

SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 MAY 2013 IN AMY ROBSART HALL AT 7PM

PRESENT: Cllr R Thompson (Chairman)
Cllr M Askew
Cllr M MacArthur
Cllr A Schmidt
Parish Clerk
Two Parishioners

1. Welcome
The Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.
2. Apologies for absence
Cllr Daly, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Ms Thompson and Mr N Riches
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2012, previously approved on 21 June 2012. Chairman proposed that the Minutes be accepted. All in favour.
Resolved to approve the Minutes.
4. Reports from Parish Organisations and businesses.
 - 4.1 **Amy Robsart Hall** *See Appendix 1 for the Report.*
ARVH Vice Chairman Mr M MacArthur presented the Annual Report to the meeting on behalf of the Chairman Mr N Riches.

Ms C Lewis enquired about the monitoring of the solar panels on the hall roof. Mr M MacArthur confirmed that there is continual monitoring of these panels looking at the energy savings, which will be reported in the future.
 - 4.2 **St Mary's Church** *see Appendix 2 for the Report*
Ms C Lewis, Church Warden, presented the Report,
 - 4.3 **Art@Robsart Hall** *See Appendix 3 for the Report*
Mrs Goff presented the Report.

Chairman gave praise for the excellent photographic exhibition.
 - 4.4 **Any other reports**
None received. Mrs Goff asked if other groups are invited to report. Chairman confirmed that efforts have been made previously to obtain more reports and efforts will continue for next year.

Chairman thanked all for presenting their reports
5. Issues raised by electors
Chairman reported that the Post Office is hopeful that an alternative provider has been found to operate the service in the Amy Robsart Hall at Syderstone, further details awaited.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.16pm.

Appendix 1

AMY ROBSART (SYDERSTONE) VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Winner of the EDP/NRCC Community Building Award 2009

Chairman: Mr Norman Riches 'Birches', Mill Lane, Syderstone, King's Lynn Norfolk PE31 8RX

2012 – 2013 Chairman's Report

To Syderstone Parish Council AGM 16th May 2013

I am pleased to report that this year, after repeatedly unsuccessful attempts, we have finally managed to install

PV Solar Panels on the hall roof. This project, funded entirely from our own funds should not only provide the hall with a valuable income for many years to come, but should also reduce our energy bill, one of our largest expenses.

I would like to thank in particular, Roddie MacLeod and Barrie Wells (1) for all their help with this project.

Bircham Post Office continues to provide an excellent service to the village and also provides an important income for the hall. I would like to thank Philip and Eileen for their high level of service to the hall and village in general.

Unfortunately we must accept that if they are not successful in finding a buyer for their business in the near future they may have to close in order to take a well-deserved retirement

The Lottery Club has now been running for 10 years and has generated an income of £5,800 during this time. This is a significant sum of money and I would like to thank Gerry Taylor for all his efforts in managing this.

The Village Screen Cinema also continues to provide an important service to the village. It allows villagers and supporters from the local area to see recently released films in a friendly and sociable environment, whilst adding income to the hall. Thanks are due to Avril and Malcolm MacArthur for all their efforts in operating this.

Thanks also go to Sheila and Avril, ably assisted by Kate, Jennifer and Marian, for their continued organization and running of the Old Syderstonians Reunions. These gatherings have continued to encourage villagers past and present to meet in a very sociable atmosphere where they can share and pass on personal memories and village history.

As a result of this and Sheila's efforts in researching local family histories we are now amassing a significant amount of information. We must therefore give consideration for the provision of appropriate storage and display facilities.

The weekly Coffee Morning group is still well attended most weeks, despite the advancing years of several supporters and it gives villagers, who would not otherwise get the opportunity, to socialize and keep in touch. It has been reassuring to see new faces recently.

Many thanks go to Kate, Marian, Renee, Mike, Jennifer, Ted and Margaret whose efforts have maintained this important group.

Despite increased advertising, our ad hoc bookings remain at a low level. It is difficult to see how we can encourage these.

Due to the continuing general financial situation, I will again be suggesting (should I be re-elected to the Committee) that there should be no increase in hire charges this year.

Thanks again to all committee members and hall supporters for making this another successful year for the hall.

Norman Riches

Appendix 2

Report from St Mary's Church for Syderstone Annual Parish Meeting May 2013

Fr Clive is away on a well-deserved holiday at this time. He recently celebrated the end of his first year as Rector of the Creakes Benefice and what a year it has been for all of us. His year started as we were well into the planning of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, showing him how well the different elements which make up this ecclesiastical and civil parish work for the benefit of all its residents. The members of the PCC would like to repeat their heartfelt thanks for the generosity of the Parish Council in supporting the event, which grew from Mr and Mrs Tom White's idea for an afternoon garden party in aid of Church funds in the grounds of their house to the community event it became. It was uplifting to see so many groups and ages working together. We were pleased to be asked if we could find room for the Parish Council's Jubilee Oak Tree, which was duly planted on Remembrance Day, to the south of the church.

