

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall 11th April 2016

Vice-Chairman Mike Warren opened the meeting and welcomed all present. **Safety notices were read out.**

1. Apologies

Claire Gregson (Guides). Robert Watson and John Harding will be late.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 14th April 2015

Accepted as a true record and signed by Mike Warren as Chairman of this meeting.

3. Police report

None. **Speedwatch.** There are currently six volunteers, supported by co-ordinator Anne Watson. The Police team would like six sessions per month, but due to the shortage of volunteers only two are possible. New volunteers are very much needed; they would have to sign the necessary papers. Sessions have been carried out at the boat-house in Wroxham Road, the Post Office, North Walsham Road, with the highest speeds recorded at the boat-house. Unfortunately there are too few sessions to prove statistically that this is a black-spot. There was an upsurge in parents' interest following the accident in North Walsham Road, but no new volunteers were forthcoming. The biggest problem is that Speedwatch sessions are very visible, so motorists slow down for that stretch of road. An incident of abusive behaviour was reported to, and taken up by, the Police who visited the culprit.

4. County Councillor Tom Garrod

Mr Garrod did not attend the meeting.

5. District Councillor Alan Mallett

Mr Mallett had consulted Andrew Proctor at Broadland DCV for advice on devolution. The Government wants Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge to combine with an elected mayor, but the plan does not have the support of any county. Government maintains that the combined county councils would not be a form of devolution, nor would a mayor add an extra layer of government, but would be a strategic devolution at local level. The only candidate for mayor is from Cambridge. Norfolk and Suffolk are intrinsically different to Cambridge, and there are fears that funding and focus would be diverted to Cambridge, detracting from plans to improve Norfolk and Suffolk. Talks continue.

6. Chairman's Report – deferred until later in the meeting

7. HMP Bure

Mr Kenny Woods, Head of Operations, was welcomed to the meeting. He reported that deployment from HMP Bure to other prisons had now ended, in part due to the closure of Blundeston prison. Staff from there had been deployed to other prisons, easing the pressure on staff. Mr Woods was pleased to note that the prison is considered a good neighbour by local communities, and a benefit to the area. There are strong links with the County Council concerning use of the remainder of the RAF base – solar power, Vitromite, et al. Security is very tight : a prison with some 640 offenders will have networks between offenders, so the prison staff work closely with specialist Police to break into them, with a very good success rate. An inspection is due shortly which is expected to go well, as the prison performs well in prison league tables. The prison always operates near to capacity. Many offenders are elderly, partly due to the upsurge in historic cases, which put a strain on staff during deployment last year. Violence is low. There are no official figures for rehabilitation or returnees, although offenders are encouraged to attend specialist courses, which are well-attended. A range of advisors visit the prison, but one-to-one counselling is expensive, and funding is very tight. HMP Bure does not tag offenders, nor allow temporary licences or community work. The Ormiston Centre is supported by the Britannia Café at HMP Norwich which employs category D offenders prior to their release. The majority of offenders nationally are Category C, including those at HMP Bure,

although it is built to Category B standards. Mr Woods was thanked for attending the meeting.

8. RAF Liaison Group

Keith Childerhouse reported that he and Mike Warren attended the last meeting in mid-2015, and now receive little information except via the EDP. Norfolk County Council is working with several interested parties to use areas of the base including the solar farm, heritage area, and the cycle track, and establishing which buildings will be retained and which demolished. Colt Jags will be using the new cycle track when it is completed. Traffic generated by the solar farm has been a particular problem, particularly during the first contract. Issues have abated somewhat during the second contract.

9. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity

Doreen Snelling thanked the regular users on behalf of the directors for their support in the last year. Users include the preschool, Vibe fitness, short mat bowls, Dancezenery, the Youth Forum, Zumba, Guides, the Good Neighbours scheme, outdoor bowls, and Sporting Londale football team. Football teams of young girls and young boys are doing well. Junior birthday parties are popular. There have been several acts of vandalism resulting in damage to doors at both the football and cricket pavilions. Mike Warren was thanked for arranging new doors. The bollard on the football field was also damaged and will be replaced, and the hand rail at the village hall is awaiting repair following vandalism. Police have increased patrols as a result. The clerk was thanked for her support during a difficult year, and wished well.

10. Reports from village organisations

Allotments. Mr and Mrs Ambrose had recently taken over as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and were finding their feet with help from the clerk. Two prospective committee members have come forward, and it is hoped that allotment-holders will take a more active interest in the management of the allotments. Vacant plots had been advertised in the Marlpit, so only one is currently vacant. Mr Saville was thanked for providing a map of allotments. A quotation had been received for £360 p.a. from a pest control company for an a contract to combat the current rat problem. A meeting of tenants will be called to discuss the matter. Mrs Ambrose advised that she intends to make the allotments a safer, tidier and more pleasant place. Forty-six plots have been paid for to date, reminders will be sent for the remainder, and any then outstanding will be re-let. Mr and Mrs Ambrose were congratulated on their efforts thus far.

W.I. A new member of the W.I., Mary Chadwick said that the group numbers some 38, and meet monthly in the Church Rooms. They have guest speakers for many meetings, and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the W.I. in September. They enjoy visiting other groups, and are linked to Horstead and Stanninghall group. The W.I. contributed to the renovation of both village signs, had a litter-pick collecting some 12 bags of rubbish with another planned for later in the year, laid a wreath on Remembrance Day, and arranged outings including to the Cromer Pier Spectacular. Ms Chadwick felt the W.I. offered a safe, congenial environment for its ladies, and served the community well.

