

Minutes of Wentworth Parish Annual meeting : 18th May 2016

at 7.30pm in the Church Hall

Present David Lee (Chair) Chris Stone
 Soames Springthorpe DC Stuart Smith
 Greg Lowes Parish Clerk, Anthea Lowes
 Phil Brown

		Action
1.	Apologies were received from Mr E Atkin, Mrs G Barnes CC Hunt, DC S Cheetham and DC M Hugo.	
2	The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.	
3	There were no matters arising.	
4	Chairmans report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning – 5 planning applications have been received this year, 3 have been passed and 2 are still pending consideration. • Precept has been increased by 2%. • 30 mph speed warning stickers have been purchased for Residents wheelie bins. • Councillors have been involved with discussions about the East Cambs LATC set up. • Wentworth was unsuccessful in its bid for Local Highways improvement funding this year. 	
	County Councillor Bill Hunt reported during the Parish Council meeting.	
	District Councillors report. DC Smith reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first food outlet at the new leisure centre should be open by October 2016, the cinema is expected to open in February 2017. • The Devolution deal has been changed today by Central Government to grouping Norfolk and Suffolk separately from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. • The toilets on Newnham Street and at the Sachrist Gate in Ely will be closed. • Fly tipping/rubbish – the reporting system used by EDCD is being looked at as the software doesn't allow accurate reporting which can lead to delays in getting fly tips cleared. 	

	<p>Responsible Financial Officer. The year opened with a balance of £4738 and closed with a balance of £6170. The Parish received £833 in rental income. Payments were made for administration, playpark and Churchyard maintenance, street lighting and charity donations. The precept for 2016/17 has been increased by 2% to £4020.</p>	
	<p>Wentworth Fundraising: The WWFR Treasurer presented a summary of activity. The purpose of WWFR is to support villagers who wish to arrange some form of fundraising in the village, and to act as a means by which monies can be banked. WWFR also runs the WentworthOnline website, and publishes Parish Council meeting documentation, for which a small fee is received. In the year April 2015 - April 2016 WWFR raised £341.82 (Quiz Night, Carols and Parish Council documents to the website) and had expenses of £72.32 (website hosting). Funds are currently reserved as (including income from the Race Night) Church £534.26 Playpark £504.68 Church Hall £893.53 WWFR maintenance reserve (website hosting) £68.12</p>	
	<p>Rackham Primary School. The Headteachers report is attached to the Minutes.</p>	
	<p>Townlands Charity: The Townlands Charity report is attached to the Minutes.</p>	
5	Any other business: None	
<p>The meeting closed at 19.45 hrs.</p> <p>Signed _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>		

Townlands Charity report.

Wentworth Townlands Charity Reg No 266985

Address for Correspondence:

Mrs Gillian Barnes (Secretary)

5 Church Farm Close

Wentworth

Ely Cambs

CB6 3QL

Trustees

Mrs Gillian Barnes

Mr Peter Bovill

Mr David Lee (Chairman)

Mr Soames Springthorpe

Mr Christopher Stone

Accounts year end 31st March 2016

Receipts

April 1st 2015 Balance bf	3227.05
Interest received	1.25
Land rent	697.00
	3925.30

Less payments

April 2015 Bereavement grant	100.00
March 31st 2016 balance cf	3825.30

Represented by

Lloyds Inst savings	7140073	2530.94
Lloyds Bank		
Current	O273914	1294.36
		3825.30

Rackham Primary School report.

Children continue to make good progress at Rackham. At the end of last year, the Year 6 children were well prepared for secondary school with 91% having made two levels progress in reading, 100% in writing, and 95% two levels progress in Maths. 86% achieved L4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths.

This year, due to raised expectations of the new curriculum and KS2 tests, a significant proportion of children will be deemed working towards end of year expectations although their ability to read, write and calculate is at a high level.

Partnership with parents is highly valued and this year Information evenings and drop-in sessions have helped parents to find out more about reading, maths, improving boys' attitudes to learning, tests, phonics, and drugs and alcohol awareness. Parents were also invited in to taste their children's cooking during Health Week and many have had lunch with their children. Parents and children helped to support our Crossing Patrol this year when possible cuts were announced. We were pleased that recent parent survey returns again showed very positive responses about all areas including progress, leadership, safety and behaviour.

