

**Minutes of the Salhouse Annual Parish Meeting
held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th May 2022
held in the Jubilee Hall, Lower Street, Salhouse.**

Present : Bob Cooper, Colin McCormick, Julie Redburn, and Nick Ball

Apologies were received from Lynn Yallop, Andrew Peachment and David Francomb.

In Attendance: Sarah Martin, Parish Clerk

Members of Public: 11

1. Welcome to all

Robert Cooper welcomed all to the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting of Salhouse.

It was reiterated that this meeting is not a Parish Council meeting and it will not be discussing Parish Council business, although it is hosted by the Council.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 were available for the meeting. They were proposed to be accepted by Colin McCormick; seconded by Julie Redburn.

3. Chair's Report – presented by Bob Cooper

It is nice to be able to hold this Annual Parish Meeting face to face this year, as last year this was held virtually.

The Parish Council is the local authority who : represents the local community, delivers services to meet local needs and strives to improve quality of life in the Parish. We currently have 7 Councillors who are all volunteers and give their time to the community. Our most recent Councillor is David Francomb who was co-opted in April this year. There are still vacancies on the Council to fill – if you would like further information, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council, over the last year, has completed various projects within the Parish, including :
The village sign restoration.

The Grade II listed War Memorial at All Saints Church cleaned and re-lettered and works done to straighten the memorial. A grant from Broadland District Council for £500 was secured by the Parish Council to assist with these works.

In partnership with Norfolk County Council Highways the Parish Council was successful in obtaining a 50/50 partnership for a new SAM2 (speed data device) which is to be used along Norwich Road now that the speed limit has been reduced to 40mph.

This year two further bids have been successful to install trod paths along Thieves Lane and Honeycombe Road.

Two new picnic benches have been installed at the recreation ground, and on the side of the pavilion a new defibrillator has been installed - this was a joint project funded 50/50 with the Parish Council and Salhouse Rovers Football Club.

The Parish also welcomes Allan Jennings as the new Police Beat Manager for Salhouse. Allan can be contacted via email: sntthorpeandrew@norfolk.police.uk or telephone: 101.

An item which is often on our agenda to discuss is planning applications within the Parish. We are consulted on and can comment on these, however Broadland District Council is the planning authority who makes the final decision on all applications.

We are aware there have been some comments/posts on social media about the conduct of the Parish Council and would encourage those that would like clarification on any issues, to please contact the Parish Council directly.

Looking forward to the rest of this year, Her Majesty the Queen has become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, reflecting her 70 years of service. As a nation we will enjoy an

extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. The Parish Council is pleased to be supporting the Jubilee Hall in its organising of an event for the whole community over this period to celebrate this historic milestone.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Councillors, past and present, and all the volunteers such as Team Salhouse, Speedwatch, working group members, tree steward, defibrillator checkers and anyone else I may have missed for their hard work and support to the Community !

4. Police report – written by PC 855 Al Jennings – Local Police Neighbouring Team

Crime Figures – 10/02/2022 – 11/05/2022

During this period there have been 10 crimes and 1 non crime raised

Crimes of note – Burglary Non-Dwelling Lower Street Salhouse – Under Investigation

Drug Use – Possession Cannabis Class B Hall Drive – Under investigation; Possession of cannabis Class B Thieves Lane - Cannabis Warning issued

Initiatives being targeted over the last 12 months:

We held our Priority Setting Meeting for the area on 28th March.

The following priority was set:

Speeding and Road Safety.

We have carried out speed checks On Salhouse Road as you enter the Parish from Wroxham.

On March 16th we spent 2 hours in the entrance of Sainsburys on Pound Lane in Norwich conducting a Street Surgery engaging with members of the public face to face and answering any concerns they had. We will be holding another community engagement day at Salhouse Garden Centre on the 21st May 2022. Please follow Broadland Police Facebook page for any details of any future engagement events in your area.

The next Priority Setting Meeting will take place at 6pm on 28th June 2020 via Microsoft Teams, please get in contact with us on SNThorpeStAndrew@norfolk.police.uk for any further information or to raise any concerns.

As we move into the summer Months my intentions will be do carry out more High Visibility foot patrols in the Village and Salhouse Broads.

If there are any questions or concerns raised at the meeting please let me know.

Launch of public engagement survey

There is a new way for the public to contacted us. The survey will run until Tuesday 7 June and will be available online. People can take part in the survey by clicking here

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/LK2S0T/>. Please feel free to circulate this.

5. District and County Councillor – report from Cllr Fran Whymark

District Councillor – report from Cllr Martin Murrell

Broadland District Council - The Ukraine Scheme take up is slow, however the scheme is in place and home visits have been carried out so places are ready for Ukrainian families. A Ukrainian speaking member of staff has been recruited.

Another scheme we are proud of is the disabled facilities grant. BDC is held as one of the District Council of note and received extra funding this year.

Over the last year we have adopted the Rough Sleepers Strategy, although we are lucky within the District that we only have 4-5 people who are sleeping rough – we have made lots of efforts to get everyone in off the street.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan up to 2035 (GNLP), which will affect everybody, is going through the Regulation 19 stage. On 16th March Natural England issued a Nutrient Neutrality statement.

Earlier in the year BDC acquired land and created Broadland Country Park.

At the beginning of the year 'Communities Connectors' were employed and a lot of signposting to assist people. Funding has been received to support this.

£150 rebate has been issued to those on direct debit for the fuel crisis rebate. – over 40,000 people received this so far.

The Community at Heart lottery was set up and funded many community groups – further information on BDC website.

In later part of last year funds received for the Food Innovation Centre, a building has been built at Hethel and tenants already in place.

Accommodation Review has been carried out to improve service for the District Council and save costs.

This year BDC did not increase Council Tax.

The waste contract has been reviewed for the next 5 years and reduced the carbon footprint by over 98%.

District and County Councillor – report from Cllr Fran Whymark

January 2022 saw the launch of NIDAS – Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service. A collaboration between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk, NCC, Norwich City Council, South Norfolk and BDC, the first in the County. NIDAS offers a dedicated support service for people experiencing domestic abuse in Norfolk, including children and young people. There will be the offer of recovery programmes, co-ordinated multi agency support (from initial contact and through the court process) and training for professionals, enhancing their understanding of domestic abuse.

For more information on how NIDAS can help you, or someone you know, visit www.nidasnorfolk.co.uk.

Call: 0300 561 0555 9am to 6.30pm weekdays and 9am to 3pm weekends

Text: 07860 063 464

Out of hours: 0808 2000 247

Email: referrals@nidasnorfolk.co.uk

If you are in immediate danger always call 999.

NCC now have 111 Roadside Nature Reserve Schemes, with more planned over the coming years. They stretch over 10 miles and promote the growth of once common but now nationally rare plant species. We will only cut them at the end of the summer, after they flower and set seed. Look out for Reserves on your travels.

The new Burlingham Country Park will be opening soon. 12.5km² of parkland linking Norfolk trails and footpaths. Watch this space.

Wroxham Library is now open for much more than books. The Business Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) is open offering free support and guidance for budding entrepreneurs and from 10th May the Registration Centre will be open until at least the end of 2022 (dependent upon usage) for births, marriages and deaths.

At Broadland we also want to encourage residents to take the first steps to set up new groups. We know that this can often be risking money you do not have but help is at hand. A Get it Started Grant could give you up to £300 to get an idea off the ground. No constitution or committee needed, just three or more residents or a voluntary group with a good idea. Walking football, jigsaw, Pokemon, or anything else your community needs but does not have yet. For advice and more information contact the Communities Team on 01508 533914, Communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or go to <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/get-started> .

We all know that many people are facing challenging times ahead with food, gas and electric bills increasing dramatically. NCC have just announced an extra £7.7m Cost of Living Support Scheme for residents. NCC, through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS) and BDC, through the Help Hub are there to help if you are struggling to make ends meet. For support contact NAS on: 0344 800 8020 or <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/norfolk-assistance-scheme> or BDC Help Hub on: 01603 430431 or <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-hub-1> .

BDC also have a discretionary Energy Grant available for householders living in Band E-H properties who are experiencing hardship. Go to: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council-tax-1/150-council-tax-rebate/3> email: energyrebate@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or call 01603 369757 for more information.

BDC offer arrange of Disabled Facilities Grants to support people who have disabilities and need adaptations to remain in their home. Often these are major changes to a home i.e. extending a house and adding a wetroom but this can take many months to come to fruition. We have recently added a number of non-means tested grants including a Serious Illness Grant for people with terminal illnesses who need adaptations quickly as they have life limited conditions or Forget Me Not Grant for people with dementia who need minor adaptations to remain in their home.

6. Other contributions by Salhouse residents and representatives of Clubs and Organisations:

Baptist Chapel – report from by Simon Gay

We give thanks to God that throughout the past year we have continued to meet regularly each week to worship Him and hear from His word, the Bible which speaks of the person of Jesus Christ. We also meet Wednesday evenings for prayer and Bible study. During the past two years or so, we have resorted to “Zoom” for those periods mandated by government regulation. Its a mark of these times that people of all ages have become quite adept with the technology! But we have been thankful that our building is sufficiently spacious, with good ventilation and heating to permit gatherings to take place with everyone feeling safe. I think we all agree there is no substitute for “real meetings”; we are created as social beings! The activities remain similar to previous years, but we have seen a sharp decline in our groups for the younger children – almost as if there is a missing generation. The youth group for older children continues to be well-supported. The school have asked that we continue our regular “Allsorts” school lunch club meeting at Salhouse Primary School and this has proved very popular with excellent numbers attending. We continue to work closely with the school and participate in many of the weekly assemblies throughout the year and have again provided Bibles to each of the new school intake. Following a two-year gap, we were pleased to host the end-of-term Easter service for Salhouse School which took place at the end of March. Around 150 children were crammed in with staff and a great time was had by all. Our one-day Holiday Bible Club at Christmas time resumed again and was popular but this year’s four-day Easter Holiday Bible Club was down on numbers. We taught from the gospel of Luke using the theme “Diary of a disciple”. We held our carol service outdoors to give everyone a degree of comfort leading up to the festive season, but numbers were not at the level before Covid. The Venturer Norfolk Broads Cruise is a Christian organisation that has provided young people with sailing experience on the Broads for over sixty years, and this year they were back, mooring around a dozen yachts on Salhouse Broad, and we hosted them for an evening meeting at the chapel around Easter time. As well as our local interests, such as supporting our friends at the Anglican church with their food distribution programmes, we provide support to friends in countries such as the Philippines and Ukraine which at this current time gives a solemn reminder of the many privileges we enjoy here. Through all the changing circumstances we are pleased to continue to make the unchanging news of Jesus Christ known to all. As always, you are all most welcome to any of our meetings

Salhouse United Charities – read by Simon Gay

Since the last report to the Annual Parish Council Salhouse United Charities’ Trustees remain the same with Simon Gay elected as Chairperson, Martin Murrell Vice Chair and Robert Cooper, Rev Darleen Plattin and Pauline Garner as the remaining Trustees. We have a full complement of Trustees but the vacancy left by the resignation of Carol Knell in 2020 will be filled at our next meeting in October.

Three full meetings plus 1 extra informal meeting have been held since the last report, 3 on Zoom and 1 in person.

Notices continue to be on display on all public noticeboards offering our help to any parishioner, plus articles in the Saga magazine, but we have had no requests for assistance to date.

The charity was able to provide a number of modest hampers at Christmas to some who had found the year particularly trying or had suffered bereavement.

Team Salhouse – read by Steve Piper

Covid regulations have continued into 2022, but Team Salhouse volunteers have maintained the look of the village with litter picking on an individual basis and flowerbed planting. As a result, the village continues to be relatively clear of litter and instances of fly tipping reported to Broadland District Council were dealt with. The verge in front of Streetwood received a “short back and sides” from a group of our volunteers to allow the spring bulbs to show through. We also tackled the undergrowth along the trod on the playing field to allow wild flowers to flourish. Team Salhouse also spring cleaned road signs, information boards and benches as part of the Spring Clean for the Queen initiative. The flowerbeds around the village have looked wonderful again this year and we receive many positive comments from residents and visitors. The bulbs in the bank opposite the old Post Office have, again, had a poor showing this spring but, hopefully, will improve next year; we repeat this every year. We continue to plant and maintain the various flowerbeds around the village and will shortly be starting the summer planting. Thanks go to all our volunteers and local residents who help with the planting and watering during the summer months. We are looking forward to an easing of restrictions and, when safe to do so, tackle more ambitious projects. We have a current team of around 20 people but always welcome new members of all ages. We can promise an enjoyable time in good company whilst making a difference to the village. You would be welcome even if you can only give occasional help.

Community Speedwatch – report written by Malcolm Prestwood (Salhouse Speedwatch Coordinator) – read by Steve Piper

Community Speedwatch continues on a regular basis at various approved locations within the parish. This is carried out on behalf of the Safety Camera Partnership which is a joint venture between The Norfolk Constabulary and NCC. Monitoring reports are submitted back to The Safety Camera Partnership after each session for processing by them.

