

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall 17th April 2018

Chairman Bob Grindrod opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Present

Councillors Bob Grindrod, Bill Musson, Michael Spinks, Mike Kirkham, Doreen Snelling, John Haschak, and 23 parishioners and visitors

1. Apologies

Jo Coplestone and Tom Garrod tendered their apologies.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 10th April 2017

Accepted as a true record and signed by Bob Grindrod as Chairman of this meeting.

3. Broadland District Council report, Jo Coplestone – report read out as follows:

In my March report I talked about ‘District Direct’ a scheme which works with the hospital to aid the discharge of patients, by putting plans in place to prevent re-admission. The ‘Handyperson Service’ has been an integral part of this scheme and aims to help any Broadland resident over 65 (or those of any age who are registered blind, on incapacity benefit, personal independence payment, disability living or attendance allowance) with small repairs and minor adaptations as well as help to make your home safer & secure.

Examples of the work undertaken are: fitting locks, security fixing and key safes, basic repairs such as mending a dripping tap, free fire risk assessments and fitting smoke alarms, as well as fitting hand grab rails. A ‘low level adaptation grant’ is available for most of these Handyperson services and to find out more please phone 01603 430518.

The feasibility study between Broadland & South Norfolk Councils is continuing well with the successful bid for £220,000 from the governments planning delivery fund, which will set up at least 20 community planning groups across the two districts. The priority areas of collaborative working are to drive economic development, housing growth in major strategic sites & joint commercial activities.

The final section of the Northern Distributor Road was completed and opened on 11th April (DN: delayed again to 16th April), after bad winter weather delayed works. The Western Link which will connect the A47 to the A1067 is now one our county’s top infrastructure priorities to provide a circular route around Norwich. Technical work is ongoing to provide a set of preferred options for public consultation in Autumn 2018.

County Councillor, Tom Garrod

Tom Garrod sent in his Annual Report which can be viewed on the Parish Council website

4. Chairman’s Report – presented by Bob Grindrod

Bob Grindrod thanked all those who have served on the Parish Council this year. He also thanked both clerks and Sue Osler who takes care of our new and developing website.

There are vacancies on the Parish Council so anyone who is interested was invited to get in touch.

Bob reported that traffic issues have been reported in the village as far back as 1950. Community Speedwatch – a shared activity with our neighbours and friends in Horstead – has been restarted.

There are currently 11 active volunteers, but more would be welcome. Speedwatch is a long-term project – cars still speed in the village. However, our activity means far greater police and safety camera presence and growing numbers of drivers are finding to their cost that speeding can be expensive.

The new SAM2 sign, shared with Horstead, also diligently records the speeds of vehicles passing by and provides evidence to both Police and Highways that further action is needed.

Perhaps the most visible new addition to the village this year was the phone mast. For most people the prospect of a better phone signal outweighed the obvious downside. It also brought much needed capital funds to the village. The O2 service is live on the mast. The Vodafone service is not yet live.

Housing development in the parish has been a major issue this year. In May, in the face of strenuous opposition from the Parish Council, Broadland District Council gave outline permission for 30 new houses on Rectory Road. In January this year, further site proposals were brought forward. It was good to see so many parishioners coming out to express their objections at a village meeting in February, and over 300 signed a petition against further development. We now await the next response from the Councils. In the meantime, the Parish Council will continue to seek sustainable development within settlement limits in the parish and object to questionable development when appropriate.

On a brighter note, Norfolk County Council will match-fund our Safer Crossing solution at Ling Way, bringing an additional £14,000 or so to the village. Local road-based businesses have been approached for donations too and Longwater Gravel and Starling Haulage have so far offered support.

The primary school is having a big push on healthy living this month, including encouragement to walk to school. The school will also have its own allotment in future alongside the pre-school.

Anyone who can help should contact Deputy Head Sara Ward at the school.

In November, a weekend of activities to commemorate the end of the First World War is planned. This is being organised jointly with Horstead Parish Council and the Royal British Legion. Bob Jennings will be leading. If all goes according to plan then we will be part of a large number of communities linking together across the country with lit beacons to mark this occasion.

The coming year will bring a lot of work behind the scenes. The Parish Council will work with the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity and with the clubs who use facilities to try and address a simple truth – our facilities cost more to run than they make in income, and have done so for several years now, and that has to change.

The Parish Council is also open to new ideas or the rekindling of old ideas – if anyone would like to promote a village fete, a produce show, a Christmas fair, more flower displays in the village then we would wish to help where we can. Communities need to spend time together enjoying themselves and the modern world of technology and risk assessments and insurance costs can work against that. If you have ideas and energy, come and talk to us or even better, come and join us!

5. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity

The Directors of the Charity thanked all hirers and the Parish Council for their continued support of the village facilities. Special thanks went to the Pre School and Bure Valley Football who have helped to improve the facilities. With the help of insurance, repairs following a burst water tank at the changing rooms are underway, but it will be several weeks before the building is in use again. Thanks went to Ted and his team for overseeing the work and ensuring the games went ahead. Congratulations were passed to the Cricket club following a successful season.

It was reported that this has been a challenging year with many maintenance costs, some due to the age of the buildings and others due to vandalism. Repairing vandalism means less money is available to update the buildings.