Tree Warden. Peter Croot reported that ash dieback – *chalara fraxinea* – is decimating ash trees nationwide, including in Coltishall. It is estimated that 90 – 95% of all ash trees will be infected and/or dead within five years. The John Innes Centre in Norwich is, amongst other organisations, researching the cause of the fungus and a possible cure, but it is unlikely to have answers for another ten years. It may be necessary to plant other species of trees to fill the gaps left by dead ash trees. Mr Croot thanked Stephen Chesney-Beales from Broadland DC for supplying new trees for the apple orchard and to the Trefoil Guild (former guides). He also thanked Bill Musson, Michael Spinks, Brian Abbs, and Jeremy Sinclair for their work on the apple orchard. Trees and shrubs are being planted around the village, and a community daffodil planting day will take place later in the year to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday. Tree Wardens are a source of information and advice for parishioners, and Mr Croot will lead a tree walk around Coltishall for the Bure Valley Conservation Group, which hopes to plant wildflowers along the Bure Valley. Training at Broadland DC is ongoing although no sessions have been held for the past two months. Parish Councillors and the clerk were thanked for their continuous support, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council were wished well as they step down from the Council next month. Fellow Tree Wardens Michael Spinks and Brian Abbs were thanked for their time and work in making Coltishall a beautiful part of Norfolk in which Peter Croot feels privileged to live. He thanked all who had supported him and his wife during her recent illness.

Bowls Club. No report. It was noted that the green opens on Sunday 17th April.

Short mat bowls. The club plays in two leagues, but struggles to keep up numbers despite efforts to attract younger players, and advertisements in the Marlpit. This seems to be a common problem amongst recreational sports. Vernon Bunn reported that most players are drawn from outside Coltishall, and that the club is sitting at halfway in one league and near the bottom of the other. He thanked the Chairman for inviting him to the meeting, and Doreen Snelling for her help.

Good Neighbour Scheme. Doreen Snelling said that the scheme is flourishing and fund-raising events are well-supported, although more volunteer drivers are needed. A defibrillator had been purchased, and the illuminated storage cabinet had been bought with help from village organisations including the Parish Council and the Commons Trust. It will be installed at the Post Office. A demonstration and training may be arranged if there is sufficient demand, although full instructions are given when the machine is used. John Harding thanked all who had donated to the scheme, and the Red Lion for sponsoring the Christmas Fair.

11. Sanders bus service.

The double-yellow lines had been painted at the junction of Rectory Road and Church Street, but six trees were still to be trimmed. Mr Sanders had informed Doreen Snelling that he would be walking the route with a Traffic Management representative from Highways with the intention of reinstating the service down Westbourne Road. However, cars which were previously parked on the road at the Rectory Road/Church Street junction are now parked on the footpath and were reported to the Police as an obstruction. There is no information from Highways about a single yellow line at the top of Rectory Road concerning restricted parking.

12. Planning.

Applications during 2015-16 were mostly for extensions and several alterations at the Norfolk Mead Hotel. Nothing further had been heard about the Site Allocations at the top of Rectory Road, and no applications from developers had been received.

13. Prospective councillors.

Mike Warren was pleased to introduce two prospective councillors, Amanda Taylor-Pope and June Lillingstone, who both live in Bakery Court. Both ladies had supplied brief CVs to councillors, and gave a resume to the meeting. Ms Taylor-Pope has lived in Coltishall for nine years, and has worked as a Project Manager for Norfolk Constabulary for thirteen years. She has been involved in various boating organisations, is a qualified First Aider, Fire Marshall and Health and Safety Officer. She would like to be involved in community work, and hopes to join the Council. June Lillingstone has lived in Norfolk for most of her life, spent twelve years in Cyprus with her husband, and then settled in Coltishall, where her husband passed away. She worked as a Post Office Assistant and barmaid, and now enjoys spending time with her six grand-children. Mrs Lillingstone would like to be involved in community life, and would be pleased to join the Parish Council. Both ladies are currently working to improve the condition of the entrance to Bakery Court, and the safety of residents turning into or out of the area. Yellow lines are badly worn and routinely ignored by motorists. Speeding is also a problem in that area.

14. Chairman's report.

Robert Watson apologised for arriving late to the meeting. This would be his last meeting as Chairman, as he will resign at the May meeting. He thanked all councillors for their support and comradeship during his time of office; although councillors do not always agree, and there is sometimes lively debate, he considers that the council is hands-on with a good deal of unanimity and goodwill. He thanked Mike Warren and the clerk for their friendship and support despite the difficult year they had both had. They had continued to serve above and beyond their duties. John Harding was a hard act to follow; Robert Watson began his tenure with two aims – to establish a more rigid governance and to integrate disparate groups. He and the clerk both undertook training and are now CiLCA qualified, enabling them to set up formal protocols which have regularised council procedures. The second aim was more challenging. All village groups and organisations have the best intentions for the village, and would be so much more successful if we worked together. He reminded the meeting that no candidates have yet come forward for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and asked that councillors consider the matter before next meeting. He closed by thanking the parishioners for their support during his Chairmanship.

Mr Mallett praised Robert Watson for the manner in which he has conducted parish council business during the past five years. He had contributed so much to the village, and striven to improve village life. A vote of thanks was **proposed** by Mr Mallett, **seconded** by Peter Croot, **unanimous**. Mike Warren would also not stand for re-election due to health issues, as he felt he could not work for the village as he would wish. Fresh blood would bring new impetus to the council, and he thanked councillors and parishioners for their support. He was warmly thanked for his work as a Vice-Chairman.

**Meeting closed at 9.00pm. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on
Monday 16th May 2016 in the Village Hall Lounge at 7.30pm**