

The Minutes of the Annual General Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 1999

Present: Mrs Payne David Cooper Ann Proctor Ralph Proctor Chris Snell
 Penny Snell Bill Beeson Diana Beeson Judith Mazur Tony Mazur
 Pam Jennings Wendy Baine Nigel Morton Andy Beeson Pam Wakeling
 Anne Beeson Mr Wilkinson Hilda Savage Frank Savage Denise Skeels
 Sue Pogmore Paul Coulten Mark Pogmore
 Fred Watkinson Veronica Bapstow Richard Skeels
 Mr Tom Grozdoski – Rural Department representative

Apologies for absence: Mr J Savage Mrs J Savage Mr Bradley Mrs Bradley
 Edwin Rix Maria Rix Berry Foulds

Andy opened the meeting by thanking all those present for their attendance and introduced Tom Grozdodoski.

Election of Chairman 1999/2000

Andy Beeson was the only name to be put forward. Mrs Payne made a proposal. Pam Wakeling seconded this and the motion was carried unanimously.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and amended, as many that were present had not been included. It was agreed that the amended minutes could be entered as a true record.

Matters arising from minutes.

Sewage Survey

41 replies – 44% no problems -27% continuous nightmare - 22% some problems

Planning Applications

Chapel Road – 5 Wretton Road – 3 Mill Road – 8 Stoke Road – 1

Election of Planning Committee

Edwin Rix Mrs Payne Ralph Proctor John Savage Frank Savage Mark Pogmore
 Berry Foulds Andy Beeson Mr Wilkinson

Proposed by Ann Proctor. Seconded By Sue Pogmore. Motioned carried.

Village Sign

Andy has discussed with Mr Davis the construction of a new village sign. To date nothing has been sorted due to work commitments of Mr Davis. Ann Proctor provided a book of designs but as yet no design has been decided on. A heated debate broke out with many agreeing the sign is an absolute disgrace and should be taken down. Comments of "if he hasn't got the time to do it then get someone else" and "It will be well worth waiting for" were discussed and it was agreed that we could not wait indefinitely. It was decided by a show of hands to take the sign down, as no sign would be better than a tatty one. Someone suggested a metal sign similar to the sign at the doctor's surgery

It was pointed out that the prison inmates make very good village signs. This could be used as a temporary sign but this raises the problem of where to put the temporary sign when the final sign is ready. Andy is to discuss with Mr Davis his work commitments and the likelihood of a sign being completed within a short time span. A time limit of three months was agreed. The Planning Committee to decide the design of the sign.

Speeding

The problem of people speeding through the village especially Chapel Road, past the pond has been exacerbated by the road works at the Foldgate junction with many motorists taking an alternate route via Fincham. The police had been contacted about the speeding and the amount of lorries trundling through the village but were not particularly concerned. Their resources are stretched to the limit and they do not have the manpower to effectively police the many villages in Norfolk with this problem. A police speed trap was set up by the Proctor's bungalow but only one motorist was caught. This was due to the fact that the police were there at a quiet time of day and not when people were going to and from work. Sleeping Policemen were suggested as was painting large 30 or 40 on road. The problem with this is the fact the Highways department has no money for maintenance. No chance of road repair budget. It was suggested that the police be contacted again and try to arrange that they police the village at an appropriate time i.e. 7 am. It was suggested that there should be a speed limit of 40 mph along Gibbet Lane. It was also stated that Gibbet Lane is a terrible disgrace but it is marked for repair and the 'ford' at the end of the road really needs some action. A volunteer 'whiner' is needed to keep pestering the Highways department or everyone who is bothered by it should write a letter of complaint. Some members of the parish complained that they had lost parts of their garden because the roads were too narrow and lorries had gradually eroded the edges of their lawns and borders. Pam Jennings reckons to have lost 2 feet off her garden. It was also mentioned that it was unsafe to walk dogs. The hedge on the corner, near the doctor's surgery, was overgrown and traffic coming round the corner had to drive on wrong side off the road. Wotton Road should be closed but the fence was broken and the gate is often left open. Mr Colton suggested that we left well alone and that the road should never have been closed in the first place.

Parish Accounts

Receipts £823	Payments £288	Balance £1173
		Business A/c balance £1041

It was discussed whether to put money somewhere else to acquire a high interest or spend it. To get a high interest you have to tie up your money and it was decided to leave it so that it was easily accessible.

What is the English Nature grant?

Fen's. People cutting down plants. Wrong time of the year!

It was requested that people keep to the Agenda.

A proposal was made by Mr Coulten to accept the accounts as correct. This was seconded and a show of hands affirmed the proposal.

Future budget. New sign.

A playground inspection was due as a requirement from Zurich Insurance. An inspection would probably incur expenditure. If an inspection were not carried out the Insurance

Company would undoubtedly not pay out for any claim. It was decided that the playground had to be up to scratch and to arrange for an inspection and then decide on a course of action following the recommendations.

There is an enormous amount of correspondence sent to the Chairman of the Parish meeting, a lot of duplication and sometimes 2 or 3 copies of items are sent through the post. Anyone who was interested to view and pass round articles regarding West Norfolk matters etc was welcome.

Mr Coulten, Hilda and Frank left after an hour.

It was suggested that a file of the correspondence could be left in the Doctor's surgery if they did not object.

Boughton Fen Survey – Mrs Payne & David Cooper.

Any Other Business

Tom Grozdowski thanked everyone for filling the survey forms for the Health Project/Rural Action Area Health Project. He informed the meeting that there were lots of grants to be had for the asking and offered his help should anyone want to apply or submit a business plan. (Mr Wilkinson left.)

Many villages in the Breckland area had similar problems, which were discussed by Healthy Norfolk, the Health Authority and UEA in May 1997 at a Community conference. The answers from a survey carried out in August 1997 have been analysed and entered on a database and the results presented at a Community conference.

Transport – can't get anywhere for socialising

Young people – rarely see a policeman

People need to work together to make things cost effective. Communication is a problem. Understanding the need of others. If you don't know then you can't help!

Dial a bus ?cost

Housing. People general were happy with their houses but still a need for houses for younger local people.

People happy with privacy but not happy with leisure and community facilities.

Anyone want to be involved in promotion? A co-ordinator of information.

The main issues are transport and housing and a need to find out the views and further concerns of younger people.

Tackle the problems with various organisations – mobile library, bus.

Pam Wakeling to be communication co-ordinator.

Thank you Tom.