

Draft **Minutes** of the
Bardwell Annual Village Meeting
held on Tuesday 25th May 2021, Commencing at 7pm
Venue: The Tithe Barn, Up Street, Bardwell

This meeting was held subject to Covid-19 regulations.

Attendees were required to register on arrival using the QR code provided at the entrance, or by signing the register.

Attendees (7):

Cllr David Ruffles, *Chair of Bardwell Parish Council, Cars on the Green*

Cllr Andrew Smith, *Ward Councillor, West Suffolk Council*

Ali Compton *Bardwell Community Speed watch;*

Peter Sanderson *Bardwell Playing Fields Association*

Tony Stokes *Bardwell Charity Trustees;*

Dave Ray *Friends of Bardwell Church and Bardwell Church*

Minutes secretary: *Clerk to Bardwell Parish Council, Pauline Smith*

1. Welcome from the Chair

Cllr David Ruffles, Chair of Bardwell Parish Council.

2. Apologies for absence

James Fletcher - Chairman Bardwell Village Hall

Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

John Babraff; Geoff Clough; Karen Witton, Hilary McDonald

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 14 May 2019

(The meeting scheduled for May 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19.)

The minutes were taken as read, approved by those present and signed by the Chair.

4. Reports from village organisations

14 reports were received: 12 of the reports had been made available for reading in advance of the meeting and were available online via the Bardwell Parish Council website. Paper copies were available on request for any residents without internet access (none requested).

Two reports, which had not been received at the time the reports were collated, were provided at the meeting (Cars on Bardwell Village Green and Bardwell Charity Trustees). The updated, complete document of reports including comments received, questions asked and answers given during the meeting are attached.

Reports were received from:

Bardwell Amblers

Bardwell Bellringers

Bardwell Church of England Primary School

Bardwell Community Speed-watch

Bardwell Parish Council

Bardwell Playing Fields Association

Cars on Bardwell Village Green - *report read to meeting by David Ruffles*
Church of St Peter and St Paul, Bardwell
Friends of Bardwell Church
Ixworth patients Association
Quiet Lanes Suffolk (Bardwell)
Suffolk County Councillor
West Suffolk District Councillor
Bardwell Charity Trustees - *verbal report given to meeting by Tony Stokes*

5. Questions from members of the public

Comments and Questions raised and answers given are provided at the end of each report. See report pack attached.

Questions were raised re:

Quiet Lanes project: report no.9

Suffolk County Councillor's report: report no. 11

Bardwell Charity Trustees: report no 14

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Attachments:

Reports pack including comments made, questions raised and answers given.

Bardwell
Annual Village Meeting
2021

Reports

Tuesday 25th May 2021
7:00pm

The Tithe Barn
(Bardwell Village Hall)
Up Street, Bardwell IP31 1AA

Bardwell Annual Village Meeting 2021

Reports contained within this document:

1. Bardwell Amblers
2. Bardwell Bellringers
3. Bardwell Community Speedwatch
4. Cars on Bardwell Village Green
Late submission read to meeting
5. Friends of Bardwell Church
6. Bardwell Playing Fields Association
7. Ixworth Patients' Association
8. Bardwell Church of England Primary School
9. Quiet Lanes Suffolk
10. Bardwell Parish Council Chairman's Report
11. Suffolk County Councillor's Report
12. West Suffolk District Councillor's Report
13. Bardwell Church
14. Bardwell Charity Trustees
Verbal report provided to meeting

1.

Bardwell Amblers Report for 2020

Last year (2020) ambling as a group activity in Bardwell was constrained by the legislation and regulation introduced to restrict the covid infection. The group managed to Amble in January, February and March. Since that time activity has been limited to individual, family and 'bubbles' walking (Q. Do bubbles walk?), though a couple of informal and limited walks were permitted and enjoyed before the end of the year.

It is clear that walking is a popular activity in the village. The Amblers are geared up and, all being well, hope to restart the programme of walks in June 2021. Do come and join us! Details and contacts can be found in the Bardwell Village News.

Jim Murray
for Bardwell Amblers
May 2021

2.

Bardwell Bellringers

Like every other aspect of life, bell ringing was severely restricted in 2020. When restrictions eased in the summer, four ringers were able to ring for monthly services in September and October, before further lockdowns were imposed.

The central council of Church bell ringers is working with the C of E Recovery Group to provide guidance for bellringers and churches to work safely within guidelines.

A single bell was tolled for the funeral service of John Ruffles on 4 March, with the appreciation of all the family. John was a supporter of the bells and his son David is one of our loyal band.

Meanwhile, ringers continue to meet and ring virtually and we look forward to being able to return to the tower in the not too distant future.

Ruth Suggett
Tower Captain

3. Bardwell Community Speedwatch

The lockdown situations over the last year have obviously meant that our Speedwatch Group has not been able to go out as often as we normally would. We managed to squeeze in some sessions between lockdowns in the late summer early autumn and have been able to get back to normal, with Covid-safety precautions, over the last couple of months. We monitor the traffic in Low Street and Spring Road past the Community Field and Playing Field.

Our VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) continues to record speeds and data collected shows that many people are driving into and out of the village over the speed limit.

In the meantime, the Police Safety Camera came twice to the village. The first time, unfortunately, included the week of the first lockdown, early in 2020, so vehicle numbers were suddenly drastically reduced. As this did not reflect a true picture of regular vehicle movements through Bardwell it was agreed that the camera would return later in the year, which it did. Although there was some evidence of people driving over the speed limit, apparently it was not sufficient for the Police to feel the need for further action at that time. However, the perception of many of us is that cars are not driving at an appropriate speed through the village.

After much discussion with the Parish Council, about possible traffic slowing measures, and thanks to the support of our County Councillor, Joanna Spicer, we have recently had two 30mph roundels painted in the road in Low Street which we hope will help to make people think about their speed through the village. We have also applied to take part in the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) project which is currently being set up as a joint venture by the Police and Suffolk County Council Speed Safety. This is a Suffolk-wide project, and 10 cameras will be in use all over the county. It will run for two years and, if our application is successful, cameras will be temporarily placed at specified points and car number plates will be recorded. The data will be collected by Suffolk County Council. Those found speeding will be contacted by the Police for further appropriate action.

Please drive safely!

Ali Compton

Bardwell Community Speedwatch

May 2021

The committee is delighted that we are able to hold this popular show this year. After the disappointment of last year and the tough year in the UK as a whole, we have been overwhelmed by the fantastic response to the announcement of the show and we know there is great excitement and anticipation. As usual we were completely full before 31st Jan and have a long waiting list for exhibitors. In addition we have a wide range of stalls and also numerous food/refreshment stalls around the Green. Whilst the tithe barn is not open we are grateful to the Dun Cow for stepping up to host the all important morning bacon butties stall.

