

**Minutes of the Salhouse Annual Parish Meeting  
held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
held in the Jubilee Hall, Lower Street, Salhouse.**

**Present :**

Parish Council	-	Bob Cooper, Colin McCormick, Julie Redburn
Parish Clerk	-	Sarah Martin
District/County Councillor	-	Fran Whymark
Speedwatch/Team Salhouse/SUCT	-	Steve Piper
SUCT	-	Pauline Garner
Jubilee Hall	-	Alison Williams
Baptist Church	-	Simon Gay
Tree Steward	-	James Cleaver
Members of the Public	-	Gary & Wendy Browne; Steve Mindham; John Read

Apologies were received from Lynn Yallop, Andrew Peachment and David Francomb (Parish Council); Al Jennings (Police Beat Manager).

**1. Welcome to all**

Robert Cooper welcomed all to the 2023 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 – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

These were agreed as a true record of proceedings with no amendments.

**3. Chair's Report – presented by Bob Cooper**

Welcome everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

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.

In October 2022 we welcomed John Leathers onto the Parish Council.

In May this year there are local elections, however Salhouse has an uncontested election with seven Councillors elected from May. We have eleven seats and therefore there are still vacancies on the Council to fill – if you would like further information, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Colin McCormick, who has been a Councillor for many years, is stepping down – we give many thanks to the valuable contributions that he has made over the years – he and his knowledge will be greatly missed.

In June last year a new sign was unveiled at the Recreation Ground dedicated in memory of Peter Jefford. This was unveiled by Peter's wife Kay and family who travelled to Salhouse specially for the event. Many of you will remember Peter who sadly passed away in March 2019. Peter made an enormous contribution to village life in various roles over a period of nearly 45 years, including many years as a Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council regularly attends local Police Priority Settings Meetings where local issues of concern are raised, these over the last year have included Anti-social behaviour (vehicles and green spaces) as well as anti-social driving; fly tipping and speeding in the Parish. The Police have carried out speed checks and will continue to do so. These meetings are open to anyone to attend and are held virtually – if you are interested in attending, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Nutrient Neutrality is still an issue affecting many planning applications. The District and County Councils are working with Natural England and developers to come up with solutions, however many applications are still on hold at present.

The Parish Council has been successful in receiving grants from Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership fund and Broadland District Council to install a trod path along Honeycombe Road. This is part of the future plan of the authorities to connect circular walks within Parishes. The Parish Council is in talks with Highways (who have the jurisdiction) for further paths around the Parish however they are sometimes not supported for reasons of verge width, safety, and costs – but the Parish Council keeps trying!

One of last year's Parish Partnership projects which is already up and running is the additional 'SAM-2' speed monitor which you may see installed on the new 40 mph speed limit on Norwich Road. The Parish Council has been following closely the Planning Application for the North Rackheath Development (GT16), part of which falls within our Parish. A Working Group of councillors and residents has been set up to monitor and review this application, however we have been advised that a revised Masterplan will be submitted around the end of Summer and therefore will be a new consultation. We will keep you updated.

Earlier this year, the Parish Council, along with the rest of the Country, were saddened by the news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022 following a reign of over 70 years. Shortly after this I represented the Parish at a ceremony at the District Council offices to witness the reading of the Proclamation of Accession of our new King to the throne. On 6th May 2023 we will all be part of history with the Coronation of King Charles III. As a nation we will enjoy an extra bank holiday on 8th May. The Parish Council is pleased to be supporting the Salhouse Community Events Team in its organising of an event for the whole community on Sunday 7th May at the recreation ground to celebrate this historic milestone – everyone is welcome.

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**

Apologies were received from Al Jennings – no report given.

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

Apologies were received from District Councillor Martin Murrell.