The school's main priorities for development this year are:

- A: Improve attainment, achievement and progress in reading, writing, maths for identified groups: Children with SEND/EAL; Boys' writing; and ensure progress for higher ability children.
- B: To develop assessment systems to enable: identification of gaps in reading, writing, maths; track progress; and plan support.
- C: Achieve Food for Life Bronze award by improving menus, and children's and parents' involvement in cooking and growing vegetables.

School and Community

The school facilities, including the all-weather pitch, are regularly used by groups of all ages from the local community. Adult users include Tang Soo Do. Children attend Dance, Brownies, Tang Soo Do, Gymnastics, Football and Youth Club after school.

Our choir enjoyed singing carols and children also played a variety of instruments at St. Peter's Church, Wentworth Carol Service at Christmas. Choir, Dance groups and maypole dancers perform at Fun Day. Children submitted design ideas for the Common Road Play Park, and are planning a Farmers' market for the Summer term.

We are very grateful to Canon Brampton who visits Rackham each week to lead collective worship. Children also visit St. Andrew's Church for a service each term. Our Foundation governor from St. Andrew's – Associate priest, Revd Dr Jenny Gage regularly visits the school to find out more about the role of Rackham as a Church school. The children completed the Bishop's Lent Challenges. Governors hold the school to account effectively through regular visits and meetings. We are currently considering future growth with housing development in the village and forced academisation likely.

Environment/Citizenship/Health

A recent health week promoted daily exercise, healthy eating and provided children with

opportunities to cook and taste healthy foods. Children also ate more vegetables to reduce lunch waste. The youngest children tried out balance bikes during Health Week and others ran a daily mile. Bikeability Week ensured that the majority of Y6 received safe cycling training. Scooter and Bike MOTs help to improve safety. Bag2School collections encourage children and parents to recycle. This year some of our children have volunteered as Junior Travel Ambassadors to promote road safety, walking, scooting and cycling to school with a Be Bright Day.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

The school provides many extra-curricular opportunities for the children including cooking, football, gymnastics, badminton, choir, cricket, drama, music, arts, newspaper, dance, chess, and gardening clubs. Several of our parents run computer programming clubs for children. We are very grateful for their expertise. A Breakfast Club supports parents before school. Children in Years 3- 6 have recently performed a very successful musical called 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits', following two different Christmas plays, and a Carol Concert.

Enriched learning

Children have been offered further opportunities to learn to play a wide variety of instruments and several have joined WASP orchestra at WVC.

Children in Year 6 experienced a variety of outdoor and curriculum activities whilst staying for a week at a youth hostel in the Peak District. Year 4 children spent three days in Burwell developing team and film-making skills. Visits include trips to Wandlebury, Wicken Fen, Banham Zoo, The Fitzwilliam Museum and Ely Cathedral. Book week included a book sale and an author visit. Children have also been very successful with writing competitions such as BBC 500 words, Ely 501 words and Poetry.

Sport

This year we achieved the Sainsbury's School Games Bronze Award. Rackham won the County Cricket tournament last summer and went on to Regional finals. The football team also won the local league and Tag Rugby team reached the Cambs final. The partnership with WVC enables our children to attend many sporting festivals and events, including football, cross country, tag rugby, netball and circus skills. We are grateful to the Sports Leaders who come from WVC to teach games activities each term. Coaches develop children's skills at lunchtimes. Some of our Chess players will be entering the UK chess challenge.

Partnership activities

The Witchford Area Schools Partnership (WASP) involves headteachers of eight local schools developing joint initiatives such as curriculum and professional development. The Partnership has also provided opportunities for Gifted and Talented children. These have included children working with specialist teachers for languages and science at Witchford Village College. The inter-schools orchestra is thriving under the leadership of WVC.

Fundraising

Our children and parents continue to amaze us with their generous fundraising abilities. Children raised money for Sports Relief, Children in Need, Wood Green, RSPCA, Guide dog training, and donated to the Poppy appeal. Children also brought in Harvest donations for Ely Foodbank and items for recycling. Y5/6 made a profit of over £300 through their Enterprise project.

FWR (PTA)

We are extremely grateful to the hard-working parents who form Friends of Witchford Rackham.

They have continued to support the school with fund-raising that has provided a wonderful outdoor classroom, reading books for all ages, a spelling scheme, ipads, and support for future replacement of the All Weather pitch surface. Funds also support our ability to offer an exciting range of trips and visitors to the school, as well as the maintenance of our swimming pool. Fun Day Sunday is organised for 26th June and we hope to see many villagers enjoying the day at Rackham.

Suzanne Carter

Headteacher, Rackham CE Primary School , April 2016