This year we do not have any participation from Friends Of Bardwell Church who usually do a raffle and tombola and therefore the Cars on the Green Committee has organised a raffle in partnership with the Bardwell School PTA, a tombola with SARS and other stalls. We are expecting a bumper turnout – especially as the weather looks promising – and therefore we are keen for there to be plenty of choice. We are also very pleased to announce the 1940's singing trio 'The Nightingales' will be entertaining us during the day; this will be a highlight and not to be missed!

This year will be a little different as we have undertaken extensive work to assess and put in place the necessary steps to make the event compliant with latest Covid guidance. This is in addition to the usual Health and Safety Risk Assessments. West Suffolk Council have been very helpful and we are confident that we can run a Covid safe show. We have had a fabulous response to the request for marshals and this is incredibly helpful as we simply could not run this show without these volunteers – so a big thank you to all the Bardwell residents who step up for the car show.

The Committee is incredibly grateful for all the support and help we get from the village. It is such a great day and one when the whole village seems to pull together and welcome our visitors. It has put Bardwell on the map for car shows and we always get tremendous feedback from attendees. Even better is the fact that all village organisations have an opportunity to be involved and make money for their cause. We look forward to a super show on Sunday 30th May.

Karen Witton

Cars on the Green Committee

Read to meeting by David Ruffles

5.

Friends of Bardwell Church Report for 2020

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic 2020 was a quiet year for the Friends – the planned Safari Supper on 28 March was cancelled, as were all the other usual fund-raising events for the year, so our only income was from membership ‘subscriptions’ and from donations. However, the Friends made a sizeable contribution of £31,000 to the cost of the big project of repairs and improvements in the church which was completed in February 2020.

A ‘virtual’ Open Gardens featured some lovely colour photographs of gardens in the village which were published in the Bardwell Village News, but this did not generate any income! Two ‘socially-distanced’ churchyard work parties were held, on 25 July and 8 August which tidied up one area of the churchyard which had been neglected for many years.

Agreement was obtained to migrate the Friends website onto the new Bardwell Church website, which would save the annual cost of the website on One Suffolk; updated information was provided to the webmaster, but unfortunately the migration had not been effected by the end of the year.

We hope that the Covid situation in the second half of 2021 will allow some Friends events to be run, albeit that our ‘normal’ events in the first half of the year are not going ahead.

Dave Ray
Chairman, Friends Committee
May 2021

6.

Bardwell Playing Fields Association

Activities for the BPFA during the last year have been dominated and shaped by the Covid_19 pandemic with most of the routine events having to be cancelled. In particular it was not possible to hold the Fete in June nor the Quiz in October.

An AGM was not held last year although the audited accounts were published on the website and made available for anyone who wished to examine them.

At the time of the last AGM in May 2019 the new pavilion had progressed well and construction of the roof was due to be commenced. Good progress continued for the rest of the year and the necessary completion documentation was issued on 12 March 2020. I believe there is now a building in place of which we can be immensely proud and that will provide facilities for many decades to come.

As we all know shortly after then the impact of the pandemic was realised when the Prime Minister announced the first restrictions. After only a very short period of use the pavilion was effectively closed as well as all the outside facilities including the children's playground and MUGA. On 15 May restrictions were lifted slightly that allowed the playground to be opened and some limited tennis to be played. Later in the summer cricket matches were permitted and the facilities in the pavilion began to be used although somewhat restricted.

The bar and kitchen have been expertly managed to provide food and drink. Some of the time this was served indoors but more recently this has only been possible outside in the cold.

Unfortunately, due to Covid it was necessary to postpone the formal opening of the pavilion in May last year. It is hoped this can still proceed when it can be arranged. It has always been planned to produce an honours board to recognise all those who have contributed to the new pavilion including the major funding organisations, private donors and the professionals involved. It is hoped to have some design options available shortly for consideration.

In conjunction with the Church and the School PTA it has been agreed that due to the Covid_19 restrictions the Fete planned for 19 June will not be held.

It is hoped we are able to look forward to a period of normality.

Peter Sanderson

BPFA Chairman

25 May 2021

7.



Ixworth Surgery Patients' Association - Annual Report 2021

The months of the Covid-19 lockdown much reduced the activities of the Patients' Association. Most of the drivers of the transport service were in the vulnerable at-risk category and the service was much reduced. Music events at the nearby dementia care homes ceased and the planned fitness classes to reduce the effects of osteoporosis were put on hold.

The Association was asked by the GPs to help lobby for supplies of the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccine. Alas, stock was limited and distributed centrally - and rural areas were not regarded a priority. In December, however, we learnt residents registered with Stanton, Botesdale and Woolpit Surgeries - the Blackbourne Primary Care Network (PCN) - had begun to receive their first jabs via the West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group. Ixworth, which chose to be part of East Suffolk CCG and is not a member of a network of local GP Practices, was possibly regarded as a lower priority relative to the demands of Ipswich and Colchester and had to wait a month. Through the strenuous efforts of Dr Hart and his colleagues, doses were made available and Ixworth soon caught up - and has now vaccinated more than 7,000 people by the end of April. Over 60% of patients registered with Ixworth have now received their first vaccination and 40% of patients have received both their first and second dose.

The pharmacy is in the process of "going live" as a central vaccination site and patients can book an appointment through the national booking service. This will be only for patients who are eligible and haven't yet had their first vaccination. This is going to make things easier moving forward as it allows the Surgery to obtain manageable quantities of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. This is particularly important as Astra Zeneca is not recommended in the next age cohorts.

The informal merger of GP Practices to form PCNs is the latest move in the development of the NHS. The idea is that PCNs can provide a wider range of medical and wellbeing services more economically than a single Practice. Indeed, the supporting social services provided by West Suffolk Council are being focussed on clusters of GP Practices. Efforts are being planned to provide more joined-up medical and social care. How these initiatives will effect patients registered with Ixworth Surgery is an important issue - and the Patient Association would like to know your experience. Please make your voice heard!

If you want to know more about the activities of the Patient Association please don't hesitate to contact me: graemenorris46@gmail.com or by post to the Surgery. For example, the Association has been invited to make suggestions on the design of the proposed new hospital in Bury St.Edmunds, help promote a series of events to address anxiety and depression in young people, and contribute to the planned stroke prevention programme. Your thoughts on these and other ideas to offer better services to patients are most welcome.

We know our GPs will continue to do their very best to provide an excellent service - and your feedback on what is working well - and not so well - would be of great help to them.

Dr Graeme Norris, Chairman

Bardwell Church of England Primary School

School Lane,
Bardwell,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk. IP31 1AD

8.



Executive Head: Mr R. Francksen

Telephone: 01359 250854

Email: bardwell@tilian.org.uk

Report from Bardwell Church of England Primary School for the Annual Parish Meeting, 25th May 2021

Our school has risen to the challenge of the pandemic over the last year and taken the opportunity to strategically reform the curriculum, develop our enrichment offer and focus on outdoor learning using our wealth of green spaces.