##### **Report from Cllr Fran Whymark:**

This has been a year of changes at BDC. Working together with South Norfolk District Council (SNDC) we have purchased the Horizon Centre. The collective saving will be about £300k per year, which meant we froze Council Tax again this year. In our quest to reach carbon neutral by 2030 we have just secured a grant to replace the gas boilers with air source heat pumps, adding to the large number of photovoltaic (PV) cells on the roof and car parking area, reducing our CO2 emissions by over 90%. The building is currently being refurbished and we plan to move there in May. Thorpe Lodge will be sold to recover most, if not all, the capital costs.

We have committed to a £3m investment in our Waste Depot, which will see new buildings, PV cells and air source heat pumps replacing existing power and heat sources. With all waste vehicles running on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), reducing our carbon footprint we are reducing CO2 emissions further. BDC committed to all our residents to having weekly food waste collections and in October 2022 we also added weekly collections of small electrical items, batteries and textiles, ensuring more recycling and less going to landfill. We also introduced the new Bin Collection App, giving you a reminder which bins to put out each week.

Broadland Food Innovation Centre (FIC) opened in 2022. Marking an exciting new era for food production, enabling the processing of food grown in Broadland being processed here, not having to

be sent to Midlands or further. The FIC has been purpose built to offer a wide range of food grade facilities for large established businesses and smaller incubation units and test kitchens, with meeting rooms and state of the art conferencing facilities.

Our Help Hub has been nominated for national awards and is held up as a model of good practice. Working with partners including the police, Adult Social Care (ASC), Children's Services (CS), Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Housing Providers, NHS and the voluntary sector, among many others, it continues to extend its reach, to support our most vulnerable during these testing times. Are plans are to continue this progress, working together with our partners in the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and the wider Integrated Care System within the NHS.

At NCC there have been significant cost pressures in ASC and CS. We are constantly striving to do more for less and although there have been cost savings the overall spending has increased by £29.6m. Next years budget for ASC is £249.5m and CS £232.6m, with significant investment in Independent Living Housing (as planned on Green Lane East) and new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) schools and Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs) being attached to many existing schools.

Over the last year there have been negotiations with Government Ministers about a County Deal for Norfolk. In December 2022 an 'in principle' agreement was signed to bring a devolution package to Norfolk. This will bring additional funding and unlock opportunities to deliver more jobs, housing and investment. If agreed this there would be a change to governance and the election of a Directly Elected Leader who would nominate the Cabinet for NCC. The consultation takes place until 20th March at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal).

£50m has been received to improve bus routes and reduce fares across Norfolk. The £2 single fare has been extended until June and locally the 5B now runs later to and from the city.

We have been working with the NHS and ICS over the last 4 years to get a medical centre locally. Recent meetings have confirmed that the medical centre (next to the Independent Living Housing, Green Lane East) will have GPs and other services from the Wroxham and Hoveton Medical Centre and with additional community services i.e. midwives, health visitors. Assuming the NHS agree, building will start in September 2023, with completion mid 2024.

NCC have just received funding to open new Family Hubs. Offering support from cradle to career for families, children and young people up to 19 (or 25 if they have special educational needs or disabilities). This single access point will offer support from health, social care, education, voluntary and community groups. There be at least 7 Hubs and an extensive outreach service with access to 'Start for Life' services, supporting the first 1001 critical days from conception to 2 years old.

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

### **Salhouse Baptist Chapel – read by Simon Gay**

After approximately 220 years, the chapel has closed. A good deal of the earlier history was recorded in chapter 8 of 'The Book of Salhouse and Woodbastwick', the excellent volume on the village history. Whilst there have been good periods of large congregations, perhaps numbering 150 or so for some of the 19th century, there have been many years where the chapel has struggled for lack of attendees. Indeed, I remember being brought in the 1970s as a teenager by my father who was amongst a group of men in Suffolk determined to keep the chapel open. A quick glance at the records reveals that for quite a significant part of the 20th century, there were frequent gaps when the chapel wasn't open. But, its not the end of the church, nor indeed was it the beginning when the first group of a dozen or so met in 1802 to construct a place of worship in the village. The Bible reminds us that the church isn't the building, but the people. And the church began at the day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, when Peter's remarkable sermon was delivered with astounding results. Not just the 3,000 converted on that occasion, but it was the seed of the church, and 2,000 years later people are meeting across the world. Some in elaborate buildings, some in tin huts, some in homes, some amongst vast numbers, others a

