

Marshland St James Annual Parish Meeting 2023

held on 24th April at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Askew (Chair) and N Watson (Clerk)
10 members of the public.

- 1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council**
- 2. Minutes** – The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022 were agreed by those at the meeting and then signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising** – No matters arising as no issues had been raised.
- 4. Chairman’s Report** – An update of Parish Council work was given.(attached)
- 5. Reports from Village Groups** – reports were given from the following groups:

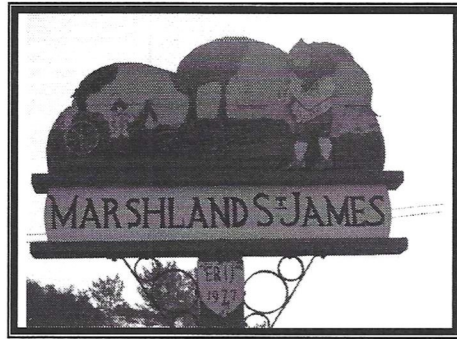
WI (verbal)
St James Church (verbal)
Marshland St James & District Community & Sports Centre (verbal)
Playing Field Management Partnership & Bowls Club (attached)

Cllr Chris Dawson (Norfolk County Council) made brief comments, applauding the range and quality of Clubs and events in the Parish. He explained the new County Council structure, and the pressure on school places within his ward.
- 6. Open Forum for Parishioners Concerns**

Members of the public asked questions about dogs on the playing field and the provision of dog waste bins in the village. These matters will be passed to the Parish Council for discussion.

The meeting was closed at 7.55pm

Signed..... Dated.....



MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

April 2022 to March 2023

Chairman's Report

A very special welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2023.

The Parish Council has had a busy but productive year.

Numerous planning applications from within the village were made to the Borough Council; a varied mix of new build, extensions and change of use.

The replacement skate ramp and the Multi-Use Games Area have been enthusiastically received by the many users from the Parish and beyond.

The playing field and bowls green are both used intensively, and reports from those groups will follow.

Work continues on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan, which will develop a shared vision for the development and growth of the village over the next twenty years.

We are delighted that our quest to reduce speed through the village has been implemented in the first part by reducing the speed limit to 30mph through the village and on some approach roads. The second phase, of 20mph zones during school hours, will soon be implemented and I'm sure will bring great benefits in road safety around the school and throughout the village.

The Parish Council has continued to report Highways issues including potholes and damage to road surface and footpaths.

Parish Council expenditure was within budget in 2022/23; the Precept has seen an increase for 2023/24, with one major increase being the cost of street-lighting where we expect the electricity bill to almost triple.

We were very sad when our previous Parish Clerk, Sarah, passed away in December after a short illness, our condolences go to Sarah's family.

As 2023 is an election year, following an uncontested election we will say farewell next month to the Parish Councillors who have decided to stand down, thanking them for their hard work and wisdom over their term of office, and welcome the new Councillors to the role.

Finally, we thank our District Councillors Barry Ayres and Brian Long, and our County Councillor Chris Dawson for their hard work on behalf of the village.

Further information on Parish Council activities is available on the Parish website which can be found at

<https://marshlandstjamesparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Parish Council Contact Details

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Vice Chair: Mr David Gathercole

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Marshland St. James Playing Field Management Committee

Report to Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 24th April 2023

The playing field continues to be one of the main village assets, offering various uses and opportunities for parishioners and the wider community. A number of successful football teams train and play on the football pitches and the bowls club continue to practise and compete on the green. Both groups offer some help and support in the maintenance of these areas and the committee are grateful for this. The play area continues to be busy with families and the MUGA has been utilised by groups and individuals alike. During the year the field has also been used for other events including those linked to the community centre and a primary school cross country race.

The management committee continue to ensure the field, play equipment and car park are maintained in a good order through regular inspection, planned maintenance and remedial work as required. Although there are no plans at present for further development, the committee are presently looking at costings to repair and improve the car park.

We are happy to report that over the last year there has been very little report damage or vandalism and litter issues have also been minimal. Unfortunately, dog walking on the field continues to be a problem and the committee would like to remind all parishioners that dogs are not allowed anywhere on the field. This is because it is designated as a recreation ground, not a public park and thus is covered by different bye-laws, including that banning dogs.

Going forward, the committee aims to continue to keep the playing field in good condition and further develop and encourage use by the wider community.

Jeremy Wilkinson

Chair 22/4/23