We were able to offer quality in-school provision for all Key Worker and Vulnerable (KVV) children that needed it, in both the March-June 2020 and January-March 2021 lockdowns. During the latter lockdown, we saw KVV attendance rising gradually and were at around 55% of on-roll pupils attending by the second week of February. Whilst this presented challenges for our staff, who had to deliver a full curriculum both in school and for those learning at home, we received positive feedback from parents/carers about our remote learning offer. We have spent a lot of time during both return-to-school periods working on emotional support and good mental health. We thank our teachers and support staff for their dedication and professionalism.

We substantially invested in new IT equipment and software, so that all pupils were able to take advantage of a Chromebook computer loan and would like to thank Councillor Spicer for her support with this.

We are acutely aware of how little time parents/carers have been able to spend in school during the last year, where usually they would come to termly assemblies, weekly Book Buzzes and church services. With this in mind, we arranged a unique, spectacular (and rather moving) whole school Nativity in December, which was a promenade, outdoor performance.

Curriculum

Across the nation the impact on pupils' learning has been identified as a concern. Children at Bardwell have returned with a positive attitude to learning although there are, of course, some gaps in pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding caused by lockdown. We are focusing on closing these gaps by the restructure of our curriculum. This has enabled us to review the wider curriculum to ensure learning is engaging and develops the whole child socially, emotionally, physically and academically. To ensure pupils have a solid foundation in literacy and numeracy, we now follow *White Rose*, *TT Rockstars* and *Numbots* for our Maths curriculum and *The Write Stuff* for English. This has had a positive impact on attainment.

Enrichment

We employ an Enrichment Leader who runs all of our Outdoor and Adventurous Activity (OAA) as well as delivering the PE curriculum. We have used our PE grant funding to arrange for inspirational in-school visits from a freestyle footballer, an orienteering/mapmaking expert and a BMX rider. The entire school spent a day at Thorpe Woodlands taking part in team building activities and we are arranging an on-site camp for Y6 in lieu of the usual residential. It was our aim to offer swimming across almost all year groups this year, but this has been deferred until pools re-open fully.

All pupils now take part in Forest School sessions every week, and we have regular Outdoor Learning Days when the full day's learning is taken outside. We continue to offer music lessons free-of-charge to our older pupils.



CARE INSPIRE ACHIEVE

Bardwell Church of England Primary School

School Lane,
Bardwell,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk. IP31 1AD



Executive Head: Mr R. Francksen

Telephone: 01359 250854

Email: bardwell@tilian.org.uk

We have increased our wraparound provision and now have Breakfast Club running 4 mornings a week, and After School Clubs till 5pm on every afternoon, all clubs are offered free of charge.

OPAL – Outdoor Play And Learning

We have made significant investment in the OPAL scheme, a programme of training and development which supports primary schools to dramatically improve the quality of day-to-day play times, with a consequent beneficial impact on behaviour, engagement, learning, personal development and physical activity/literacy.

If you take a walk past our playground at break time you will see children absorbed in interesting activities such as building dens, making 'meals' in the sand/mud kitchen, socialising with friends, performing long jump in the sandpit or embarking on expeditions to new lands via the tyre trail. We sought donations of OPAL 'loose parts' (repurposed household items), via the Bardwell Village News, and were delighted to receive lots of useful equipment, particularly from Dave Ray.

Partnership & Church links

The school is part of the Tilian Partnership Multi Academy Trust which now comprises seven schools, all rural Church of England primaries in Suffolk, within the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Our schools have Christian values at our heart. They are evident, in particular, in the schools' emphasis upon good relationships, inclusion, spirituality, and enjoyment, and on each pupil using their individual gifts to the full.

Our school's links with the Church of St Peter and St Paul are very strong and we have retained regular Collective Worship throughout the lockdown periods. We are grateful for the support of Vicar Karen Burton and Dinkie Williamson.

Roll forecast

The number of pupils at the school remains steady, but lower than we would like. As school funding is directly related to pupil numbers we would like to increase the number of pupils attending but the SCC roll forecast (made by analysing GP records and planning developments, amongst other data) shows that we have some very small year groups of Reception starters predicted for the next few years. It is notable that affordable housing in the village is in short supply and as such, the village does not attract young families. We would support both the Parish and District Councils in any plans they may have to develop small affordable housing schemes in the village.

Andrew Berry

CEO, Tilian Partnership



CARE INSPIRE ACHIEVE



Do you walk, drive, ride or live along Davey's Lane, Glassfield Road, Wyken Road or Knox Lane? Do you think these routes should be designated as 'Quiet Lanes'? If you haven't already responded, Bardwell Parish Council would appreciate hearing your views.

Find out more at: www.bardwell.onesuffolk.net/quiet-lanes/

We look forward to hearing from you.

19 May 2021

QUIET LANES IN BARDWELL - INITIAL CONSULTATION

Stanton Parish Council is exploring opportunities to designate certain rural lanes in the villages of Stanton and Bardwell as “Quiet Lanes” as part of a county wide project.

Two of the proposed routes cross the Stanton/Bardwell boundary (Glassfield Road and Wyken Road) and two are solely within Bardwell: Knox Lane and Davey’s Lane. The support of Bardwell Parish Council and residents is required to enable the Bardwell element of the application to progress.

Road Safety is a top priority for both villages.

Quiet Lanes are a nationally recognised designation for narrow, rural single-track lanes (i.e no line markings), typically with less than 1,000 vehicle movements per day. Quiet Lanes are shared by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users. They encourage drivers to ‘Expect and Respect’ more vulnerable road users and so allow non-motorised users to enjoy rural lanes in greater safety.

These types of lanes do not impose traffic restrictions and are not enforced. Advisory signs are placed at either end of Quiet Lanes to show motorised users clearly that the road is a shared space.

Stanton Parish Council feels that this would be of real benefit to the villages and those who visit. The lanes being considered are already used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders and link with existing footpaths and bridleways in the village.

Stanton Parish Council has identified, in conjunction with Suffolk County Council (Highways), the following proposed sites (which meet the necessary criteria of less than 1.000 vehicle movements per day) as being suitable for designation.

- **Wyken Road (from A143 to Davey’s Lane crossroads) Bardwell**
- **Davey’s Lane Bardwell**
- **Glassfield Road Stanton to Davey’s Lane Crossroads, Bardwell**
- **Knox Lane, Bardwell**

This notice seeks to inform Bardwell residents as the first stage of a full public consultation process.