small handful. In 2019 I was privileged to spend a few weeks in Africa teaching pastors from war-torn South Sudan. I remember one man very well; he addresses a congregation of over 100 each week, and they meet under a tree. But here in Salhouse, the declining number was something we wrestled with throughout 2022. We had to face the reality that there was a lack of local interest, and we recognise that we are in the fortunate position where there is still freedom to meet, and a relatively large number of congregations can be found within a short drive. Even though a building has closed, the good news of the gospel, salvation in Jesus Christ, is still preached, proclaimed and gossiped and this is still a day of opportunity. And the church, worldwide, is larger today than at any time in history. The words of Jesus in Matthew 16v18 are true: he is building his church, and nothing will prevent its accomplishment. Isaiah 55v6 tells us to “seek the Lord while he may be found”. Perhaps you’ve left it, put it to the back of your mind, thought there’ll always be another day. Well, Peter reminds us not to trade on the patience of God, 2 Peter 3v9. The message preached, the good news proclaimed, the salvation of Jesus Christ hasn’t changed, not one bit. Just not in the old building up the Loke. But he is still to be found. For the moment, I’m in the village and I’d be pleased to speak with anyone who would like to chat further and find what they’re missing.

### **Salhouse United Charities – read by Steve Piper**

Since the last report to the Annual Parish Meeting the Trustees of Salhouse United Charities have lost the services of Simon Gay who is moving on to pastures new.

The current Trustees are now Stephen Piper, elected as Chairperson, Martin Murrell, Vice Chair, Rev Darleen Plattin, Robert Cooper and Pauline Garner, Secretary.

There have been three full meetings held since the last report with Stephen Piper joining as a new Trustee in August 2022.

Matters arising since the last report have included the promotion of the Charity’s presence in the village and the protection of its assets.

In late summer a leaflet was designed, printed and hand delivered to all properties in the village aimed at offering help to people in difficulties with rising fuel and food costs.

This has been followed up with posters in the Parish and Jubilee Hall notice boards containing a similar message.

In regard to the protection of Charity assets, a letter has been hand delivered to properties bordering the Charity’s land reminding residents that boundary lines must be observed and any fences must not encroach on the Charity’s land. Further action is being taken to clearly define the boundary of the land.

Since the leaflet drop, the Charity has been approached by two residents requesting help and a small number of Christmas hampers were provided to some who had found the year particularly trying or had suffered bereavement.

Finally, the Trustees would like to thank Simon for all his efforts as Trustee and Chairperson and will miss his knowledge and enthusiasm. We wish him well in his new venture.

### **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 a general Spring Clean.

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 have a current team of around 12 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 Speedwatch is to curtail excessive speeds within the parish thus making the roads safer for drivers and other users alike as well as protecting the village environment.

Last year saw some 103 Speedwatch teams now established in Norfolk involving some 922 volunteers, with more villages applying to join. Approximately 18000 warning letters were sent out to errant drivers within Norfolk.

Within Salhouse Parish both Bell Lane and Norwich Rd towards continue to be key areas although other sites within the village are also monitored as a reminder to all drivers.

A Speedwatch team annual meeting is to be held on the 19th April involving Norfolk Constabulary and other parties involved with the operation of the service. Statistical data will be presented as well as a review of the service in general.

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 (Speed Activated Messaging System) - 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 be mainly concentrated in the Norwich Rd/Station Rd area.

The purpose of these is to detect, 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 within the parish.

Data from these units is also forwarded to the police for their attention.

### **Afternoon Tea and Mardle – report read by Sarah Martin**

The Mardle has been running in the village for approximately 20 years. Due to the lockdowns the Mardle sadly had to close its doors. Unfortunately the lovely ladies who ran the Mardle decided it was time for them to give up and sadly unless volunteers came forward it would no longer continue.

