

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Church Rooms 9 April 2019

Chairman Bill Musson opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Present

Councillors Bill Musson, Michael Spinks, Doreen Snelling, John Haschak, Campbell Jones, Brian Getley James Matthews and 9 parishioners and visitors

1. Apologies

Jo Coplestone, Bob Grindrod, Chris Englesen, Kevin Fisher, Ted McCarter and Bill Dickson tendered their apologies.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 17 April 2018

Accepted as a true record and signed by Bill Musson as Chairman of this meeting.

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

March has been a very busy month with our council's collaboration project with the appointment of our senior management team which will support both Broadland & South Norfolk Councils. To date three directors & four assistant directors have been appointed and it is hoped further appointments will be completed by June 2019. As well as driving financial efficiencies our Managing Director believes the new structure will build resilience for the future in our strategic growth agenda of our combined area.

David Allfrey, highways & project manager from Norfolk County Council came to address council at the end of March. County Council in partnership with Broadland, South Norfolk & Norwich City Councils have made an application to the Department for Transport as part of the Transforming Cities Fund, which would be a huge boost for public transport and promote intra-city connectivity. The fund aims to make it easier for people to access jobs, training and retail, and also aims to respond to issues around air quality.

In September 2018, Greater Norwich was one of 10 city areas shortlisted to apply for a share of the £840m grant, and there could be a further boost as Greater Norwich was shortlisted amongst 12 city areas to bid for a further £1.2bn total fund. The 'Transport for Norwich team' is now working with the Department for Transport on detailed proposals to put forward for funding through the project. It highlights three strategic routes to support the Norwich Research Park, Broadland Business Park and the airport industrial estate, each with a focus on where they meet the city centre.

4. Chairman's Report – presented by Bill Musson

I would like to begin by sincerely thanking my colleagues for their help and support during my short tenure as chairman. Thanks also to Suzanne for making sure I did not stray too far from the path and Sue Stevenson for managing the website.

As always it has been a challenging 12 months, changes in personnel have not helped carry forward certain projects as quickly as I would have liked. The council is still not up to full strength which makes achieving goals in a timely manner very difficult. So this would be an appropriate moment to ask yet again for some new volunteers from our community to come forward and serve on the council.

I think it is fair to say that our community speed watch programme has been a success. I would like to especially thank Campbell Jones for managing our SAM2 camera and publishing the data it has collected. Thanks to all the team members too for standing on the roadside in all weathers making our village safer. We are always on the lookout for new team members and we also need a new coordinator as a matter of urgency if this initiative is to continue.

New grass and hedge cutting contracts have been agreed for the next three years. All work highlighted in the last parish tree report has also been completed. The biggest project was getting the allotment hedge back down to manageable proportions after years of neglect.

The multi use games area has presented the biggest challenge. Since its installation noise and nuisance issues have been a constant problem for neighbours and other users of adjacent facilities. Thanks largely to John, Brian and James, I believe we are now making real progress to alleviate these problems. Work is ongoing and updates will be provided at future meetings.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan poses the biggest threat to our community. The opening of the northern distributor road and development to the north of Coltishall has increased traffic through the village by 20% making certain roads extremely dangerous. Development sites earmarked for the village will compound our problems as there is no sign of commensurate infrastructure improvements thus it is no coincidence that this subject causes most concern to parishioners. The PC has consistently tried to resist development that does not benefit our community.

The Council has been working closely with the village hall and recreation ground charity in an attempt to make their facilities financially viable, this has proved to be extremely challenging and there is still some way to go. Plans to improve the village hall are in hand and it is hoped a grant/match funding arrangement will make significant funds available to undertake this work.

Finally I would also like to mention how impressive the events to commemorate the end of the great war were. Thanks to Bob Jennings, The British Legion and Horstead Parish Council - the organisation was superb especially at the beacon lighting event on lower common. I have never seen so many people at a village event.

5. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity – Presented by Doreen Snelling

The Directors would like to thank all the hirers for their support over the last year. The hirers to date are Coltishall & Horstead Preschool, Rainbows, Brownies, Vibe Fitness, Short Mat Bowls, Dancezenery, Cricket, Football and Bowls clubs. A new exercise class is due to start at the end of April.

This has been a challenging year with many maintenance costs, some due to vandalism, others due to the age of the buildings. By repairing such items there is less money to update the buildings. We now have a CCTV system installed which should deter future vandalism. Hopefully with a grant from Broadland District Council soon we can update the village hall.

Our thanks go to the Preschool, Trudy, Michelle, Amanda and the team for all their hard work in helping the charity to improve the facilities. With a grant from the National Lottery of £10,000 the toilets in both ends are now completed to an excellent standard. Thanks to the builder for his work and also Michelle for her input.

Also, our thanks go to Ted from Bure Valley football. The insurance has paid out on the repairs and we now have a building to be proud of. Our grateful thanks go to him and his team for overseeing the work and wish them every success next season. The cricket team has had a successful season. Congratulations to Kevin and players.

With Michelle and Ted now directors we have a strong team. Thanks to Kevin and Michael for their ongoing support.

Thanks also to parish councillors past and present for their help with the charity.

Finally, could we please remind drivers to keep the disabled areas clear for those that need them.

6. Reports from village organisations

Tree Wardens. - Peter Croot reported on a busy year.

There has been a change in the Tree Warden support network – Broadland District Council terminated the existing network in November 2018. A Tree Warden, John Fleetwood has set up a new Tree Warden Network, which is being supported by Parish Councils across the region – the first meeting was held in Coltishall earlier this year. Broadland District Council provided training on Tree Protection Orders which was very useful.

