

Meeting of Oxborough Electors, 20 April 2022, starting at 7.30pm.

Held at Oxborough Village Hall

Simon Willies welcomed everyone to the annual meeting, pointing out first that this is not a Parish Council Meeting, but rather a meeting for all electors to have their say and think of topics they would like taking forward. He thanked Susan Hernandez for volunteering to take the minutes. He asked that for the interests of true and accurate record of the meeting, residents should state their name when they speak.

Present: Simon Willies (Chairing the meeting), Graham Allison, Bernie Chapman, William Chapman, Janet Freeman, Chris Heatley, Susan Hernandez (minute taker), Mark Pinney, Eileen Stapleton, Cate & Tristan Tomlinson, Elaine Willies

1. Agreement of minutes of 2021 meeting

These had been published and everyone agreed that the minutes could be signed as a true record.

2. Update on issues from 2021

2.1 The play area finally came into being after a long journey. It was formally opened by the Right Honourable MP Elizabeth Truss in July 2021, and it has proved to be very popular with the children, being used frequently. The Parish Council inspect the area weekly, and it will be professionally inspected annually. Simon Willies thanked all those involved in making the play area possible, with a special thanks to Paul Gilluley for putting together the funding package and to the anonymous doner without whom the project would not have come to fruition.

2.2 The Village Hall Committee, in conjunction with Cate and Tristan Tomlinson, held a very successful Christmas event (A Magical Christmas). Children were invited to come along and see Father Christmas and it was very well received. They must all be congratulated for their efforts! Simon added that a similar event is planned for this December.

3. Open forum for discussion of any topic raised by a resident of Oxborough Parish

3.1 The Chair advised the meeting that the beech tree had been declared unsafe some time ago and will be taken down in the following week. An attempt was made earlier in the year but proved to be unsuccessful due to bad weather and somewhat dubious working practices. This time it is hoped that everything goes according to plan, as Dr. Stump (the newly appointed tree contractor) appears to be a professional company and have had experience of felling large trees. A full and complete method and risk assessment will take place on site before work begins and will cover ecological concerns such as nesting birds and bat activity. There will be road closures during the day to ensure safety of all and diversions will be in place. A special thanks to David Hotchkin, former Chair of Oxborough Parish Council, for providing the funds for this to go ahead, and also to Councillor Ian Monson for his financial contribution. Once the work is finished, the chippings and logs will be left on site for collection by parishioners. It is planned to plant a replacement tree in the Autumn in line with the tree application permission from Breckland Council.

3.2 There is another Open Gardens, as last year's event was so successful, being organised by the Village Hall Committee for June 18-19.

3.3 An inaugural Oxborough Yard Sale (car boot sale with a difference) is being organised by Jess Stansfield for July 17 (10am -2pm) where villagers are invited to set up a table at the end of their driveway (or use the village hall if preferred), refreshments in the village hall and all proceeds to go the VHC. £5 a 'pitch'.

3.4 The VHC has planned a special event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a bring your own picnic and blankets to the village green where there will be live music for everyone to enjoy. This event is for Friday 3 June.

3.5 Tristan Tomlinson mentioned about the suggestion of having a Christmas tree on the village green and the Chair responded that the VHC had been putting this up at the village hall. He asked if residents would be allowed to help themselves to the beech timber and Simon explained that yes of course, only when the site had been made safe.

3.6 Elaine Willies mentioned that the Speedwatch team had asked if it could be possible to install further 30mph signs at the point of exit from Oxborough Hall, as visitors leaving the hall always speed along the church road and onto the main road. The Chair said that it was up to the National Trust to put up signs on their own property but that if more signs were needed on the road, then the PC could put this to the Highways Department. Graham Allison mentioned that regarding the SAM2 sign, the PC had financed half the amount for it on the condition that a representative of the management team should be on the PC, but that this had never been put into practice.

3.7 Chris Heatley asked whether the PC had incurred any costs from the first tree contractors (Browns) and Graham Allison asked a question about the PC emails, but the Chair advised that this was not a PC meeting

The meeting ended at 7.47pm and the Chair thanked everyone for attending, wishing them all a good night.