Thankfully Doreen and Colin McCormick took up the mantle, volunteers came forward, and it has carried on. We have changed the meeting date to accommodate ladies of the Wroxham W.I. As they were double booked and now meet on the second Wednesday of the month at Jubilee Hall between

2 and 4 p.m. We did get off to a bit of a shaky start but our numbers are staying around the 30 mark so we are pleased that so many villagers are joining us. We have tea/coffee with cake, a raffle and quiz and a chance to catch up with our friends in the village. Although it is predominantly retirees, we would welcome anyone that is at a loose end and would like to pay us a visit.

### **Salhouse Bell Reading Group – report read by Sarah Martin**

Since starting in 2018 to date we have, to date, read 60 books. We meet once a month on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30 p.m. at Heathlands at Blofield Heath.

We democratically select our books from recommendations received from fellow book readers. We usually select the books every six months and publish our choices in The Saga. We would welcome any newcomers and encourage not just physical books but many of our selections are available on e-readers or audible so there is a medium available for everyone. Occasionally our selections are available from the library or their audible service, which is a bonus!

As you may be aware we used to meet at The Bell in Salhouse but due to the closure and refurbishment going ahead, meeting in the village has been curtailed. However we hope Mr and Mrs Bayfield will be opening the doors soon and will let us back in. We wish them every success and look forward to returning to our home pub.

### **Salhouse Saga Magazine – report written and read by Colin McCormick (Editor)**

I have been the editor of Salhouse Saga since the Spring 2021 issue, that's 7 issues so far. The major change in the past year is the introduction of a number of colour pages into the magazine; we now have a colour centrefold and several other colour pages in addition to the front and rear covers. Colour printing is much more expensive than black and white, which is why we cannot offer it throughout. The colour centrefold gives us scope to include more colour photographs than previously. We give priority to good topical pictures of village events, so if you have something you would like to share in the magazine, please contact me.

Our advertising rates had not changed significantly for several years, so in 2022 we applied a small increase to the black and white rates, and introduced a new, higher rate for colour. We realised that we were taking a risk, but our advertisers have been loyal and have understood the reasons for the increase. Overall, we have seen the number of advertisers increase, and we continue to get new enquiries. The Saga is an excellent way of finding services from local tradesmen. As always, the message is, "please support our advertisers because they support us".

The Saga continues to be delivered free of charge three times per year to every home in the village, and so potentially can be read by everyone in a way that other forms of social media cannot. We aim to keep it that way as we enter our 40th year of continuous publication. Many thanks are due to our team of Richard Flatters as advertising manager and Pauline Garner as distribution manager, not forgetting Pauline's team of volunteers who quietly deliver the finished product door to door. We look forward to the next issue, due to be published at the end of the first week of July.

### **Jubilee Hall – report from by Martin Carney (Chairman) – read by Alison Williams**

January 2022 to December 2022 - It was another unusual start to the year as we were still being heavily impacted by Covid. As we opened 2022 still under the impact of the Omicron variant and with Boris's Plan B still in full force, it impacted what we could do with the hall in January and February of 2022. However, as the year went on, Plan B ceased, the weather improved, and we could open the hall back up to both regular users and for the first time in a long while ad-hoc users. At the start of the year, we kept some of the Covid special measures in place, but as the year went on we were able to remove these totally

Whilst it was quiet, we were also able to get on top of some of the hall maintenance. The hall was redecorated inside, and we have all the external woodwork rubbed down and repainted. There were

also a number of rotten windows, frames and sills which have now all been replaced and should put us in a good place for the next 4 years

We were able to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee at the Hall with our Party in the (Car) Park. Despite advertising via Facebook, posters around the village and leaflets delivered to 500 homes, unfortunately, the event was not as well attended as we had all hoped but nevertheless, for those that did come we got really great feedback.

