

MONK SOHAM PARISH

(Draft) Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 18th May 2023 at the Bedfield Community HUB Pavilion.

The meeting commenced at 20:35

AVM05/23 - 01 Present

- Graham Wigley – (GW), Charles Bagnall (CRB), Patrick Keogh (PK), Katy Nette-Thomas (KNT), Julian Sayer (JS) and Caroline Berkley (CJB) (All Monk Soham Parish Council Members).
- Geoff Robinson (GR) as Parish Clerk.

AVM05/23 - 02 Apologies

- From one villager.

AVM05/23 – 03 Chairman

- The meeting was Chaired by GW, the Monk Soham Parish Council Chairman, as required under local government legislation, who welcomed those present.

AVM05/23 - 04 Minutes of the Last Meeting (3^d May 2022)

- These had been previously circulated and had been agreed at the full Parish Council meeting held on the 6th September 2022.

AVM05/23 - 05 Chairman's Report

The full report by GW is annexed to these minutes. It includes the problems, achievements, events and hopes for the whole village. It also thanks David Entwisle, Cliff Arndt-Snelling and Julie Giles for the hard work as former councillors and GR as the Parish Clerk for his past and ongoing work.

AVM05/23 – 06 Open Forum

GW opened the meeting to everyone present, resulting in the following salient points being discussed in relation to Hungers Green, viz:

- There was still an urgent and ongoing need to decide exactly what was needed in the short term and beyond. This included its funding and management. The Parish Council cannot simply rely on volunteer help or donations.
- GR said that he believed that a contractor from Ashfield had offered to cut and bail the grass for £1.75 a bale but didn't want to use it himself. However, two other parties had shown interest. It was agreed that the simplest way would be to put these parties in direct contact with the contractor in the first instance. GW was tasked to facilitate this asap.
- One longer term solution may be to let Hungers Green be "rewilded", with only the footpath cut to allow access. This would encourage more insects and wildlife. However, it was stated that they would be objections to this by some villagers. One suggestion was that this could be tried for a year and then opinion canvassed. However, it was thought that if this was tried and the decision then taken to revert to its current management plan, the extra expense would be high. In addition, "rewilding" still required a degree of ongoing management and the access tracks at both ends would still require attention.

GW concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their contributions and the meeting closed at 20:55.

Parish Council Chairman

