Minutes of the Annual Smisby Parish

Meeting 10th May 2022

Smisby Parish Council Attendance: Councillors Rushman (Chairman), Taft, Cuming and Das. Parish Clerk Caroline Crowder

Members of the public and other organisations: District Councillor Haines, County Councillor Muller and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Brooke and District Councillor Churchill.

- 2. <u>Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda</u>
 None.
 - 3. Approval of Minutes from Smisby Parish Council Meeting held on 6th May 2021

Resolved, all Councillors approved and the Chairman signed the minutes.

4. Public Questions and Comments

A member of the public wished to thank you to Councillor Taft and County Councillor Muller for getting potholes repaired.

5. Reports from Local Groups/Organisations

a. Smisby WI

During the First World War, the Women's institute was introduced to Britain from Canada in 1915 to encourage country women to grow and preserve food to help feed people during W1 Llanfair PG on Anglesey, North Wales was the first WI to be formed on September 16th, 1915, with the National Federation of Women's Institutes as the governing body. Smisby WI held its inaugural meeting in November 1934 with the first general meeting held here which was known as the Church Room at 6.30.p.m. on the 17th of December 1934 where it was proposed and seconded that a Women's Institute should be formed in the village and known as The Smisby Women's Institute, Miss Hewitt was elected and served as President for the next 48 years. Many events have taken place since the first meeting held on January 17th,

1935, where twenty-four members were present, notably the second world war, when many WI's up and down the country did their bit for the war effort. There were no emails Wi-Fi and instant communications like there is now but WIs pulled together like Smisby WI making jam, taking in evacuees, and raising money for the Red Cross. Meetings and gatherings could still take place and if food was available, they could certainly have Christmas parties. How different the last two years have been, we were all told to stay at home and not to meet anyone outside our family circle, work from home and certainly no mixing or having Christmas parties. We all did our bit even if only in a small way, shopping for some of our members who were classed as vulnerable, making phone calls to stay connected and of course sending out emails every day with jokes, recipes, and poems sent in by members to share with others. Zoom was the next thing to tackle and some of us did but oh how lovely that from May 2021 we were able to have our meetings once again here in Smisby Village Hall. We celebrated our belated 85th birthday in July with Lesley Smith giving an inspiring talk about Peggy Knight an SOE spy in the second world war who was parachuted into France to help the resistance fighters. We continue with our monthly meetings and speakers plus additional event for members to

enjoy, we have a thriving membership of sixty with a waiting list of ladies wishing to join. I will close my report now and hope you have enjoyed this potted history of Smisby Women's Institute.

Written and presented by Suzanne Jones Secretary Smisby WI.

b. Smisby Allotment News.

We currently have a full complement of plots rented out and the turnover of plot holders has reduced such that the plot owners are now quite a stable community. We have a waiting list of potential tenants and have been able to pay funds to the parochial charity - who own the field – for the last 3 years. We have had a couple of communal days over the last 18 months to do maintenance and refreshment which have been well supported and very effective. We will advertise our next communal day if anyone would like to come along and see what we are doing.

c. Ashby Camera Club

Continue to benefit from the top-class facilities provided by the Smisby Village Hall. We would like to thank the village hall committee and Karen for all their hard work coping with the pandemic and subsequent re-opening. At the end of May, we will be starting our summer programme and will be out and about until September, when we plan to restart our use of the hall. We hope the camera club adds to the diversity of activities provided for residents of Smisby and the surrounding area and are always happy to welcome new members. We wish all the other hall users' good luck with their future activities

d. Ashby Art Club Report

Ashby Art Club returned to normal with weekly meetings on Monday evenings and also running a twice monthly morning session, as shown on the Club programme of the website, see https://www.ashbyartclub.org/programme. New members are most welcome. Outdoor sketching and demonstrations have restarted and painting sessions are also reported on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/ashbyartclub/ Members had an extremely successful 2022 Easter Art Exhibition, which was held at Ticknall village hall. There was a record number of sales.

The Chairman, declared the meeting closed.

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Signed:	Musuuan	Date:	14.3.25