with friends and Diane Grano’s listening ear and signposting.

Youth Café is for 10-16 year olds, meeting Friday evenings. The safe space offers a place for fun, friends, physical activity, creativity and James Beckett’s listening ear and signposting.

The free Men’s Breakfast takes place on the last Saturday of the month, building relationships and providing a place to meet and make friends. Facilitating times for men to get together have included a Dads and Lads event building a log reindeer, playing Scalextric and fixing bikes for members of the community.

SUFFOLK COMMUNITY AWARDS
 The awards celebrate and recognise the huge contribution that groups, individuals, town and parish councils make on the overall quality of life in our communities across Suffolk County.

Red Lodge Lightwave won one of 16 awards ranging from youth participation and young person of the year to community building, contribution to volunteering, most active communities and village and town of the year.

This year, for the first time there was recognition to a faith group that

	has worked for the benefit of the community, the nomination criteria was: • Reaching out to others and strengthening the community. • Encouraging people to participate and make a real and lasting difference. • Helping others in a compassionate and respectful way. • Made a positive impact on the community. Growing younger: We secured 18 months funding for a youth worker. James Beckett, partners with Youth for Christ in the MCA secondary school lunchtime club, alongside Janice Gee. He is also working in three primary schools and leads the youth café, Lego club and bonfire group, as well as supporting Alison Earl with the Ignite, after-school club for KS2 (7-11 year olds) and toddler café. Blaze is the after-school club for KS1 (4-7 year olds) that has an average of 10 children attending. Lego club is a new after-school activity for 7-11 year olds to meet. Playing Lego together is also supporting social skills, problem solving, persevering, being resilient, improving fine motor skills and providing a safe place to build relationships with caring adults. We focus on building children's confidence, team-work, and giving each person a sense of purpose and value. Supporting community initiatives • Children from one of the Lightwave groups created a Remembrance Day wreath. Lightwave collaborated with the cub scout groups, teaching them a song, and leading the remembrance Sunday community service, attended by approx. 200 people. • We sang Christmas carols at the community event at the Millennium Centre. • Support was given to the local football teams by hosting and arranging catering for the Trophy award celebration events. Sustainability: Lightwave are currently paying the Parish Council £8,400 a year. We have been successful in generating some funds through the Lightwave Café, tithe and grant funding. We have applications for grants for our holiday club, food bank and feminine hygiene products. The Red Lodge Northern Land Development has published the outline planning, which includes a space for a community hub. The Parish Council have submitted a response in favour of Lightwave having a building as part of this development. There are however other bids for this space. Red Lodge Hub Targets for 2024 • Expand our youth and children's work • Sustain our Helping Hands and foodbank services • Enhance our support for parents, including delivery of the Parent Talk course, increase volunteers which provides work experience Noted	
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6.3 Red Lodge Brownies/Rainbows A representative of Red Lodge Brownies/Rainbows informed the meeting that the group restarted in February 2024 and currently meets in St. Christopher's school in Red Lodge. The intentions are for the group to engage in more outdoor activities, with the term ending with a camp fire at the Jarmin Centre in Newmarket. The following year, the group intend to take the members away. There has been a gap in running the group for approximately 1 year due to personal circumstances, the representative felt that this had impacted the group and felt that the Red Loge Rainbows/Brownies had been forgotten. Noted	6.4 1st Red Lodge Scout Group The 1st Red Lodge Scouts are a successful group with lots of Members of the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The group would like a parcel of land with a small building, this will allow the group to hold camp fires. Noted	
7.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th May 2023. The Minutes of the Red Lodge Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th May 2023 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 who was cutting the trees down in the village and was informed that it was the housing developers. A member of the public raised concerns of the overgrown vegetation on the Warren Road roundabout towards Herringswell, this is reducing visibility for drivers causing safety issues. Complaints have been previously raised and dealt with by Suffolk Highways. It was advised that this complaint is raised again with the Suffolk County Council. A member of the public felt that a road sign should be installed at this Warren Road roundabout. Noted	Clerk
9.	Confirmation of the date for the next Annual Parish Meeting on 6th May 2025. The date for the meeting above was confirmed as above. Resolved	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:02