As in past times, when we held the Art Exhibition in church last May we were supported by many locals, especially the Art @ Amy Robsart Hall group, under the leadership of Denise (Dizzy) Goff. That this group organizes and serves refreshments in the hall spares us a lot of work in the church with its lack of facilities.

Our Lay Reader Brian Poulson stepped back from his duties at the end of August. While we have missed his help and guidance and all that he and Jan, his wife, did for and with us, we are finding others within the church family who are willing to take on more responsibilities. We hope Brian and Jan enjoy the extra time they now have with their family.

We continue to be very grateful to the Parish Council for arranging the fortnightly cutting of the churchyard grass. We receive many comments in our visitor's book about how well-kept it is and acknowledge that we would struggle with our ageing congregation to reach a comparable standard. Very special thanks are due to Nick Ison who had the brilliant idea of turning what was essentially an untidy, weed-filled unconsecrated waste area on the western boundary of the churchyard into the Jubilee Garden, which, when finished, will be a secluded area where anyone can sit and remember loved ones or simply enjoy a time of quietness. As is so usual with such ideas, it was not the work of just one person and I would like to thank Reg Thompson for all his help in making this project possible. If I have missed others, I thank them also. Then of course there is all the help we receive from parishioners when we have the annual churchyard clear up day in autumn. Regular attenders or not, you really are looking at the church as yours and acting accordingly and we thank you all.

We thank the Amy Robsart Hall for its generosity in not charging when we have the Harvest Supper and also on Good Friday when we provide refreshments for the Ely leg Student Cross group on their way to Walsingham. These events are now well established in the church's calendar. There are of course several events throughout the year which are obviously for fund raising and at most of them we are well supported by those living in the area. This is very notable during the Flower Festival; during the preparations on the Thursday and Friday it seems that most of the village is helping at one time or another with something which needs doing.

Two big changes for St Mary's this year are firstly that the church is now open daily, usually from approximately 0900 to 1700hrs (variations are inevitable depending on people's other commitments) and secondly the Messy Church which has been meeting in the Sculthorpe church on second Sundays is transferring into Belnheim Park school as from June.

Mr Stanley has kindly offered the use of facilities in the school which were lacking at Sculthorpe (as they would be in St Mary's) and we hope this outreach program will grow as a result. Whilst I do not at this moment have further details I am told this it will be monthly on a Friday (Messy Church is perhaps best described briefly as a new version of Sunday School but planned with modern children in mind. Further details can be obtained from Fr Clive.)

Finally under Fr Clive's guidance and with the help of a Diocesan architect the PCC has applied for grants to help with much needed expensive repair work and alterations to make the building more user-friendly. We now wait to hear whether or not the application is successful.

Christabel Lewis

Barrie Wells

Churchwardens

Appendix 3

SYDERSTONE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013

ART @ AMY ROBSART – Annual Report

Art @ ARH is still going strong – continuing to benefit from the relaxed ‘no-teacher’ environment, where members help one another with constructive criticism and praise. The success of this way of working is evident in the enhanced quality of work produced by the group’s members. Three terms (from 10 - 11 weeks each) have been organised each year since the group started and the cost for each term has remained at £10 – mainly due to a loyal membership and the very fair charges set by the Amy Robsart Hall Committee. Our Wednesday afternoons are a mixture of serious work and pleasure in each other’s company and, as many founder members are still with the group, this mix must be right! Alongside our artists, the ‘craft’ workers also display many skills – enjoying the opportunity to learn from one another. Although membership is almost at capacity, the group could still find room for a small number of keen new members - painting or crafting. *[Please contact Dizzy Goff 01485 578 527]*

The group supported the Syderstone Art Exhibition in May 2012 by entering paintings into the exhibition and by holding a ‘fringe’ activity in the village hall. It was pleased to be able to send a healthy donation to St.Mary’s Church fabric fund. Art @ ARH will similarly support this year’s Art Exhibition (October 2013). The second year of running the revived Syderstone Photographic Competition & Exhibition proved highly successful and this event will again be organized this year - thanks go to Ron Wetherell for agreeing to take on this task. These shared events provide a great opportunity for group members to work together and to let visitors to the village know that we are proud of the friendly atmosphere in our group and are happy to support St.Mary’s Church, Amy Robsart Hall and, of course, Syderstone itself.

Thanks go to Bob and Dizzy Goff for their work in ensuring the group’s comfort and continuing success and they in turn thank group members for their loyalty in keeping Art @ Amy Robsart alive and well.

**Agendas and minutes are also available at:
www.syderstone.com/parish**