

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2017 AT 6.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Mr J Sheringham, Mr R James (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mr A Lake, Mrs E Spratt, Mrs Jane Harding (representative from Women's Institute, County Councillor M Kiddle-Morris and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk to the Parish Council

**1. Welcome and to accept Apologies for Absence**

Mr James welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence at this evening's meeting were received from Dist. Cllr E Gould.

**2. To confirm minutes of Meeting of Parish held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

Mr Lake proposed the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Mr Sheringham, carried, and so Mr James signed the minutes.

**3. To report on any matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**4. To receive reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor**

Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported as follows:-

There had been a £21m overspend in a few areas and a rise of 3% has been allowed for adult social care. £30m savings have been made. Children's Services used to be inadequate but are better now. The next Ofsted inspection should result in 'Good'. There are 1100 children looked after in Norfolk and the cost is huge. 89% of schools are classed as Good. A great deal of money is spent on new schools because of the baby boom 5 years ago. £370m a year is spent on adult social care. Some schemes help people live in their own homes rather than residing in residential homes. Many elderly people have some sort of 'care package'. The Parish Partnership Scheme is still going and some Parishes now have trods in place. Bids have to be submitted by the end of December. Better Broadband for Norfolk has 87% coverage in Norfolk. By 2020 95% of residents should have faster Broadband. Anyone receiving less than 2 megabytes will be investigated. Norfolk County Council is now Conservative controlled as in May the results were 55 Conservative, 17 Labour, 12 Lib. Dems. and 1 Independent.

Dist Cllr Gould had created a report which will be attached to the minutes. A couple of points to mention are that there is to be a meeting soon regarding the Local Plan. Many residents now have a brown bin for garden waste.

**5. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The main points of the report were as follows:-

Parish Councillors have joined and left over the year but there is a small core of long serving members, doing a good job. Emma Spratt has recently joined and it is hoped others will be recruited soon. One ongoing task is to monitor planning applications and make recommendations regarding the suitability of the proposed development. This year many applications have been submitted. The bus shelter project is ongoing and funding has been secured from the Dudgeon Wind Farm project. The A47 is managed by Highways England, not Norfolk County Council which has delayed matters. Our attempt at securing an A47 crossing installed was not successful. The village sign was renovated and milestones should be renovated when the weather improves.

Two defibrillators were acquired, one is outside the Canary & Linnett pub and the second will shortly be installed. There is now an additional dog/litter bin at the village hall. The Parish Council continues to work with the Highways Department to have repairs and footways cleared when necessary.

**6. To receive reports from organisations connected to the village**

Mrs Jane Harding read out a report for the Women's Institute and the main points were as follows:-

There are 24 members and the group meets monthly. Speakers have attended and the subjects have included Life on a Narrow boat, Costumes for the stage, The Landmark Trust and Robert Toppe the Marcer. There is a monthly competition. There are 4 special interest groups enjoying quilting, decoupage, local history and art. The Quilting group was so successful that a second sewing group has started. There are 2 social events, 1 in the summer and 1 at Christmas. Several outings took place throughout the year. The W.I. is pleased with the ongoing improvements to the village hall but in winter the heating is slow to warm the room and the lighting is insufficient. So meetings take place in the afternoon or at people's homes.

The Church report stated that the churches are in good repair and both are open. Revd Canon Heather Butcher has been in post for over a year. A new benefice has been created with the Gressenhall Group looked after by Revd Julia Hemp to create 'The Benefice of Launditch and The Upper Nar' group consisting of 19 parishes. These are looked after by Revd Butcher and Revd Hemp and also supported by lay readers. Services are once a month. From June onwards there will be a change in the times of the services at both churches, which will now be at 11 a.m. Thanks to the Parish Council for their support in paying for the cutting of the church yards.

The Fransham Relief in Need Charity distributed 13 grants to beneficiaries within the parishes of Great and Little Fransham.

Although the Police were not present, the Clerk was able to report that since March there had only been one crime committed, a burglary in Lime Tree Crescent.

The Village Hall reported that the hall is in good order, enjoying regular bookings and fund raised with a successful Summer Fete, Harvest Supper and Church Christmas Service. The bank account is very healthy with £5,520.00. The hall has had some small repairs done, the floor in the main hall has been repaired but needs to be stained. The Committee had a spring clean and curtains were removed as they are not fire proof. Light switches are to be changed from dimmers to normal. There is now a disabled toilet and new flooring will be fitted in the kitchen and toilets.

**7. To discuss any future village plans**

The seat on the main road is in a bad condition. Mr Lake will look at it to see if it can possibly be repaired. The bus shelter project is ongoing,

**8. To discuss briefly the draft Parish Council accounts for year ending 33.03.17**

This item was not discussed.

**9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**10. To set the date and time for next year's Annual Parish meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 6.30 p.m.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr James, declared the meeting closed at 7.03 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

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Chairman

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Date