Drivers were reminded to keep disabled parking areas clear for those who need them.

Reports from village organisations

The Marlpit. Paul Thomas reported that from the June edition the Marlpit is going to be produced in colour. This will help secure the future of the Magazine as it is something a lot of advertisers are asking for, and investigations show that the cost is not going to increase significantly. The cut-off date for articles to be included is likely to be earlier.

The Marlpit is welcoming people to use the magazine to air their views, the Marlpit team will also be available to investigate issues and write up articles.

Mr Thomas thanked the Parish Council for their donations. He also asked for more volunteers, especially mentioning the need for people to be involved in delivering, compilation and reporting.

Tree Wardens. Peter Croot reported on a busy year. In the Autumn, the wardens (Peter, Michael S. with support from Bill M. and 2 parishioners) planted daffodils on the Commons with children from the Primary School. Peter and Bill also worked with the Guides to place nesting boxes on Ling Common, in which birds have already started to nest. Several surveys

have taken place on the Commons, including a BioBlitz by the Bure Valley Conservation Group (BVCG) and a follow-up visit from Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Volunteers have kept the community orchard in fine condition, and Anne Cryer (local wildflower expert) has supported widespread wildflower seeding in the orchard. BVCG have provided wonderful support, and it is hoped we can maintain our relationship in supporting the orchard in future. Tree wardens have supported the Parish Tree Survey and the tree surgeons tasked with subsequent works. There is some concern about the future of Tree Warden schemes in the County, and at least one district has lost theirs. The Parish Council is asked to monitor the situation and to provide support in future if necessary. Concern was also expressed about the future of the Bure Valley Railway path and further details are awaited. There is significant investment of time and money over the years in tree planting along this path, which we should monitor closely.

Lunch Club – New members continue to join the club. Many lunchtimes the club is almost up to maximum hall capacity (max 40 diners). The majority of the food is produced in-house and some is sourced from the allotments. Members come from Coltishall and Horstead, with a pick-up service for some members. Thanks went to all those who help out, especially the lead cook, Di Smith, and those who do the food preparation and the washing up.

Broadgrace church – John Hindley reported as follows:

With a new permanent base in the River Rooms, Broadgrace Church is enjoying being part of the Coltishall community. Highlights of the year include a steady growth in members. Two new community groups allow mid-week gatherings. Sunday services are attended by all ages. A successful summer club was held in Buxton Primary school. The Tiddler and Toddler is held every first and third Wednesday of the month and is very well attended. Since Christmas, services have been held at St Mary's care home. All offices in the River Rooms are now let and a good partnership with 'A Piece of Cake' is in place. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Cricket. The Cricket season begins on 26th April. 2017 was a good season with the team winning the league. Petty damage to the building especially the windows is disheartening. Most players are in the 30-60 age group, younger players would be most welcome as would spectators.

Pre-school. There are 24 children currently attending pre-school, with 3 permanent members of staff and others working casually when required. The children are enjoying the new outdoor areas and there are plans to develop it further. The children have been on a trip to Wroxham Barns to learn about the needs of baby animals as part of their growth and change topic. Next terms plans include a trip to the church and visits to the allotments along with a family beach trip.

Financially the Pre-school is in a good position thanks to careful management and a lot of fundraising by staff, committee and carers. Going forwards the Pre-school would like to extend into the lounge area of the Hall which would require extra funds for refurbishment.

Bure Valley Girls' Football. Ted McCarter reported that they are hoping the refurbishment will be completed before September. Antisocial behaviour is costing CAST money and he asked for CCTV to be considered. Fund raising is going well with a £1000 community grant being awarded by Aviva, £1500 being donated by the Parish Council and a further request being put to the Football Association. The club has been awarded the FA charter standard. The newly launched Kittens team are doing well, as is the U12 team. Further teams are in the pipeline including a lady's team, another kittens team and a boys U12 team. Thursday evening training is going well. The club thanked CAST and the Parish Council for their support.

Coltishall Allotment Association Bill Dickson reported that the site is looking much better, all plots are now let and there is great enthusiasm amongst the plot holders. Going forwards they would like to be able to provide more water lines and improve security. A request was made to nearby residents to stop putting waste materials through their hedges.

Rev Chris Englesen advised that the **Good Neighbour scheme** currently has 20 volunteers who help with the practical needs of parishioners – i.e. lifts, company, social activities and outings. Chris thanked all those involved. **St John the Baptist Church** holds monthly family services and is involved in 'open the book' school visits. JAM meets weekly. The Church is open to visitors every day. Chris thanked

the Red Lion for assisting with extra parking in the field by the Church. Chris also thanked Joan for looking after the Church Rooms, taking bookings and running the lunch club.

HMP Bure - Mr Simon Rhoden, Governor, reported that since the prison opened in 2009 it has striven to be a good neighbour. It is currently home to 650 men and employs 250 staff and 50 contractors. As part of Project Cloud residents have produced 2 booklets about the RAF centenary. Copies of these were handed out and more are available on request.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm and was followed by a Parish Council Meeting. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 8th May 2018 in the Church Rooms at 7.30pm