Wildflower areas both in the Apple Orchard and along the River are developing and being maintained well. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust is involved in these projects.

The London Plane tree planted on the Lower Common in 2012 is growing well.

A Scarlet Oak was planted on Ling Common to mark the centenary anniversary of the end of WW1. Following a lack of communication from a local tree surgeon it was discovered the 2 large oak trees felled in the Kings Road area were diseased.

Police Report – Presented by PC Magee

The figures relate to the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Incident Reports – there were 140 reports via the Control and Dispatch Centre at Norfolk Police HQ

Crimes recorded - there were 43 crimes recorded in Coltishall village - 3 x Public Order, 12 x Assaults (various offences), 8 x Other, 5 x Burglary (various offences), 6 x Criminal Damage, 3 x Fraud, 6 x Theft (various offences).

Both incidents and crimes are dealt with on a daily basis by our Area Response Officers, Road Policing Unit, local SNT, CID, Multi-agency safeguarding teams and our Custody Investigation Team who are based at the Aylsham Custody Suite.

PC Magee acknowledged the Police are aware there are issues with the 101 phone line. He also advised that the Speedwatch data is handled by the Community Safety Team and, within our area, he looks at the SAM2 data. He will be visiting the 20MPH zone on the High Street as a result of this data.

Lunch Club – Joan Milligan

The luncheon club has 7 consistent helpers, having gained some people from the good neighbour group. The club is running at almost full capacity. Special occasions, such as birthdays and wedding anniversaries are celebrated. Special thanks go to David Pye for a pick up /drop off service for those with no transport, and to Darren Thirtle who provides on site assistance to those less mobile.

Broadgrace church – John Hindley:

Once again, we have had a good year as a church family. The culture of the church is one of openness and honesty.

The particular highlight of the year is that in September we have sent a family on long-term mission service to a Muslim-majority country in Central Asia. They are going as medical missionaries, to serve people with their skills and to share the good news of Jesus Christ in a land with few Christian believers. One of my fellow-elders and his wife are currently visiting them as part of our ongoing support for them as a church.

Another exciting development has been our participation as a church in a global initiative to see more churches started and sustained in rural areas of the world. Often the villages are overlooked in favour of the cities, as much in church life as in other areas. Broadgrace Church is part of a network, Acts 29, which has recently begun a project called the Rural Collective to see more churches started and helped to thrive in villages and small towns. Our church is involved in this project, which has given us insights and connections to rural churches around the world, from Australia to Guatemala.

These international links have not taken our eyes off the local church family or the community here in Coltishall. The highlights of church life are simply the regular opportunities we have to spend time together and to welcome others in. Our annual Family Easter Supper on Sunday was a great time, and so is each of our regular Sunday services. Our community groups have been an ongoing source of support and encouragement to us all. Tiddlers, our baby and toddler group in The Tithe Barn is popular and always has a warm and welcoming atmosphere and our Kids' Club is going well too.

Most of what we do, though, is through caring for one another, pointing one another to Christ day-by-day and sharing our lives with our neighbours. We would love to help anyone we can to know the peace, hope and joy that comes through being loved and forgiven by Jesus. We certainly enjoy being part of village life.

Cricket – Report provided by Kevin Fisher

The cricket club's new season starts on Saturday May 4th 2019 and hope to follow on from the success of 2018. The club will be playing a full programme of 18 matches in the local cricket league, with midweek matches and/or training. We are always on the look-out for additional players and anyone interested can contact me directly or catch up with us when we are playing at Coltishall.

Personally, and on behalf of the cricket club, a big thank you to both CAST and the Parish Council, for their continued support.

Bure Valley Girls' Football – Report provided by Ted McCarter

The club continues to go from strength to strength. A rapid rise of new members has enabled us to create new teams. This season 18/2019 we have u9 u10 u11 u12 and u13 girls, u12 boys, an adult ladies' team plus mini kickers for boys and girls aged 3 to 6.

We have new members joining us most weeks as our good reputation grows.

In May we launch our SSE Wildcats Centre. This is a Norfolk FA initiative to encourage girls aged 5 to 11 to become involved in football. It involves 16 weeks of fun training sessions on a Saturday morning completely free of charge.

You will have all hopefully seen our new column in the Marlpit. We thank them for their support.

We'd like to thank the parish council for the CCTV that has recently been installed, although the solitary camera only covers half of the building and car park, I'm sure it will act as a great deterrent, we have had countless incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour on site.

Please also pass on my thanks to everyone at CAST who work tirelessly for this village. The support I have received over the years has been exceptional, I am very grateful.

Mobile Library Service - Report provided by Kate Cooper - NCC

From 1 April 2019, our mobile library service changed to make more efficient use of resources so rural communities in Norfolk can continue to be served.

From April onwards, we will be out for an extra hour every day, to make it more convenient for people to visit us on the way home from work or school. We are also introducing new stops in busy areas. This means that we will have some new and longer stops to tell people about! It also means that some villages will now be visited on a different day of the week, with different timings.

New timetables have been provided and will be put on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.

7. Any other matters

James Matthews reported that, following the success of the Alice In Wonderland event last year held in conjunction with Capital Culture, a bigger event is planned for 13 July 2019. This will have a Wizard of Oz theme.

A member of the public raised concerns about parking along the High Street, especially when events are taking place in the area.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 14 May 2019 in the Church Rooms at 6.00pm