

MATTERSEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2023 at 6.30pm in Mattersey Church Hall

18 in attendance

1. To appoint a Chair for the meeting

Andrew Walker was elected as Chair for the meeting.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Elaine & James Keeling-Heane and Ethel Dawson

3. Report from Chair of the Parish Council

Welcome to residents who have taken the trouble to attend tonight.

This meeting is an opportunity for residents to come together to discuss the past year and make suggestions or comments about issues in the community and how the Parish Council may be able to help.

The past 12 months have seen some good and bad times for many. The highlight was certainly the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. Our celebration party was very well attended and we were lucky we chose our day wisely and had good weather. There was a tremendous amount of work involved in putting on the event and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the day. Particular thanks go to Elaine Keeling-Heane for her determination to ensure the event was one we would all remember and also to the School and parents who put so much work into the day and raised funds for their school. Thanks also to the sponsors who helped financially and deferred the costs from the Parish Council's i.e. your coffers.

Sadly we mourned Her Majesty's death just 3 months later.

There are no events planned so far for 2023 but we hope to increase the Christmas lighting, subject to consents and costs. The Parish Council are conscious of the cost of living and the struggles which some families are experiencing and try to strike a balance of providing services with keeping costs down.

The Government's Warm Hub projects saw monies provided for communities and Council's and we are very grateful to the volunteers from Mattersey Hall who helped out with Warm Hubs at the Hall itself and also at Mattersey Thorpe's Community House. Without volunteers nothing is possible. I believe that the coffee mornings at Mattersey Thorpe will be continuing and a proposed new after school club is also being organised by the same volunteers for which we are very grateful.

The Parish Council currently manage the cemetery, pay for extra grass verge cutting, maintain village flower tubs, participate in the County Council's Lengthsman Scheme, assist with the servicing of the War Memorial Clock in the Church, act as Sole Trustees to Millennium Green (more of which later in the meeting), respond as consultees to planning applications and represent the village on various local organisations and consultations. We are a small group and the recent elections have not seen any further candidates put themselves forward. We will be looking to co-opt residents if any wish to be considered.

Gerald Bowers, our District Councillor, has not stood for re-election and has been replaced by David Bamford. I would like to thank Gerald for his contributions to the villages and his regular attendance at our meetings. Many thanks also to County Cllr Tracey Taylor, who helps with

many issues relating to County Council departments, and to my fellow Parish Councillors for their voluntary work for the community.

Please don't forget that the Parish Council welcomes suggestions from residents and there is a public forum session at each monthly meeting to air your views.

4. Report from Mattersey TRA

Apologies received.

5. Report on Mattersey Millennium Green Trust

The Parish Council are sole trustees of the Millennium Green Trust which is a registered charity. It is therefore our responsibility to maintain it and ensure users safety.

The Parish Council feel that the Green is a great asset for the community and would encourage its use and also any donations towards its maintenance.!

Since its inception there has been an amazing growth of the trees and many self sets and shrubs have grown up making it a lovely secluded area. The maintenance of the trees have been factored into the budget set aside by the Parish Council and this year saw some removed for safety and also the beech hedge lowered which will be an ongoing operation.

Amazingly some tulips are still flowering from when they were planted many years ago and make a bright display in the Spring. It has been suggested that there could be a wildflower area and this is currently being investigated. Any other ideas from residents are very much appreciated.

The play equipment is inspected weekly by volunteers from the village and we are extremely grateful for their time in doing this as well as the small repairs they carry out which saves the Trust a considerable amount over the years. More volunteers are always welcome. The equipment has recently been cleaned and this has made a big difference. There has been no upgrade or additional pieces of play products since it was first established in 2000 so the Parish Council thought it was about time they were reviewed and we have had meetings with various companies looking at options for people of all ages and abilities. Again we would welcome ideas from residents and will be having a consultation event hopefully at the school's Summer Fair so please do come along.

So, we come to the subject of finance – how do we pay for the grass cutting, tree work, insurance, ROSPA inspections, new equipment etc, well the Trust's only income is via grants from the Parish Council whose money is raised through the precept which is the name for the Parish Council's part of your Council tax. The Parish Council are conscious of the financial pressures on its residents and it is a balancing act as to how money is spent but The Green is an area to be enjoyed by all and lucky to have it.

The year end accounts are available for anyone to see. In 2022-23 the Parish Council contributed £2476.78. As at 31st March there was a balance of £1442.78 in the accounts. We have been saving allocated reserves over the past 3 years towards the cost of improvements and will be applying for funding for capital expenditure to achieve them.

MGT is a standing item on each Council agenda, so that anyone can raise any issues and problems can be identified and acted upon and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

6. Reports and comments from residents

- Speeding traffic – some residents felt that there should be additional speed inhibitors as well as the speed bumps (although some expressed the opinion that these were too high). Suggestions of flashing signs, chicane and ‘gates’ at the entrance to Mattersey should be considered.
- Disappointment was expressed that there was no celebration event for the Coronation as the Jubilee event had been so popular. It was explained that there had been no volunteers to run one but if anybody would like to come forward to organise anything in the future to contact the Council.
- Communication issues – with the loss of the monthly Idle Talk it was felt posts on the Parish Council Facebook page should be shared with the Mattersey Village Info page in order to spread information. The Parish Council did hold email addresses for those who do not do social media and wished to receive information.
- The Coffee club at Mattersey Thorpe had not been well attended and therefore had ceased to run. However Mattersey Hall volunteers had started a kids club on Thursdays from 4-5pm at the Community House for 5 to 11 year olds. More volunteers to run it would be appreciated. If more attend then Mattersey Hall would become the venue and kids would be transported free of charge. Further information from Luke Hardacre at Mattersey Hall. He was thanked for all his efforts.
- Improvements to Millennium Green – the Parish Council explained that they were looking to improve facilities for all ages and would welcome ideas and suggestions. Books were available at the meeting to view different types of equipment. Elkesley have an excellent but larger site on which there are a variety of options including BMX over limestone style mounds which seemed very popular with children in the area.