**Minutes of an Annual Meeting of Paston Village**

held on Thursday 8th May 2025 in St Margaret’s Church, at 7.00 pm.

**Present**: Nicholas Bardswell, Boo Tumber, Maggie Brett, Ashlee Cotter, Jessel Manricks , Cllr Ed Maxfield (NCC), Cllr Pauline Porter (NNDC), Dee Holroyd, clerk.

**1** **Apologies for Absence**: Denise Mckeough

**2 Parish Council Chairmans Report:**

NB said that while he had nothing significant to add to the previous year’s report. Paston continued to be an interesting place in which to live due to the church with its wall paintings and historic connections, the great barn, several interesting houses, the pond with its wildlife, the windmill, the playground, all within the village.

**3. Reports from village organisations:**

Paston Community Group: was continuing to receive support from the sale of plants and flowers. This year the number of hanging baskets created to order would boost the income and some vegetables would be grown. These to be sold locally at affordable prices. NB expressed the appreciation of the village for the very hard work being done by Denise McKeough and Maggie Brett, who put in many hours growing and selling plants.

Paston Parochial Church Council: NB did not have a lot to report. The church is available for use for a variety of events but is not being used as much as it should be.

We have a new group rector, Dr Sally Myers, who has a relaxed and welcoming style. Her innovations seem to be being well received, and it is noticeable that some younger people are joining the predominantly elderly group congregations.

Paston Heritage Society: nothing to report, there are no members any more, just a small committee.

Sir William Paston Charity: A survey has been carried out following which damp proofing and insulation works are planned for which a specification has been drawn up. The charity’s governing document has been updated with approval from the Charity Commission so that i) the cottages now have the status of alms houses and ii) the charity can also carry out charitable functions generally in Paston. The trustees had fully investigated (as they were legally obliged to do) their predecessor trustees’ diversion of funds and had given a report to the Almshouses Association, the Charity Commission and (as directed by the Charity Commission) the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. There could be a prosecution but It was thought unlikely.

**4. Open Meeting:**

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm