

TATTINGSTONE

Parish Council

MINUTES

TATTINGSTONE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 29 MAY 2025, 7.00pm held at Tattingsstone Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr A Mendel, R Belcher-Nairn (Parish Clerk), Parish Cllrs Lee, Page & Clarke (arr. 19.24), David Brown (Chair of Village Hall and Playing Field Committees, arr. 19.22), Rodney Chadburn & Tricia Connolly (Tattingsstone Good Neighbour Scheme), Lyn Tomlinson (St Mary's Church Warden) and 5 members of the public

CHAIRPERSON: Cllr A Mendel

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from District Councillor Daniel Potter, County Councillor Simon Harley, Jane Connell-Smith (WI), and Parish Cllrs Abbott, Plumbly and Stennett.

2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Cllr Mendel welcomed all present to the meeting.

3. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

We were very fortunate to recruit our new Clerk, Rachel Belcher-Nairn in November. Having been without a Clerk for several months, Rachel's contribution to the smooth running of the Parish Council is both highly essential and very much appreciated.

We were once again the beneficiaries of the spectacular RAF fly past to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day in May, which flew over directly our village.

The last 12 months has seen the playing field play area finally getting its much needed attention with replacement equipment, making it both safe and more appealing to village children. This was funded via CIL monies of £6406. Replacement signs for the playing field were also installed with CIL funding. In terms of other maintenance expenditure, the bus shelter repairs were completed; hopefully one day we may have a bus service to fully utilise them. The case for the defibrillator outside the village hall was replaced as it was deteriorating. Other regular maintenance was funded including the grass cutting on the playing field and in the churchyard. The Parish Council once again supported the Poppy Appeal with a donation for the wreath, and a grant of £500 as a contribution to the Village Fete. This year we will need to repair and restore both the village sign and the information sign next to it.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to submit to Babergh District Council so it can complete its final stages. Those stages are 1. Further public consultation by Babergh District Council 2. Examination by an independent neighbourhood plan examiner 3. The Parish referendum, which is open to all residents on the electoral register. If the majority of residents that vote are in favour of the Plan, it will be adopted by Babergh DC and used by them when making decisions on planning applications.

Finally, it gives me enormous pleasure to congratulate the Tattingsstone Good Neighbours on their outstanding work; work so outstanding that they have received the highly esteemed Kings Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of their exceptional community service. I will let Rodney Chadburn and Tricia Connelly give you further details. Thank you for everything you do for our village.

Cllr Andrea Mendel

Chairman

Tattingsstone Parish Council

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

No report submitted due to ill health

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5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

No report submitted due to ill health

6. REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

6.1 TATTINGSTONE CHURCH REPORT FROM ST MARY'S TATTINGSTONE

Report appended and summarised below:

Church Warden Lyn Tomlinson introduced herself and fellow Church Warden Linda Smalley, Secretary & Treasurer respectively, welcoming any queries or questions regarding the church and explaining their responsibilities of Safeguarding, Health & Safety and the care of the building itself.

The church has had many changes recently, including the appointment of a new vicar – Rev Chris Willis – who has brought energy and new initiatives to the church. The church has also moved to a new benefice with East Bergholt, Brantham & Bentley. This has been a positive move and sees congregations of around 90 people at a rotating monthly service. Tattington hosts evening worship on the 3rd Sunday of the month and Communion on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Works to improve the church with a kitchenette and toilet are ongoing, with funds sought from the Lord Belstead and Jill Ganzoni Trust, who awarded £4000, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, who awarded £232,766. Work is due to start soon and will involve Heritage Consultants to ensure that Heritage funding requirements are met. The church hopes to be able to host events once works are completed and is seeking volunteers to help with 'Have a Go' workshops on subjects like Flower Arranging, Basket Weaving, etc.

6.3 TATTINGSTONE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Rodney Chadburn informed the meeting that the group continues to host routine activities, including the drop in sessions. This now has a charge of £1.50 due to increasing costs, which can be paid via cash or card (if pre-booking 10 sessions).

Since the number of calls dropped during Covid, magnets were distributed to households throughout the village and this successfully raised awareness of the scheme.

The group was awarded the "King's Award for Voluntary Service", which resulted in Rodney & Tricia attending Buckingham Palace's Royal Garden Party. The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk will be presenting the award and certificate on the 19th June at 10am, with the normal drop in session taking place immediately afterwards.

6.4 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT

David Brown, Playing Field Committee Chair informed the meeting that the fete was popular last year, although attendance suffered due to the weather. The playing field remains well used throughout the year and the Tennis Club is doing well. Two members of the Committee stood down at the AGM and Mr Brown thanked them for their hard work. Emergency repairs were carried out on the pavilion roof, which was funded by a charity. Phase one of the playground upgrade is complete, with quotes being sought for phase two.

6.5 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

David Brown, Village Hall Committee Chair informed the meeting that the village hall is very well used, especially at weekends. Groups use the hall for many activities, including karate, ballroom dancing and carpet bowls. Peninsular Pix hosts regular film screenings at the hall. The books are well balanced and reported to the Charity Commission on a regular basis.

6.6 ALTON BELLES REPORT 2023-24 (WI)

Alton Belles WI is a member of NFWI and SEFWI; these are the National and area organisations that support WI.

Our WI attracts members from around Alton Water. We meet once a month usually with a speaker. In the last year we have had talks and demonstrations on things like button art, photography and community wildlife. We also meet for social occasions like the recent afternoon tea at a local cafe.

We are always looking for new members and we are certainly not all Jam and Jerusalem. So why not come along and try us. I can be contacted on 07798 752147.

Jane Connell-Smith
President
Alton Belles WI

7. QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

A resident enquired whether larger noticeboards could be placed in the village bus shelters as the current ones are too small to hold the number of notices placed on them.

A resident asked how plans for the village hall roof were getting on, with Mr Brown reporting that funding is still being sought to replace the roof. Planning permission had been granted to place solar panels but these cannot be placed on the current roof.

Multiple residents enquired about the works on the village sign, which is ongoing. Cllr Clarke offered to contact contractors for quotes.

A resident reported the light on Lemons Hill Bridge has stopped working again.

There was a report of an overgrown hedge on School Road.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed

Meeting closed at 7.34pm