If you wish to make any comments about the proposals at this initial stage, we would welcome these in writing by email or in writing to the Bardwell Parish Council Clerk by 26th May 2021. Email: bardwellpc@gmail.com

Bardwell Parish Council, Lavender Barn, Bowbeck, Bardwell, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 1BA
Phone: 01359 221934

As part of the formal public consultation process there will also be a **Public Meeting at 7pm on Thursday 27 May 2021 (before Stanton Parish Council’s Annual Parish Meeting) at Stanton Community Village Hall** to discuss these proposals. Anybody wishing to attend this meeting should contact the Stanton Parish Council Clerk to book a space due to COVID restrictions at the hall: Stantonparishcouncil@gmail.com
Phone: 01359 408759

19 May 2021

9. *Quiet Lanes*
Response to questions/comments raised

Question: *What will be the true impact/benefit of the designation 'Quiet Lane'.*

Response: Although speed limits will not change and there is no additional enforcement as a result of Quiet Lanes designation, relevant signage together with Quiet lanes promotion will identify the areas as shared spaces, raising awareness for all users, and encouraging motorists to drive appropriately, to provide routes that are a safe and enjoyable 'space' for the benefit of all users.

To-date there has been a very positive response by those who have responded to the initial consultation, in favour of the Quiet Lanes designation.

In order to proceed to the next stage, the parish council must give its support to the project: councillors will be making this decision (taking into account the consultation responses) during its meeting on 8th June 2021.

More detailed information including a Q & A section about the Quiet Lanes Suffolk project is available at www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk

(10th June 2021: Clerk's note - At its meeting on 8th June, Bardwell Parish Council resolved to support the Quiet Lanes submission based on the overall positive responses from residents.)

Information supplied after meeting:

The Highway Code rule 218 re: Home Zones and Quiet Lanes. These are places where people could be using the whole of the road for a range of activities such as children playing or for a community event. You should drive slowly and carefully and be prepared to stop to allow people extra time to make space for you to pass them in safety.

Our Village

To say it has been a strange past 14 months for the village is a vast understatement and the pandemic brought changes none of us have ever experienced or wanted.

But on the whole the village coped well, with no serious infection rates and most importantly no fatalities. The Parish Councilors made themselves available to help where they could, one important service which was set up was prescription collection service from Ixworth and Stanton surgeries for villagers who felt vulnerable, this proved a great success, not only this a daily newspaper delivery service was also set up which was again a great success and is still thriving today.

Also a Facebook page was set up on the internet, whilst Facebook might not be everyone's preferred method of communication this did bring a lot of offers of help and advice.

One victim of the pandemic was that all events in the village got cancelled in 2020 and along with both the public houses being shut for long periods as well this was not what we have come to expect in Bardwell over the years.

On a positive note it was very pleasing to see the completion of the new sports pavilion just over a year ago, this is an excellent addition to the village and thanks must be given to the Playing Field Association and also the Sports Club for the relentless pursuit in making this project happen.

Parish Council

The last public meeting of the council was held in The Tithe Barn on March 3rd 2020 since then all meetings apart from April 2020 when there was no meeting have been held virtually online with members of the public allowed access if requested. Whilst not the best way to have meetings it did mean normal services could continue where possible. There were no meetings June/July 2020 or January 2021. Meetings return in public next Tuesday June 1st in The Tithe Barn.

Planning

The Parish Council was consulted by the planning authority on 26 applications, including 12 related to work on trees in a conservation area or covered by tree preservation orders.

Finance

Accounts for the year 2019/20: No matters of concern were raised by the external auditor. The annual audit of the accounts for the financial year 1 April 2020-31st March 2021 is in progress. The Parish Council's external auditors are PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Grants received during 2020/2021 were in relation to the community field. We are grateful to Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer for a grant of £994 towards the allotment sheds also a grant of £1000 from Ward Councillor Andrew Smith towards the sheds.

The precept (which is based on the budget requirements for the year) received during 2020/21 was £15,771 - Band D equivalent £50.74 per year; the precept request has been received for 2021/22: £15,306 band D equivalent unchanged at £50.74 per year.

The total balance of the Parish Councils Accounts on 31 March 2021 was £23,337.72

Community Field

Despite the challenges of the last year or so, the community field project has come on in leaps and bounds, and we beginning to see the end in sight. Very recently the footpaths were completed enabling full access to the whole site. Tree planting has continued at a pace which is now becoming very noticeable. The Parish Council now uses the services of a local contractor to manage the grass cutting on a regular basis. Late in 2020 the Parish Council provided funding so that the play area could be fenced off to make the area safer for parents and young children, also keeping dogs out as well. A local resident kindly donated two benches which have now been installed in the area, other residents funded a third again now installed. The allotments are fully occupied and will soon benefit from sheds kindly funded by grants from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE, District Councillor Andrew Smith. Grant funding has been approved by Havebury Housing Partnership of £8,275.00 towards the community field project, for which we are very grateful.

Highways

It is pleasing to report at long last two flooding issues have been resolved in the village. The first being on The Green where the overflowing pond has been a problem for some while and after relentless pressure from ourselves, the trustees which own The Green and county councillor Joanna Spicer worked finally commenced in June 2020 by Suffolk County Council. The result was some excellent work which I think we can safely say has resolved the problems for many years to come.

Another flooding problem resolved with again with help from Suffolk County Council was the flooding problems by Bardwell Stud, again another excellent job carried out in June 2020 and very pleased to report no flooding in this area during the last winter.

We are aware that gully cleaning around the village is not what it should be as it needs to be done more regularly, and we are actively pursuing this matter.

Parish Council Meetings

These are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month, except in January and August. Members of the public are very welcome to come along. We have a session where the public may ask questions which we will try to answer, but most importantly you can come along and hear what is going on in your village.

Our first meeting in The Tithe Barn for over a year is on June 1st at 7pm.

David Ruffles

Chairman, Bardwell Parish Council

May 2021

11.

Suffolk County Councillor's Report

Firstly I would like to thank the Chairman, Members and Clerk of Bardwell Parish Council for their help, support and advice to me over the last year. I am pleased to have recently been re-elected as the Blackbourn County Councillor and will continue for the next 4 years to work with you and your residents to ensure fair and needed provision of local services.

The last year has clearly not only been challenging for individuals (especially those with health or social difficulties) but also for organisations and businesses. Warm congratulations to our local schools, shops, doctors, pubs and small businesses for keeping up service provision despite the circumstances. Many villages, like yours, provided extra community support.

The successful vaccination programme looks set to help us all on the way to normality – but we should continue to follow government rules and guidance

A brief report about Suffolk County Council

- Following the recent elections we are determined to play a leading role helping Suffolk recover and build a stronger and fairer local economy
- Over the last 4 years we have spent over £1 billion caring for vulnerable residents
- We declared a “climate emergency” and aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. The new household waste site outside Bury St Edmunds is considered a welcome success
- Over 4 years we have re-surfaced 1,000 miles of road and we are now pledging to spend an extra £10m on improving pavements and footpaths and £10m on flood prevention
- Despite spending 75% of our £600 million budget on caring for vulnerable residents we have managed to retain sound financial outcomes and careful use of reserves
- We are planning to plant around 200,000 trees in the next couple of years – to support biodiversity and join the “Canopy”

About service in the local area

- Library at Ixworth has remained open still well led by the IPS. There is a current consultation on a change to the opening hours
- Kept the roads open through unprecedented cold weather but this has meant an increase in flooding – difficult to manage

- However, work as at last been completed to hopefully solve flooding around The Green and along Ixworth Road
- There is some damage to road surfaces from salt treatments and an increase in potholes as a result
- The roundels have now been added in Low Street
- My Locality Budget has been able to help with £1,000 towards the sheds for the allotments on the community field and also I have made a grant for safety equipment at the pond on The Green
- New lower speed limits on the A143 at Stanton will be installed in 2021

The year ahead – big issues for me in Bardwell

- Responding to West Suffolk Council's new draft strategic plan and any implications for Bardwell
- Improving and increasing the footpath network – working with SCC countryside access teams and local landowners
- Supporting schools in Bardwell and in the surrounding villages to ensure their continuing sustainability
- Continuing to work with local community leaders on the development of the Bardwell Community Field and the allotments
- Highways safety and speed management issues
- Outstanding highway works around The Green

Cllr Joanna Spicer

May 2021

Question asked:

There have been previous (unsuccessful) attempts to improve and increase the footpath network in Bardwell. Is there now a plan in place to achieve this?

Response: Cllr Spicer was not present at the meeting to respond.

The chair is unaware of any specific plan at present but it is hoped that progress may be made in the future in association with SCC and landowners, as detailed in Cllr Spicer's report.

12.

West Suffolk District Councillor's Report

Corona Virus has impacted on just about every aspect of our lives in the last 12 months and inevitably it will feature heavily in this report. But I also hope to highlight what else WSC has been doing to maintain normal services as much as possible and progress various significant projects.

As you are aware Government made funding for business grants available during the lock down periods and WSC has been responsible for paying these out. Officers from Families and Communities worked with the Finance department and staff, seconded from other areas, to handle these payments. During the first lockdown these grants were paid out to more than 3,200 businesses in West Suffolk. This work still goes on with the Government making more funds available in this latest lockdown. Locally many businesses have benefitted from these schemes as have our village halls with one off grants of £10,000 during the first lockdown and £4,000 this time. All ward councillors also had their Locality Budget increased by roughly 20% to help with any covid related needs locally.

WSC has worked hard to reduce the number of rough sleepers and households in temporary or emergency accommodation and pre-covid this figure was 83. However with the arrival of Covid and the need to fulfil the Government's 'Everyone In' policy, ensuring people who were rough sleeping or in shared sleeping accommodation were provided with self-contained accommodation thus reducing the risk of COVID 19 infection this figure rose sharply to 149. This led to an unprecedented demand for temporary and emergency housing for people in need of support. The shortfall of availability was managed by installing 15 temporary accommodation units in Olding Road car park in Bury St Edmunds and using B&Bs and hotels.

Ensuring that we remain accessible to the public has been very challenging but remains a priority. At the moment work is going on in relation to the preparation of a new Local Plan and before Christmas there was a Public Consultation. Without the ability to hold public meetings the team had to be more creative and a Virtual Exhibition in a Village Hall setting was created where there were also opportunities to live chat with officers. There was concern because of the lack of face-to-face meetings about the level of engagement that would be achieved but interestingly there were over 2,900 consultation responses far in excess of previous more conventional consultations. So this approach will be taken on board for future consultations in this and other areas.

We have had to embrace new ways of working and move into the realm of virtual meetings. WSC were I believe one of the first councils in the country to hold a

Development Control meeting on-line and also a full Council Meeting. The first of which was somewhat challenging with upwards of 80 people attending including the public and thanks are due to our democratic services officers and IT behind the scenes for making all this possible. Whilst, when we are able to, many of our meetings will return to in-person ones our experiences with virtual meetings have shown us that some meetings are actually more suited to being virtual. The advantages are a better use of time and easier meeting scheduling as there are no travel considerations and in addition they can improve attendance.

Moving away from Corona Virus issues, for a moment, work has been progressing well on other projects:

- The façade retention work on the old Post Office in the Cornhill development has been completed and demolition of the remainder of the building is ongoing;
- The Mildenhall Hub, which brings together a new school for Mildenhall College Academy, new leisure facilities including pools, a health centre, advice centre, children's centre and desk space for Suffolk Police West Suffolk council, and the NHS is on target to open this year;
- WSC also continues to tackle Climate Change. This includes winning 5 national Green Flag status awards for our parks, decreasing our water consumption by 13% since 2010, reducing our mileage by 34%, recycling 54.4 % of our waste and planting 1,500 trees during 2019/2020. One of our councillors has got a pilot project off the ground focussing on a hybrid heat pump scheme and our Environmental Team is building on its success and is working on a presentation that can be shared with other residents and communities to promote it. Vehicle Idling – WSC in conjunction with Cool World Consulting took the message about the need to try and cut harmful toxic emissions from idling vehicles into a number of schools as there is such an issue outside schools. Cool World Consulting using what it has learnt with our project in Suffolk is now launching a national campaign;
- All the while normal services are still being provided to the highest possible standards and there has been national and local recognition of some of our efforts with a number of awards:
- The West Suffolk Operational Hub won the National Construction Award for Best Community Engagement and a Merit Award for Physical Achievement from the Institute of Civil Engineers, East of England;

- Our Democratic Services Team was crowned Team of the Year by the Association for Democratic Service Officers.

Our Waste Services Team was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's special Certificate of Merit for the dedicated service they delivered throughout the pandemic.

It does seem now that there is light at the end of the covid tunnel and we can look forward to returning to some semblance of normal though that will clearly be a different normal in some cases, hopefully with the introduction of better ways of working building on our experiences.

Andrew Smith

West Suffolk District Councillor

25 May 2021

13.

Bardwell Church

GENERAL INFORMATION 2020

Church **St Peter & St Paul**
Address Church Road, Bardwell, Bury St Edmunds, IP31 1AH

Benefice Blackbourne Team
Deanery Ixworth
Diocese St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Stipendiaries Revd. Dr Karen Burton, Team Rector
 The Vicarage, Commister Lane, Ixworth IP31 2HE

Non-stipendiaries
 Revd. Lesley Norburn (Priested 6th September 2020)
 Revd. Sue Nutt (semi-retired)
 Revd. Tony Redman
 Revd. Jill Walker (semi-retired)

Bankers Lloyds TSB plc., Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds
 CAF Bank, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent

Examiner Mr Peter Keast, East Cottage, Barnham, Thetford IP24 2NJ

CHURCH INFORMATION

Electoral Roll

Resident 38
Non-Resident 2
Average weekly adult attendance (all services) 10
Average weekly young persons attendance (normal services) 1

The Parochial Church Council consists of all clergy listed above plus the following elected Lay Members

Churchwardens	Dinkie Williamson (Lay Elder) Julia Steed
Ordinary Members	David Ray Eileen Russell Roberts Andrew Smith Josephine Waters
Secretary	Julia Steed
Treasurer	Simon Waters
Deanery Synod	Dinkie Williamson

Aims and Objectives

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility for the care of the Church building and churchyard and for cooperating with the Team Rector, all the Team Ministry in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Committees of the PCC

Standing Committee: This is required by law. It has power, subject to any directions given by the PCC, to transact the business of the PCC between meetings.

Finance and Buildings Committee: As its name implies, concerns itself with all financial matters and the care of the building and churchyard. It meets as business demands. All are members of the PCC.

Fund-Raising Committee: Arranges, manages and develops fund raising activities for the support of church general funds and meets as required to arrange the year's programme. Membership includes people not on the PCC.

Bardwell Grant Getting Group: As its name implies, concerned itself with seeking grants and working with our chosen architect for the major repair and reordering project.
None of the above committees met during 2020

Associated Committees

Friends of Bardwell Church: Encourages all members of the parish to support our Grade I listed church and its surroundings. Its constitution provides that it is a sub-committee of the PCC and its finances form part of the accounts, but it operates independently of the Fundraising Committee. Membership includes people not on the PCC.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Worship

2020 is the year that COVID-19 reached the UK. This coronavirus pandemic brought many necessary restrictions to our normal activities. Church buildings were closed from Sunday 22nd March in the first national Lockdown and didn't reopen until 4th July. Whilst the buildings were closed, the church certainly wasn't! With many thanks to our Rector, Karen, the clergy team and technology, communion services continued to be streamed via Facebook, at 8am (BCP) and 10am (MW) each Sunday from the homes of our clergy.

A team of our clergy and Lay Elders supported Karen in leading daily services of Morning and Evening Prayer, through Facebook. This took some courage and training by app participants! This technology hasn't suited all and some hiccups have happened; however, these routes have helped us to provide worship opportunities.

Sunday Services and worship: After the closure of churches on the 22nd March, services restarted on 2nd August and then continued for the first Sunday of each month for the rest of the year. Attendance numbers were very low. Given that our worshipping community is mainly in their 70's and were warned as very vulnerable to Covid, this low number is not surprising.

We were delighted to welcome Rev Lesley Norburn as our curate in late September, following her ordination, earlier in September. Lesley has been well known to us from her previous role as a Reader.

Harvest was celebrated on Sunday 4th October, followed by our delayed APCM.

An All-Souls service was held on 1st November and the Service of Remembrance was held on the 8th in the churchyard, around one of our war graves. The service was very well attended, all socially distanced! It was a very moving service and enhanced by a local resident playing the Last Post and Reveille. We may repeat this as an outdoor service in future years.

We were able to sing Carols outside the church, accompanied by Suzy Combes and continued to have a Christmas Eve Crib Service, a 10pm Christmas Eucharist and Christmas Morning Family worship service. Singing of hymns hadn't been allowed since March but it was possible for a soloist to sing. Maddy Combes sang at our crib service which 'lifted' our Christmas worship.

The church was re-opened for Private Prayer twice weekly from August and, finally, opened every day from 9-3pm from October

From the Registers: There was one wedding (29th February), 1 funeral in the church and 6 cremations. There were no baptisms.

Sadly, we said good-bye to some very dear friends who died this year (none from Covid-19): Michael De Lotbiniere, Robert Whybrow and Jo (Joan) Sloan. 4 other village residents died during 2020, one of which was Covid-19 related.

Pastoral Visiting: was limited to doorstep calls and regular phone contact. A key focus of our calls and visits, apart from checking that they were alright, was confirming that they knew what services were available and checking that the Blackbourne Bulletin was being received.

Home Communions: 5 church members received Communion in their homes or gardens, as allowed, across the year.

Coffee Mornings: apart from the two real coffee mornings in February and March, no further coffee mornings could be held as fund raising events for the rest of the year. With restrictions eased in the summer and knowing that people were missing seeing one another, Bring Your Own Coffee mornings were held in the churchyard during August, September and early October. There were well attended until the weather made them too cold for comfort.

Ministry to Children:

Messy Church: In spite of Covid-19 restrictions, this 'met' every 6-8 weeks across most of the year. With the impending March lockdown, the Mothering Sunday Messy church had to be cancelled. From May, Messy Churches were offered by Zoom but with limited success. Zoom wasn't working well for small children. What did work, was going into the church yard where three successful 'Wild' Messy Churches were held: for harvest, remembrance and Advent. The families, helped by their children, made mud-pie creatures, a woodland den and prepared winter food for birds & hedgehog safe havens!

Bardwell CE Primary School: Offering Foundation Governor support to the school with the restrictions has meant that only virtual events could take place. Open the Book has not been possible. A Zoom Christingle service was held, led by Dinkie and Rev Karen and Karen made YouTube films for Collective worship most weeks. Staff have been supported by weekly Zoom phone calls.

The Porch Food Bank: Having had the porch repaired as part of the 2019 project, the PCC decided to offer the now dry and weather-proof church porch as a centre for donations of food for local food banks - from the end of March. People's generosity was overwhelming, and 14-16 bags of food were being donated each week. With people stuck in Lockdown, the porch rapidly also became a book and toy exchange. The food bank has continued all year and by the winter, donations of warm clothing and household goods were also being received.

The PCC has continued to meet and manage usual business, using Zoom

Bardwell Church's website became further established with thanks to Ally Gooderham:

www.bardwellchurch.org.uk

Dinkie Williamson, Lay Elder

The Fabric

The year started with the church shrouded in scaffolding and the 'big' project of urgent repairs and improvements at past the halfway point. It all came together and the project was finished on schedule in the second week of February, allowing a volunteer work party to clean the church and put everything back in its place ready to utilise the new facilities and appreciate the repairs that had been done. The church was then used for just over a month before the Coronavirus pandemic forced its closure in late March. However, good use was made of that limited time with several services, including a wedding and a Service of Thanksgiving for the project led by the Bishop of Dunwich, a visit and lecture by Thurston U3A, a project 'open evening' including a talk on stained glass, and a coffee morning.

The following specific routine maintenance was carried out in 2020:

The electrical installation was tested as part of the 'big' project.

The clock was serviced.

The bells installation had an annual service.

PAT testing was carried out.

The fire extinguishers were serviced.

The oil boiler was serviced.

Our reordering architect visited the church in August to check for 'snagging' and the few items needing attention were addressed.

Just before Christmas, a significant chunk of stone broke off the reredos and fell to the floor. No one was in the church and damage was limited. Our architect, P Orchard, inspected the damage and produced a report which has been used to apply for estimates from contractors. This will be rectified in 2021.

We continue to be blessed by, and very grateful to, the volunteers who continue to help to look after the church and the churchyard. These include the cleaners and flower arrangers who do so much to make the interior of the church so welcoming.

Dave Ray

Churchyard

Due to the Pandemic, Lockdown and Social Distancing it was a very difficult year for organising Churchyard maintenance.

Although we only intended to have a single work-party in late July, so much green waste was produced, too much to remove in one go, a second work-party had to be arranged.

The first work-party was well attended by a band of volunteers who helped with tree and hedge works. The volunteers also cleared a very overgrown area along the boundary wall on the South side of the old burial area.

During the second work-party, more of the undergrowth and Ivy was removed.

Once again, we owe thanks to David Ruffles for transporting the waste to Bury St Edmunds Waste Site.

Inspired by a feature on BBC's Countryfile, about 'Caring for God's Acre', the PCC took the decision to let parts of the Churchyard grow wild in 2020. This included the old graveyard on the North Side and parts of the West side.

While the remaining burial areas were mown and strimmed, as required, the wild areas were only mown to maintain the footpaths.

Several tree works were needed, mostly minor in nature. A tree surgeon was needed to pollard a large sycamore, whose trunk had rotten, from the north west of the old churchyard. A second sycamore had some crown reduction and an overhanging yew, by the Gildhall was reduced.

Barry Felton

Bell Ringers Report

Like every other aspect of life, bell ringing was severely restricted in 2020. When restrictions eased in the summer, four ringers were able to ring for monthly services in September and October, before further lockdowns were imposed.

Quarter Peals had been rung in the early months of the year, and notably in honour of Wing Commander Bryn Lewis who passed away at the end of 2019. A full peal was rung in February to celebrate the completion of the repair and reordering works.

The central council of Church bell ringers is working with the C of E Recovery Group to provide guidance for bellringers and churches to work safely within guidelines.

Meanwhile, ringers continue to meet and ring virtually and we look forward to being able to return to the tower in the not too distant future.

Ruth Suggett (Tower Captain)

The Friends of Bardwell Church

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, 2020 was a quiet year for the Friends. The planned Safari Supper on 28 March was cancelled, as were all the other usual fund-raising events for the year, so our only income was from membership 'subscriptions' and from donations. However, the Friends made a sizeable contribution of £31,000 to the cost of the big project of repairs and improvements in the church which was completed in February 2020.

A 'virtual' Open Gardens featured some lovely colour photographs of gardens in the village which were published in the Bardwell Village News, but this did not generate any income! Two 'socially-distanced' churchyard work parties were held, on 25 July and 8 August which tidied up one area of the churchyard which had been neglected for many years.

Agreement was obtained to migrate the Friends website onto the new Bardwell Church website, which would save the annual cost of the website on One Suffolk; updated information was provided to the webmaster, but unfortunately the migration had not been effected by the end of the year.

Dave Ray (Chairman, Friends Committee)

Fund Raising for the Church's annual costs

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions necessary for managing the Coronavirus, no fundraising events were able to take place after the national lockdown in late March. We missed both the income and the opportunity for social gatherings in our usual coffee mornings, Summer Fete, Harvest Supper and Christmas Fair. Two excellent Coffee mornings did take place; for Shrove Tuesday and in early March, in the church, with our new facilities. We greatly look forward to welcoming our community back, using our new kitchen facilities, just as soon as possible!

Deanery Report

The Deanery Theme 2020 was 'The call to serve in the church in the Countryside'. The first Synod of 2020 took place on February 12th when Archdeacon David Jenkins spoke about 'the calling to be a Churchwarden - the realities and the myths'. Two churchwardens spoke, one with several years of experience and a fairly new churchwarden. Discussion followed and training for new church wardens was planned to take place after the APCM elections. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, this training could not happen.

There were no further Deanery Synod Meetings this year.

A Message of thanks from Rev Katherine Valentine, Rural Dean, was sent to all Deanery Reps. in November, to thank them for the work of the PCC's in their parishes.

The Archdeacon's Parochial Visitations 2020 did not take place in the Blackbourne Benefice as planned because of coronavirus restrictions. These will be carried forward to the summer of 2021.

Dinkie Williamson, Deanery Representative

Treasurer's Report

Income:

-Fundraising

This is an essential part of the church's income but 2020 saw the percentage of fundraising income fall from 20% of Unrestricted income in 2019 to 6%. This 6% was achieved entirely in the first three months of 2020 so underlines the scale and importance of this form of income.

-Collections at Services

No (or far fewer) services in church meant this source of income effectively disappeared from March onwards, reducing income from this source by around £800 over the year. Services in church are important for the financial side of the Church, though the collection plate can be overlooked when income reviews are undertaken.

Utilising the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS) means the PCC can claim the tax back on all anonymous donations collected at services. A reduction in service collections in one year will mean a reduction in the GASDS claim.

-Donations

While donations overall are slightly down on 2019 this is more a result of fewer donations received as part service collections and at fundraising events, though a few people opted to make donations to the church as they were unable to give at a service, so some of this is just a shift in where the income is reported. Several very generous donations were made to the church in 2020 with some being for specific purposes. What is noticeable and laudable is that the level of general donations has remained high. This is a credit to the community and highlights the importance of the alternative donation methods now being employed. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is one such alternative method. It is a way for people to give regularly to the church via direct debit. The PGS claim the Gift Aid on behalf of the church on a monthly basis which means this income is received by the church monthly, rather than annually, usually in the following year. Giving via this method has increased during 2020 and this will form an important part of future stewardship of the church.

The PCC have also set up a Just Giving Page via Parish Resources, including a QR code, to enable easier giving via mobile phones. We hope this will encourage donations, particularly at fund raising events or from visitors.

-Grants

The PCC receives grant funding from a range of sources and 2020 saw an increase in certain grants in response to Covid-19. In 2020 the PCC received significant grant funding from the Parish Council for churchyard grass cutting, several grants towards the Repair and Development Project and a one-off grant of £3,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the church's Insurance.

-Gift Aid

Gift Aid and GASDS payments were received for donations paid in 2019.

GASDS should not be overlooked by donors or event organisers, for example, GASDS can be claimed on any donations/collections made within the church building, whether at a service, fundraising event or by visiting Ringing groups.

Any Gift Aid received on a 'Restricted' donation is recorded against the same purpose as the original donation.

Expenditure:

-Parish Share

In 2020 Bardwell paid £9,100 towards the Parish Share: £6,800 for 2020 plus a £2,300 top-up for 2019. A further £1,290 was available for Parish Share but rolled forwards for the 2021 commitment. This fulfilled the PCC's commitment to the Diocese and wider Church.

The PCC is committed to contributing to the Church and needs to in order to ensure we continue to have a Rector for Bardwell and has managed to maintain this during this difficult year which is commendable.

-Insurance

This cost just over £2,600 in 2020 and is the single biggest regular expense after the Parish Share. The insurance covers the church building and contents, covering Public and Employee Liability (includes volunteers). The insurance covers all services, fundraising events and those attending the same, but it places certain requirements on the PCC to ensure we operate safely and within appropriate laws, such as testing of electrical appliances, the lightning rod and fire appliances such as extinguishers.

