

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.30pm at Cawston Village Hall**

Attendance: Cllr Buttifant (Chair), six parishioners, Cllr Thomas (District Council), Sarah Vergette, Clerk to the Parish Council

- 1. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 25th May 2024**
The minutes were **agreed**.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Abel, Cllr Arneill, Cllr Sinclair, Cllr Reckert, Cllr Greg Peck (County Councillor).
- 3. Annual Report of the Cawston Heath Trustees.** David Nunn attended the meeting and gave his report.

Cawston Pools Allotment Annual Report 2024 -25

the two entrances to the Heath have been repaired/improved. One being done by the Trust and the other by contractors, this has made the exit safer and a smoother ride to the car park. The schools visit that was due to take place last autumn did not happen as they ran out of time. This was re-arranged for May however, Highways decide to close the road. Four grants of £1000 have been awarded. The Trustees decided to invite a some younger parishioners to join them on the annual health walk/meeting with the wildlife trust. This resulted in two people becoming trustees. Negotiations have commenced with Aylsham Gun Club for the continuation of a new five year lease.

I would like to pass on my thanks to my fellow Trustees for their work over the last few years.
David Nunn on behalf of the Trustees

4. Annual report of the Chair of Cawston Parish Council

Thank you all for attending the 2025 Annual Parish meeting and thank you David for giving us the annual report from the Cawston Heath Trustees.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin Harrison a valuable member of this council who has stood down in the 2024/5 council year.

The main outgoings of the council continue to be:

The churchyard at St Agnes, the Cemetery, The Oakes Memorial Playing field and its equipment, with the ground maintenance (grass cutting) of these sites costing around £10,500 annually.

The money to pay for this is raised by the Parish precept. With costs continuing to increase across the board we have felt it necessary to increase the parish precept again from £32,450 to £38,486 for 2025/6, a 18.6% increase.

I would like to thank the councillors and willingly volunteers in the Parish for the considerable amount of volunteering they have carried out in the last year which has helped keep our costs down. Huge thanks go to Mr and Mrs Schuil for once again organising the annual litter pick and all those who gave up their Saturday morning to clean up Cawston.

As at the end of 2024/25 financial year the council's funds stood at £66,130.90 with much of this money earmarked against future liabilities, and we continue to remain prudent with this money.

This year has seen the Council continue to champion village concerns this time with the proposed Solar Farms in our locality, and we continue to have representatives on all parish committees.

Cawston Lunch Club which was a Parish Council initiative but is now a standalone organisation celebrated 10 years of serving monthly lunches to the residents of Cawston and neighbouring communities in total 94 lunches have been served.

The Parish Council Grow, Make and Bake Open Gardens will take place on 28th June 10am to 2pm with Grow, Make and Bake Show taking place on 6th September the show is now in its 8th year and continues to grow year on year.

We continue to monitor the “tilt” of the church wall on Church Lane following a structural expert review and to date there has been no movement.

In the coming year the focus will be on improving the play facilities on the Oakes Memorial Trust playing field making use of our S106, Community Infrastructure Levy monies to make the most difference.

Thank you for your time and please remember you are always welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings on 3rd Thursday of the month, and please remember to use the can and glass recycle bins in the village as it generates an income for the parish.

5. Annual Police Report. No report.

6. Residents. The rise in Precept was queried. This is a result of an increase in National Insurance contributions and general increases in costs.

There have been problems with Anglian Water in Fred Tuddenham Drive, this will be taken up by Cllr Thomas.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.23pm.