

Redlingfield News Extra

MAY 2020



- Mike Ager - Chair of Redlingfield Parish Meeting
 - Janet Norman-Philips - Clerk ● email pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk
 - website www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk ● phone 01379 678835
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Boring & long-winded

The following may sound a bit boring and long-winded but it is important that everyone is aware of what is and isn't happening. Redlingfield's Parish Council is a "Parish Meeting" with one open public meeting a year.

Parish Meetings are required by law to hold an Annual General Meeting in May each year – at which the Parish Chairman is elected. Here in Redlingfield we also elect a Treasurer & Parish Clerk and the Village Committee – a group of up to 20 volunteers who help organise events and activities in the village each year. As a Parish we don't raise a rate – so this is how we fund things.

Our Annual General Meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 20th May 2020 at Horham Community Centre.

An Annual General Meeting requires electors/residents to be present in person to vote on these matters and anything else that is of concern as well as ask any questions they like of the Chairman etc.

Parishes are also required to organise annual audits and present the results by September at the latest. Emergency provision has been made by Parliament that now allows these

audits etc to take place later in the year and be ready by the end of November.

You may have heard that the Government was making provision for parishes to hold "virtual meetings".

The legislation to allow these virtual meetings was recently rushed through Parliament. It gets rid of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2020 – allowing any current appointments to stand for up to a further year, until May 2021 (eg keeping the existing Chairman in post until such time as a meeting can be arranged or an AGM in May 2021) and allows Parish Councils to hold virtual meetings (by whatever technical means they prefer).

However, somehow the legislation forgot to include Parish Meetings (such as ourselves). One of the problems that can occur when new rules are drawn up quickly.

So we are in a bit of a legal limbo. We are required by law to all meet together in May 2020 to elect officers (Chairman, Treasurer & Clerk), however we can't hold a physical AGM because of the need to remain at home or in isolation due to the Coronavirus and the new law doesn't allow us to hold a "virtual" meeting.

The good news is that whatever we

STAY AT HOME 

**PROTECT
THE NHS**

 **save
lives**

but important ...

decide we (Chairman & Parish Clerk) are unlikely to be prosecuted – as there are hundreds of Parish Meetings across England in the same situation.

Having consulted our Parish Chairman – we have decided that we will postpone our Annual General Meeting until sometime in the Autumn (the actual date to be decided once we know what is happening with the Coronavirus and social distancing/isolation).

In the meantime, all the people elected or appointed at the last AGM in May 2019 remain in post –

Current Officers: Chairman Mike Ager, Clerk Janet Norman-Philips, Treasurer Jeanette Brierley

Current Village Committee Members: Andrew Abbott, Graham Abbott, Katie Abbott, Mike Ager, Jeanette Brierley, Susan Chapman, Allan Chapman, Will Edwards, Lesley

& Tony Rose-Freitas, Emma Hewitt, Pat Kelly, Manday Miller, Adrian Smith and Janet Norman-Philips

Our Treasurer Jeanette Brierley – was planning to stand down at the AGM this year, having had the role for a number of years, to allow someone else to take over to manage the accounts. So we are still looking for a new treasurer (preferably an accountant or accounting technician or someone with appropriate experience) – our accounts aren't complex but they do have to be right.

So if anyone feels like taking over please let me know.

Cheers and stay safe
Janet Norman-Philips – Clerk
Mike Ager – Chair of Redlingfield Parish Meeting
Phone 01379 678835
email pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk
web www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk

INFORMATION ABOUT PARISH MEETINGS: Parish Meetings are a statutory part of Local Government – they exist in smaller villages (usually a population of less than 500).

Parish Meetings conduct their main business at the AGM each year by electing (via a show of hands) the Chairman for the next 12 months – who is then responsible for delivering the aims agreed at the AGM – other meetings can be called during the year as needed to discuss important matters. Anybody and everybody can attend an AGM and ask questions or raise concerns or make proposals for things we should (or shouldn't) be doing. Contentious proposals are voted on by the whole village.

In Redlingfield we have a local rule that the Chairman can only be elected for three years in a row and then has to stand aside for someone else to take over and be put forward for the role – Mike Ager is the current Chairman and has now completed two terms (elected in May 2018 and May 2019) so was intending to stand for election again in May 2020 to complete his three year term. The village tends to come to a consensus as to who they would like to see as the next Chairman and that person is then encouraged to put themselves forward.

CONTACT US FOR HELP with shopping, prescriptions, or for a phone & chat etc. There are currently around 20 volunteers in the village and we can put you in touch with the person best placed to help.

Mike Ager & Janet Norman-Philips (Hidcote Lodge)

01379 678835, pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk

PRESCRIPTIONS: You may need to sign a permission slip to allow anyone other than a family member to collect your prescription from the doctors in Eye. Mike & Jan can provide these.

LOCAL HOME DELIVERIES:

Healthy At Home, 01379 871 238, healthyathome.online; **David Dunnett Family Butchers**, 01379 870155; **G. Shurey & Son Butchers**, 01379 871061; **Fleurs Artisan Fruit & Veg**, 01379 870333,

LOCAL TAKEAWAYS:

The Queens Head, Eye, 01379 870153; **Pizza House in Eye**, 01379 873330; **Stoke Ash White Horse**, 01379 678222; **The Swan Inn Hoxne**, 01379 668275; **The Black Horse Inn Thorndon**, 01379 678523.

If you have other problems, with benefits, finances or oddjobs that need doing, or need any other help please contact Mike & Jan. We will try to help or to find the people who can. If anyone else would like to volunteer please contact us.



HELPFUL ADVICE AND RELIABLE INFORMATION SOURCES:

● www.111.nhs.uk ● www.gov.uk/coronavirus ● www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Diss Citizens Advice: www.cadat.org.uk; email: dissadviser@cadat.org.uk, phone: 03444 111 444.

Information and advice for businesses: www.newanglia.co.uk