-Utilities

The utility costs were up on 2019 because of the feed-through of electricity use related to the Project, with larger than normal bills being applied in January and February.

Designated Funds:

The PCC has designated part of the Unrestricted Fund for the Project and part as a Reserve. However, there was a need to transfer some of the Designated Funds back into the Unrestricted Fund. Plans are in place to address these causes and it is the intention to re-Designate funds as and when possible.

Simon Waters, PCC Treasurer

Other Interests of the PCC:

The Tithe Barn

The PCC, with the Diocese, is the beneficial owner of the Bardwell Village Hall (the Tithe Barn) and has granted a lease to the Tithe Barn Committee for a small annual ground rent, which may be subject to periodic reviews as specified in the lease. The PCC reserves, in the lease, rights of use without charge under certain circumstances. At the PCC meeting, 17 June 2020, It was noted that the Tithe Barn lease has been renewed for a further 42 years. With 5 years remaining, the Tithe Barn lease now lasts for 47 years. The confirmatory document has yet to be received from the Diocesan Registrar.

Other Responsibilities of Church Members

The Rector and Churchwardens are, *ex officio*, trustees of the three Bardwell Charities.

The Rector and Churchwardens are, *ex officio*, managing trustees of Bardwell School and House (currently 'leased' to the Tilian Academy).

Dinkie Williamson (Churchwarden and Lay Elder) is Co-chair and the PCC's appointed member of the School Governance Committee of Bardwell CE Primary School, acting, locally, as a 'Foundation Governor'.

Julia Steed (Churchwarden) is Co-chair of the School Governance Committee of Bardwell CE Primary School and newly elected by the PCC as a second Foundation Governor.

Andrew Smith (PCC member) represents the PCC on the Tithe Barn Committee

Dave Ray (PCC member) is the elected Chairman of Friends of Bardwell Church.

April 2021

On behalf of the PCC

Lay Chairman

Dinkie williamson

Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020 is in respect of an examination carried out under the Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the Terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounting and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 42 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997.

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr Peter Keast Examiner

East Cottage

Barnham, Thetford IP24 2NJ

Date : 26 March 2020.....

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 Accounting Policies of the Parochial Church Council

The financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 ["The Regulations"] using the Receipts and payments basis.

Funds

General funds represent the fund of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statements of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statements of Assets and Liabilities:

- Moveable church furnishings held by churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal
- Lands and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1000.
- Amounts owing from HM Revenue and Customs where a formal claim has been made.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December 2006 by the PCC
- Investments held beneficially by the PCC

Closing bank balances as shown in the Receipts and Payments Account

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Any loan or overdraft advanced to the PCC.
- Any arrears of Diocesan Quota or Parish Share.

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December 2019.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 December 2020

	<i>Funds ...</i>	<i>Unrestricted Fund</i>	<i>Designated Funds Total</i>	<i>Restricted Funds Total</i>	<i>All Funds Total</i>	<i>All Funds Total 2019</i>
Income						
1 - Tax Efficient Planned Giving		£2,025.01		£440.00	£2,465.01	£2,334
2 - Other Planned Giving						£120
3 - Other Collections at Services		£279.49			£279.49	£1,161
4 - All Other Recurring & One-off Giving/Donations		£4,338.59		£1,067.72	£5,406.31	£6,237
6 - Gift Aid Reclaimed		£2,600.96		£1,688.35	£4,289.31	£93
7 - Legacies						£8
8 - Grants Recurring & Non-Recurring				£95,733.73	£95,733.73	£67,254
9 - Fundraising Gross Income		£865.70		£432.49	£1,298.19	£6,658
10 - Property, Investment & Interest Income		£129.34			£129.34	
11 - PCC Fees		£501.00		£480.00	£981.00	£2,518
12 - Trading Income		£6.60			£6.60	£21
13 - Other Income				£35,501.42	£35,501.42	£1,456
Transfers between Funds		£4,000.00	£5,000.00	£40,373.43	£49,373.43	£5,000
Total Income		£14,746.69	£5,000.00	£175,717.14	£195,463.83	£92,860
Expenditure						
17 - Fundraising Costs		£24.00		£0.00	£24.00	£4,000
18 - Mission Giving, Charitable Grants/Donation		£15.00		£436.25	£451.25	£1,360
19 - Parish Share		£9,100.00			£9,100.00	£6,000
20 - Salaries/Honoraria		£140.00		£190.00	£330.00	£610
21 - Clergy Expenses		£800.00		£260.00	£1,060.00	£1,019
22 - Mission/Evangelism Costs				£2,853.92	£2,853.92	£3,637
23 - Curch Running Expenses		£907.54		£5,812.01	£6,719.55	£6,078
24 - Utility Bills		£1,637.91		£278.24	£1,916.15	£1,105
25 - Trading Costs						
27 - Major Repairs/Redecoration to church				£168,973.49	£168,973.49	£79,008
28 - Major Repairs/Redecoration to Church Property						
29 - New Building Work						
Transfers between Funds		£5,000.00	£13,373.43	£31,000.00	£49,373.43	£5,000
Total Expenditure		£17,624.45	£13,373.43	£209,803.91	£227,428.36	£107,817
Income less Expenditure		-£2,877.76	-£8,373.43	-£34,086.77	-£31,964.53	-£9,956
Funds at start		£4,825.10	£14,514.70	£39,524.05	£58,863.85	£73,840
Accounts reconciliation					£241.24	
Funds at end		£1,947.34	£6,141.27	£5,437.28	£13,284.65	£58,864
Bank Balances at End					£13,284.65	£58,864

14.

Bardwell Charity Trustees

Verbal report submitted to meeting

The Trustees will be holding an Open meeting on a Saturday morning during September (date to be confirmed). The Trustees hope that this will provide an opportunity for village residents to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the Trust. All will be welcome.

The Trustees are very grateful to Kathie Bull who has served as a Trustee for ten years. When Kathie became a Trustee she lived in the village, where she also served as a Parish Councillor. Despite moving from the village a couple of years ago, Kathie continued as a Trustee and, having completed her second 'term of office,' has now stood down from the this role.

Littlemore Green came through this winter quite well, and without the issues of flooding thanks to the drainage work across the Green. The Trustees are grateful to Suffolk County Council and for the work by Joanna Spicer, as well as the support from the Parish council in getting this work completed.

There remains some remedial work to be done by the round pond, which we expect to complete soon. Trustees hope you agree that Littlemore Green does look in very good condition, and we look forward to some fine weather for the Cars on the Green event this coming weekend.

Tony Stokes

Bardwell Charity Trustees

Comment received following report:

David Ruffles: "I have to agree, the green has never looked so good. Although we have not had the fair this year, but it is good."

Question: Who is now Chair of the Trustees?

Response: A decision will be made at the next meeting of the Trustees. In the meanwhile, questions may be directed to Barry Felton who, as vice chair, is acting chair in the interim period.

End of reports