The purpose of this is to curtail excessive speeds within the parish thus making the roads safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.

Activity over the period of the Covid pandemic has been interrupted at times due to lockdown periods but despite this the number of vehicles over the proscribed limit still continues to increase. In Norfolk during 2021 some 15000+ vehicle owners received contact with regard to exceeding the speed limits. Within Salhouse Parish both Bell Lane and Norwich Rd towards the east continue to be key areas and we have now been given permission for monitoring Norwich Rd at the Station Rd junction which will be included in our rota in the coming months.

As ever we are always looking for additional volunteers to assist which typically involves a 1 hour monitoring session about once per month. Anyone wishing to volunteer will need to complete an application form and afterwards receive appropriate training.

Please contact either Malcolm Prestwood on 01603 721110 or Steve Piper on 01603 720993

SAM2 – report written by Malcolm Prestwood – read by Steve Piper

Salhouse Parish Council owns two SAM units, one of which has been deployed at various approved locations around the village over several years. The second unit will also be deployed in the near future.

Deployment of these units has been coordinated by members of the Community Speedwatch team. The purpose of these is to detect and warn and remind motorists when they exceed the speed limit for the area in which they are travelling as well as recording such data in order to indicate any 'hot spots' within the parish and provide knowledge about vehicle volume and traffic flow.

Afternoon Tea and Mardle – report read by Andrew Peachment

We are very pleased that The Mardle is up and running again. Sad to say that the lovely organisers Jules Bendy and Christine felt unable to carry on mardling after the end of lockdown. Many of the previous clientele would like to thank them for their dedication, and cakes. For a few months the third Wednesday afternoon of the month Jubilee Hall was silent.

Although the Mardle has been running again since late last year, we are keen to get the numbers up in order that it can continue. It has to be popular enough to cover the cost of the outgoings. Currently a cup of tea or coffee with a piece of cake is £1, with unlimited refills, and there is a raffle with tickets at a £1 per strip and always a quiz. Sometimes easy, sometimes hard, but the Quizmaster always has the final word. It sometimes turns into a bit of a history lesson as well as some of the Mardlers have lived in Salhouse all their lives. Always very informative.

But the main thing is, it's an opportunity to meet old friends and put the world to rights over a cup of tea. All ages, male and female, are welcome.

For a lively convivial atmosphere, come and join us between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m.

Salhouse Saga Magazine – report written by Malcolm Prestwood (Editor) – read by Colin McCormick

2021 saw a change in the running and production of the Saga. Malcolm Prestwood passed the editorial role to Colin McCormick and I took over the advertising from the late Doreen Dye. Both had given many years of excellent service and they have set a high bar for us to emulate. Thankfully Pauline Garner carried on organising the distribution which has given us some continuity and direction when we come up against a problem or have a "good idea." A patient lady!

We have carried on in the same vein of a balanced mix between editorial and advertising and the Saga continues to draw plenty of praise from the villages around us. We now have many contributors providing a wide range of articles with those relating to the history of Salhouse being best appreciated. If you would like to submit something, free to do so.

A significant change from the Spring edition was the introduction of colour. It has certainly brightened things up and compliments the associated articles much more strongly. From the Summer edition we are looking to spread them around the magazine from the central area we placed them in Spring. If there are any IT buffs who could give us a hand doing something like this, and building the odd advert, we would be glad to hear from you.

For many years we have been wonderfully supported by our printers Hertfordshire Display. I cannot believe they were making enough from us for a cream tea but like many others businesses they have had to increase their costs. We have thus had to make some increases along with the introduction of colour. However, I still believe they are very competitive and stand comparison against other magazines as our intention is to just cover costs. At the moment we are slightly down and need a half dozen or so new advertisers. If you know anyone please give me their details and I will happily approach them.

Finally we are always glad of feedback and anyone wanting to join the team will be most welcome. Our contact details are always on page 1.

Salhouse Bell Reading Group – report read by Julie Redburn

Since starting in 2018 to date we have, to date, read 34 books. We meet once a month on the first Thursday of the month at 7.00 p.m. at The Bell.

As everyone else has discovered it has been challenging to carry on, but we have. It has got a little complicated with the various lockdowns as we have tried our best to keep meeting in order to support our local pub but also to comply with the restrictions imposed on group gatherings, the weather, when we have had to sit outside, and even changing our meeting day.

