

Minutes of the Annual Smisby Parish

Meeting 10th May 2022

Smisby Parish Council Attendance: Councillors Rushman (Chairman), Taft, Cuming and Das. Parish Clerk Caroline Crowder

Members of the public and other organisations: District Councillor Haines, County Councillor Muller and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Brooke and District Councillor Churchill.

2. Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from Smisby Parish Council Meeting held on 6th May 2021

Resolved, all Councillors approved and the Chairman signed the minutes.

4. Public Questions and Comments

A member of the public wished to thank you to Councillor Taft and County Councillor Muller for getting potholes repaired.

5. Reports from Local Groups/Organisations

a. Smisby WI

During the First World War, the Women's institute was introduced to Britain from Canada in 1915 to encourage country women to grow and preserve food to help feed people during W1 Llanfair PG on Anglesey, North Wales was the first WI to be formed on September 16th, 1915, with the National Federation of Women's Institutes as the governing body. Smisby WI held its inaugural meeting in November 1934 with the first general meeting held here which was known as the Church Room at 6.30.p.m. on the 17th of December 1934 where it was proposed and seconded that a Women's Institute should be formed in the village and known as The Smisby Women's Institute, Miss Hewitt was elected and served as President for the next 48 years. Many events have taken place since the first meeting held on January 17th, 1935, where twenty-four members were present, notably the second world war, when many WI's up and down the country did their bit for the war effort. There were no emails Wi-Fi and instant communications like there is now but WIs pulled together like Smisby WI making jam, taking in evacuees, and raising money for the Red Cross. Meetings and gatherings could still take place and if food was available, they could certainly have Christmas parties. How different the last two years have been, we were all told to stay at home and not to meet anyone outside our family circle, work from home and certainly no mixing or having Christmas parties. We all did our bit even if only in a small way, shopping for some of our members who were classed as vulnerable, making phone calls to stay connected and of course sending out emails every day with jokes, recipes, and poems sent in by members to share with others. Zoom was the next thing to tackle and some of us did but oh how lovely that from May 2021 we were able to have our meetings once again here in Smisby Village Hall. We celebrated our belated 85th birthday in July with Lesley Smith giving an inspiring talk about Peggy Knight an SOE spy in the second world war who was parachuted into France to help the resistance fighters. We continue with our monthly meetings and speakers plus additional event for members to