Moving on in the year at the start of December we were able to hold our first Christmas Fayre in 3 years. With a slightly different format, splitting the stalls over 2 rooms, we were able to make much better use of the space, and at the same time spreading the people out. We had good feedback on this and the refreshments seemed a much more integral part of the occasion, so this I think will be something we will repeat this year. Whilst we do not have the exact numbers of people in attendance, as we ran an honesty/donation box on the door, it felt like there were more people in attendance I spoke to many people who said they were new to the village and were pleased to have a Christmas Fayre to attend. We raised a record amount of £435 on the day through the door, refreshments, stall fees and the tombola, which Britvic have also donated and additional £250.

As we closed off the year we were able to offer the hall as a 'Warm space' where people could come and socialise, get a cup of tea and seek financial help from experts on hand. Sadly attendance was very limited and the initiative soon ended.

Finally, there are a couple of resignations from the committee over the last year that I would like to recognise. Firstly, Susan Potter our treasurer, for a number of years. I would like to thank Susan for all the hard work she has done keeping our finances in order and for the work she has also done keeping the hall going. Also to Carole Wyatt, who for personal reasons has decided to leave the committee as she moves north to be with her daughter.

We are exploring replacing the kitchen. We have received some quotes for the work. We have also applied for lottery funding to contribute towards the cost. We are also arranging to replace the cupboard doors in the storage room as many are broken and cannot be locked. We are also exploring an updated website that will have an online booking function.

### **Tree Steward – report from by and read by James Cleaver**

The nursery gave out around 800 trees & shrubs to local and surrounding residents. 170m of hedgerow and 20 field trees were planted in Salhouse at High Oak Equestrian with help from volunteers.

Not strictly Salhouse Parish area but still noteworthy, is the community tree planting event at Rackheath Sports Park where the amazing 1st Salhouse Scout Group and many other volunteers helped plant 250 trees and shrubs.

The nursery will continue to grow stock to give out over winter 23/24. The coming year will continue to focus on finding and organising planting events and schemes with the help of funding support by Broadland District and Norfolk County Councils.

### **Salhouse Primary School – (report sent in)**

Our school community continues to thrive as part of the Neatishead Salhouse and Fleggburgh Federation. Our number on roll has increased and will be 139 in September 2023 when we will welcome 18 children in our reception class.

We continue to operate in five classes with mixed year groups.

Our pre school, Fledglings, is also thriving and offers the community high quality childcare for 2-4 year olds together with breakfast and after school club for children attending the school.

We enjoy positive links with All Saints Church and the children look forward to Reverend Darleen Plattin visiting the school when she leads collective worship.

The school is well supported by parents and the community. Friends of Salhouse School (FOSS) have done much to raise funds for the school and also bring together the school community for events which has been so important following the pandemic.

Our school is awaiting its SIAMS inspection and is also due an Ofsted inspection so we continue to evaluate our work and follow through on school improvement plans. We are fortunate to be fully staffed with a dedicated and skilled staff team.

Our website has a wealth of information about our school. Please take a moment to have a look as it gives you a good flavour of our rich and varied approach to teaching and learning. You will also see many smiling faces as children proudly share their achievements.

We benefit from and value our strong relationship with the Broadland cluster schools sharing activities related to sport and enrichment opportunities like the E safety event which is such an important aspect of our learning in current times.

The challenges we currently face relate to school funding and sustainability, we certainly have to be creative and resourceful to maintain our standards and protect staff well-being with a limited budget. A challenge facing many sectors, I realise.

We feel blessed at Salhouse to have the support of our parents and the wider community. If you would like to visit or volunteer, please contact us .

## **7. Open Session**

Colin McCormick mentioned that Julie Redburn omitted herself and all her hard work and involvement with the Mardle including baking lovely cakes!

Robert Cooper mentioned the enjoyable Queens Coronation event which was put on by the Jubilee Hall. Reverend Darleen Plattin is unable to join the meeting this evening due to personal issues.

The Parish is looking forward to the Kings Coronation event being put on at the recreation ground on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

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Everyone was thanked for attending and presenting their reports.

Refreshments were served courtesy of the Parish Council and Mardle.

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Meeting closed 19.49pm