We have, since lockdown number two, resorted to Zoom. Whilst the meetings are considerably shorter, we are managing to still meet up. The choices we make are varied and at times we have also managed to get DVDs of books we have enjoyed so we can critique the actual book the film and give opinions.

We look forward to resuming our social gathering, hopefully in June, and also to rejoice in the opening of hairdressers. Much amusement was generated by appearing on Zoom with luxuriant wild locks, and that was just our gentlemen readers.

Salhouse Broad – report by Kelly Banthorpe

In the past year we have:

- Achieved planning permission for a car park extension
- Submitted planning permission for gas showers, composting toilets and a reedbed for the campsite (ongoing)
- Installed 2 new picnic benches on the hill
- Evening food and drink pop ups
- Installed a new car parking meter and removed the shipping container
- Carried out tree safety works
- Hungry Otter is going from strength to strength
- Added a slide to the play area

Our volunteers have planted 50 trees, removed willow from the spit restoration, removed LOTS of Himalayan balsam, hedge laying, creating a wildflower meadow in the old play area,

In the next year we hope to:

- Reinstate the wherry cut boardwalk
- Start the car park extension works
- Install a dark sky viewing platform
- Replace the old horse box

Jubilee Hall – report from by Martin Carney (Chairman) – read by Robert Cooper

There is not a huge amount to report on with the hall being closed for much of the last year, but I am pleased to say that with the support of grants the hall is still operational and back up and running for use by the village.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the members of the committee for the work you have put in over the last year, its been unusual times and everyone has mucked in and done what has needed to be done. I

would also like to officially welcome three new members to the committee, Carole Wyatt, Alison Williams and James Watts

Covid continued to significantly impact the hall last year, meaning it was shut for most of the first half of the year. During the second half of the year, we saw some regular groups return to the hall with the numbers gradually increasing throughout the autumn to a point where most of the users are now back. Unfortunately, we have lost a few of our regular users for a variety of reasons, but the halls remain busy during the weekday evening slots. Sadly, in December, we had to cancel the Christmas Fayre again this year and although we were close, with the fair planned to be held outside to minimise the risk of Covid, the weather and last minute cancelation of a few stalls were against us. So not only did we not have the traditional start to Christmas we also lost vital fund raising

However, on a more positive note, this year is looking much more positive. Our regular users are back in the hall and ad hoc bookings are starting to pick up. Restrictions are being lifted meaning users can use the hall in a much more enjoyable way and life starts to be looking a bit more normal, if we can remember what normal was? That said we still need to be careful, Covid has not gone and therefore we need to ensure that the hall is used in a way that the users remain safe.

Now that we know we are back open and again and we have regular income back we are spending money tidying up the hall. Over Easter the rooms were all redecorated, so they remain in a great condition for our users. Thank you to WH Decorating Services at Acle for completing that. In addition, the windows are being repaired and repainted. Most of the sills have rotted beyond repair, as well as some key parts to the windows and some of the doors, so as well as repainting, this year we will be spending a large sum of money on having new wood 'cut in' to the existing woodwork. Thank you to 'Louise Decorating' for doing the windows and arranging for the woodwork to be done, as well as being flexible in working around the hall usage. There is a lot more we need to do for the hall which will all cost money, but for now we are just balancing our income against our new usage post Covid.

Sadly our cleaner broke her ankle in two places which meant she was out of action for several months in order to recover. Thank you to the 'Three Bears' who stepped in at short notice to take over the cleaning and again were very flexible to take our needs into account. They have also done a great job in tidying up the car park ready for our next event. Thankfully our cleaner is now back on her feet and back at work

The next big event for the hall is the Queens Platinum Jubilee and the hall committee are pleased we can hold a 'Party in the (car) Park' to celebrate it. The event will take place on Saturday 4th June from 12noon to 4pm where we will have live music from 'Nick Unplugged', a through the decades Quiz created by Iain Garaway, a Through the decades fancy dress competition for under 10s and 10 to 16-year-olds and finally a cake competition, open to any age. The public are asked to simply come along with their tables and chairs/rugs, food and drink and join us in the celebrations. This is a free to enter event and booking is not needed, simply turn up. However we have had to make it a first come, first served event, but think there will be enough room in the car park for all.

At the end of the year, Fingers crossed, we will be able to hold a Christmas Fair for the first in 3 years. It will be good to see everyone again at Christmas time as we have really missed this, as well as raising some much needed funds for the hall.

