

Minutes of the Annual Smisby Parish

Meeting 6th May 2021

Smisby Parish Council Attendance: Councillors Taft (Vice Chair acting as Chairman), Cuming and Brooke. Parish Clerk Caroline Crowder

Members of the public and other organisations: District Councillors Churchill and Haines, Parochial Charity Trustee Robert Hounslow and two members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Rushman and Das.

2. Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

None.

3. Public Questions and Comments

A member of the public advised that they had seen an advert for grants from Tesco, details to be found on www.tescobags.org.uk

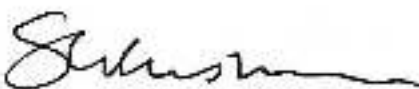
4. Reports from Local Groups/Organisations

The Clerk read the following reports

- a. Ashby Camera Club: Given the current progress re Covid, we are confident that we will be able to resume our weekly Wednesday meetings in Smisby Village Hall in September 2021. However, we are continuing to run the weekly lectures, competitions and practical challenges over Zoom up to the end of May. We hope to be running a full programme of summer evening outside venues over June, July and August. We wish to thank the village hall committee for their working in keeping the hall going throughout this most difficult time.
- b. Ashby Art Club: Ashby Art Club is now resuming as lockdown restrictions ease. The plan is for Monday evening club sessions to begin on 5th July and the Wednesday morning sessions to become weekly on a trial basis and start on 7th July. Both sessions are in the village hall. This plan of course depends on government guidance. In addition, outdoor sketching and painting sessions have already begun with members visiting local venues such as Foremark reservoir and Staunton Harold. Photos of the artwork and members in action can be seen on the Ashby Art Club Facebook page, see <https://www.facebook.com/ashbyartclub>. Some club members are also involved in the Ashby Arts festival, and are busy painting 8' x 4' boards for the Ashby Festival Outdoor exhibition. These paintings will be available to view around Ashby town centre; the 2021 theme is Life in the national Forest. Information about membership and club activities can be found on the club website www.ashbyartclub.org and on the club face book page.
- c. Smisby WI: The ladies of Smisby WI realized that when we were put into tier four in September last year, we would again be unable to hold our monthly meetings in the village hall. We had resisted using zoom so now was the time to embrace this new technology. Julie our President is used to using zoom through her singing group, so she volunteered to set everything up for us. The

first attempt was a member's husband who gave a talk on Bling, as you can guess. half the ladies even though given full instructions could not fathom out how to join. it was chaos and half of the talk was missed by members who could not participate. A coffee and natter were arranged to try and iron out any problems for the following week, this was a lot more successful as the ladies were more confident using zoom, so Bill who gave the first talk very kindly agreed to give the talk again with proved to be more successful. We had various speakers twice a month on a Thursday evening and in between on a Thursday morning we have had a show and tell, quizzes and what is the weirdest food you have eaten? that took up a whole two hours, but best of all we have made crafts via zoom which has been demonstrated by our very own members. We have made Poppies from crape paper, Roses from books, angels, and Christmas trees from a paperback book, and had a tutorial on how to make a mosaic seahorse, and lots more which has kept us together and in touch. We know that not all our members have been able to access zoom for various reasons, so the secretary emails a daily blog to them with jokes, a recipe, and a thought for the day. It has kept members entertained but mostly in touch, they know that we are still here as a WI and any information can be passed on that way. We are now planning our own "road map" out of this Pandemic we have walks, croquet and socially distanced meetings planned. Members have been busy making Sunflowers as we will be decorating the outside of the village hall with Sunflowers of all description and providing coffee and cake for a small fee on Monday 31st of May with all proceeds going to charity. We are all anxiously waiting for the 21st of June so that we can hopefully resume our meetings in the village hall with no restrictions, all our members have been vaccinated and cannot wait to meet up again, with friends and have a good old gossip.

The Vice Chair, acting as Chairman, declared the meeting closed.

Signed:  Date: 10.5.22