

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 7.00pm at the Arkenstall Village Centre, Station Road, Haddenham, Cambs.

Cllr David Lyon, Chairman of Haddenham Parish Council, opened the meeting and welcomed ten members of the public and eleven members of the Parish Council.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllr P Wilson.
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** having been provided to all those present were taken as read. Cllr Fairchild proposed, and Cllr Coleman seconded that the minutes should be signed as a true record of the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising from the previous meeting.

4. PRESENTATION FROM HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Christine Battersby, who is a member of the Parochial Church Council and Church Warden and Mr Bill Murrells were given the floor. They both spoke about the practical and financial difficulties the Holy Trinity Church is facing. The Parochial Church Council is, in effect, Trustee of a Grade 1 listed building, used for worship for hundreds of years and that is open every day of the week. As such the maintenance and general running costs are high. For many years it has been possible for tasks such as clearing of guttering, etc., to be performed by willing volunteers, but this is no longer possible with new H & S regulations and risk assessments. The Trustees must now pay for specialist contractors to come in and perform such tasks. The current overheads to maintain the church are approximately £44,000 per annum which is putting immense financial pressure on the Church. There was also a concern that the Deanery of Ely may request changes as it is currently reordering its resources.

Together with these issues Rev Fiona Brampton is also moving on to a new position at the end of July. Everybody wished her well in her new role and thanked her for her time at Haddenham. The public were assured that all usual services would continue to be available, weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc., although there may be some changes to service timings particularly on Sundays.

Cllr Lyon thanked both Christine and Bill for their presentation and urged them to publicise the plight of the Church to a wider audience. An article in Village Voice was suggested for the June issue and the Council would post a link to this article on its Social Media platform too.

5. OPEN FORUM

No members of the public wished to speak.

Cllr Lyon thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30pm