Once again, thank you to everyone for your hard work and support over the last year

Salhouse Station Group – report by Chris Dady

SOG has been formed as a response to the proposed demolition of the old Victorian waiting room on the Norwich platform at Salhouse Station. This platform and building are accessed via the boarded crossing between the rails. The waiting room is cited within the Salhouse Neighbourhood Plan as having heritage significance for the village. Greater Anglia (GA) received confirmation that the building could be demolished, and the demolition was then successfully challenged by a heritage group, Save Britain's Heritage. This gave a stay of execution to allow for a listing application to be made for the building, which sadly failed. Greater Anglia said they would not demolish until May this year to enable any local group to come forward with a proposal to bring the building back into use. Salhouse Station Group were formed, comprising local volunteers, to do just this. The key issue to resolve is crossing the railway line for anything other than a low volume of rail passenger traffic. For health and safety reasons if passenger numbers increased, or if non rail users were to repeatedly visit that platform, then a new rail crossing would be required by a footbridge or underpass. With the need to ensure this crossing would be available for all, any scheme would be expensive, possibly upwards of £2m, which cannot be justified if it were only to enable a new and sustainable use to be found for the waiting room. However, the development of circa 4000 houses by Taylor Wimpey at North Rackheath will bring a vast number of new passengers, so in the course of the next ten years we expect that a new crossing to become available. With that in mind we have a series of meetings with Greater Anglia, the first of these on the 10th June, where we will be setting out a three step process 1. To locally fund raise to carry out essential repairs to the building so it does not deteriorate or become dangerous 2. For SOG to become the Station Adopter Group under the GA scheme, and through its volunteers to ensure the building retains an attractive appearance whilst a new rail crossing is awaited 3. Once we know that a suitable crossing would become available, then we would work with GA (or their successors - by then Great British Railways should be in existence) to secure a new use with refurbishment of the building accordingly. SOG have been in discussion with a wide range of people and organisations to ensure we can save this building, and we are looking at how we can secure a listing through reapplication. New members of the group are welcome. Details and updates can be found on the Salhouse Station Group Facebook page.

Gardening Club – report from by Nick Taylor (Chairman) – read by Sarah Martin

We are pleased to be able to report that, after an enforced break of 18 months, we restarted the gardening club meetings in September 2021. To try to keep our members as safe as possible we switched our meeting venue to Woodbastwick village hall. The hall is much larger than the Salhouse school hall and enables members to 'socially distance' if they wish to do so. We are also able to have much more ventilation and despite the cold, our members were pleased to keep the windows open throughout the winter months.

We were able to hold our Christmas social meeting in the form of a quiz as before, and whilst the club provided mulled wine and soft drinks, this year, because of potential Covid risks, we asked members to just bring whatever food they want for themselves rather than contributions to the usual buffet for all.

We were not sure how members would feel about attending meetings and the move to Woodbastwick, so we waited to see how things progressed before arranging speakers for 2022. The restart has met with a good response from members with about 30 attending each meeting so far. We have also had very positive feedback and we have now arranged the programme for 2022. We are having our day trip in June and evening garden visits for July and August. For other months we have a full programme of speakers and we are now sorted until March 2023.

Since the restart of the club following the Covid closure we have had to look very carefully at our finances. The cost of speakers has risen somewhat and at the present time, whilst we are, as mentioned, regularly seeing about 30 members and guests attending the club meetings, at the current level of subscription this would generate insufficient income to cover our costs. We have, therefore, reluctantly, had to increase the annual membership fee to £20 per year and guest fees to £4 from the start of our financial year (1st April). As always there will be a separate charge for outings and garden visits. This is the first increase for several years and even that will not fully cover the costs of speakers, hall hire, insurances etc. However, due to careful management of our finances over the years, we have sufficient reserves to manage things for at least the next year.

We need to encourage more members to return or join the club. Hopefully, with summer around the corner and with Covid restrictions all but gone, we will see more of our members and guests at the club. The committee will keep all things under review and we all hope that 2022 will see the successful re-establishment of our club and we'll look forward to enjoying the talks, trips and company for years to come.

Our programme has been published in SAGA but if anyone wishes to know more about the club they are welcome to contact the chairman, Nick Taylor on 01603 720165.

7. Open Session

None

~ ~ ~

Everyone was thanked for attending and presenting their reports.

~ ~ ~

Meeting closed 8.08pm