

**Minutes of Combs 129<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.00pm, Battisford Cricket Club, Combs**

**Present:** T Kitson (Parish Council Chairman); S Ottewell (Parish Council Vice Chair); T Betchley MBE (Parish Councillor); A Tomlinson (Parish Councillor); J Stephens-Row; D Shelley

**Attending:** T Bamber (Parish Clerk)

**1. Introductions**

Parish Council Chairman Tony Kitson took the chair and welcomed those present..

**2. Apologies for absence**

Stuart Scarff, while now an ex-councillor, would have attended but was on holiday.

**3. Minutes of the 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting by Cllr Kitson (Chairman)

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Chairman's Report**

The chairman referred to his report, attached as Appendix 1, and took the opportunity to express his appreciation for the support and help provided by all councillors. Through careful planning, the parish council had been able to avoid any increase in its annual precept and while there was still a lot of good that could be done it was important to bear in mind that there are currently only four councillors so ambitions for the coming year should be tempered by reality. The chairman finished with his best wishes and gratitude to ex-cllr Scarff for all the excellent work he had done as councillor and chair over the past 30 years.

**6. Report from Suffolk County Councillor**

Cllr Oakes had previously circulated her report and this is attached as appendix 2.

**7. Report from Mid Suffolk District Councillor**

Cllr Matthissen had previously circulated his report and this is attached as appendix 3.

**8. Councillor Reports**

Cllr Betchley reported on the cemetery and this is attached as appendix 4.

Cllr Ottewell reported that the parish newsletter, which is delivered three times annually throughout the village, has been well received. She thanked all those who had made contributions to it and all councillors expressed their appreciation for her work in producing it.

Cllr Tomlinson introduced himself as a new councillor and thanked fellow councillors for their welcoming approach and support.

**9. Local Organisation/Club Reports**

See appendices 5,6,7 and 8 for reports from Battisford & District Cricket Club, Oaks Meadow, the fete committee, the and the Gardening Club.

**10. Parishioner questions, comments and suggestions**



Mrs Stephens-Row commented on the issue of speeding through Moats Tye and Little London; and the parish clerk confirmed that a further request for installation of a SID had been sent. He will follow this up. In addition to speeding in the area, there has been a problem with inappropriately large farm vehicles damaging the verges. The chairman asked the clerk to raise this with the county council.

Mrs Stephens-Row enquired as to the capacity of the cemetery and councillors informed her that there was currently capacity, at present rates, for over 20 years. Furthermore the new pricing structure, aimed at discouraging non-residents seeking lower cost burials in Combs, should help improve that capacity.

Cllr Kitson thanked all those attending for doing so and closed the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7:54pm (there had been a delay while parish councillors helped to secure a cricket club marquee that had been the victim of a violent squall in a thunderstorm).

Abi Kitson