

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall 7th March 2011

Present

Chairman John Harding, Vice-Chairman Doreen Snelling, Robert Watson, Michael Spinks, Keith Childerhouse, Nigel Haines, Mike Warren, Dave Smith, Mark Rischmiller. Also in attendance County Councillor James Carswell.

1. Apologies

Joe Chapman and Peter Baker tendered their apologies, which were accepted. PCSO Laura Munro-Oakley and District Councillor Alan Mallett were unable to attend the meeting.

It was noted that Joe Chapman had not attended meetings for six months due to ill health. His apologies had been accepted, but concerns were raised about his intentions regarding the forthcoming elections.

2 . Minutes of Meeting 10th January 2011

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by John Harding as Chairman of the Parish Council.

3. Matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda.

None.

4. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

John Harding and Doreen Snelling declared interests as Trustees of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity.

5. Police report January – February 2011

There were three crimes ; one of criminal damage and two thefts. Antisocial behaviour following a party resulted in some damage. Action is to be taken concerning the sale of alcohol to the youths concerned. Two incidents in Wroxham were reported. The Safer Neighbourhood meeting on 21st February addressed issues of anti-social behaviour and nuisance vehicles. Speeding priority areas were identified as Horstead and Frettenham.

It was noted that our PCSO Laura Munro-Oakley provides the village with a good response and is to be commended.

Ram-raiders have been operating in the area, and are being actively targeted.

Mike Warren had attended the Police Authority meeting to discuss the Police budget for 2011-2012. It was attended by Chief Constable Phil Gormley and the Authority Chairman Stephen Betts.

Funding is to be reduced by circa 5% in 2011 and a further 6.5% in 2012-2013, to a £25m reduction by 2015. The Norfolk Police helicopter has already been grounded; Norfolk now time-shares Suffolk Police helicopter. Cuts are to be made in the number of PCs from 1650 to 1576 and PCSOs from 280 to 270. PCSOs may be given greater powers. All recruitment is to be stopped for the time being. The Norfolk Police Authority will be abolished in May 2012.

It is believed that consideration is being given to volunteer Rural Community Officers. Some parishes are combining to fund 50% of the cost of a PCSO, approximately £13,500, who would be dedicated to those parishes.

6. Chairman's Report

Mr Charlie Smith is known to be unwell, and currently in a care home. Mr Smith has worked tirelessly for the village, and councillors joined with John Harding in wishing him well. A card will

be sent when his address is known.

John Harding reiterated his intention to stand down as Chairman at the elections in May. He believed that fresh leadership and ideas are needed to steer the council through difficult times. The next Chairman is to be elected by a signed vote. The nine volunteers who completed the litter pick on 30th January were thanked for their efforts, and Broadland DC were thanked for providing the skip. Thanks were expressed to several parishioners who regularly give up their time to collect rubbish in the village, helping to keep it tidy. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

7. Correspondence received

1. A letter was read from Nigel Haines advising that he would be standing down as parish councillor for to personal reasons following this evening's meeting. He was thanked for his valuable work as a long-standing councillor.
2. Norfolk County Council acknowledged receipt of the petition asking for gritting in Hautbois Road. It will be added to the areas for consideration in next winter's schedule.
3. Rectory Road, Church Street and North Walsham Road are being surveyed by NCC for proposed drainage and resurfacing work due in October. The Rectory Road drainage work is to be brought forward to May to minimise traffic disruption during the October half-term holiday.
4. Norfolk County Council had consolidated parking restrictions in the village, and provided a definitive map.
5. North Norfolk District Council confirmed the acceptance by the Post Office of the name "Badersfield" for the community at the old RAF airfield.
6. TAG Aviation had been confirmed as the preferred bidder for the remainder of the airfield site, planning applications had been made, and the sale was underway.
7. Frettenham PC had copied to us a letter to NCC re the poor condition of roads through Coltishall.
8. Letters of thanks for donations were received from NWACTA, Vitalise, NARS, CAB, EACH.
9. Age UK had requested a donation. It will be deferred until the new financial year.
10. A revised schedule for the mobile library was circulated, and will be sent to the Marlpit.
11. An invitation was received to the Festival of the Outdoors 7th – 15th May 2011.
12. The Surgery has supplied information on the proposed GP-led services in the Health and Social Care Bill, and circulated.
13. A workshop is to be held on the Future of Rural Services, at the RCC offices in Dereham on 6th April 2011.
14. The Bowls Club had supplied quotations for the replacement of fencing, and requested approval to proceed. Funding of £2000 was allocated in the budget for 2011-12. The VH and RG Charity would liaise with the Bowls Club to action the work. Councillors felt that grant funding could have been sourced to defray costs.

8. Speedwatch

We are advised that all Speedwatch teams are to be reviewed for under-performance, and may lose their radar equipment. There should be four Speedwatch sessions per month, but as there are only seven volunteers, two of whom are from Horstead, this has not always been achievable. Only two took place in January, although all four took place in February. All showed levels of speeding through Coltishall and Horstead. A letter is to be sent to Horstead Parish Council asking for more volunteers, and an article placed in the Marlpit.

9. Allotments

The Allotments Committee had met on 1st February 2011, and requested approval for a rent increase

12. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity

Various improvements are to be made to the hall, car park and fencing. Grants are being sought for hall heating. Approval procedures for restoration of facilities are to be agreed and finalised. Despite frequent requests, volunteers have not been forthcoming. At least one other Parish Councillor Director is needed; it is hoped that this matter will be resolved at the May meeting following the election of officers.

13. Village Fete

A meeting on 7th February, attended by three fete organisers, one VH&RGC member, and one from the Church, agreed a date of 23rd July. All organisations from the village will be asked to take part with exhibitions and stalls. A change of Parish Council Chairman will not affect the agreements made by the Parish Council. Suggestions are invited for recipients of the proceeds, including any from Horstead. The Colt Jags were suggested, as was the War Memorial. Issues such as parking, rides, entertainment, stalls, layout, and legislation were addressed. The next meeting is 8th March to be attended by John Harding.

14. Repairs to B1150

This work has been postponed to avoid excessive disruption of traffic from Norwich through Coltishall, as there are currently works on Constitution Hill. Work will now take place during the half-term break in October, and will run in tandem with repairs to Church Street. Highways have confirmed that the two schemes will not run concurrently, but follow on from each other.

15. Street Scene and Public Rights of Way

The petition for gritting in Haubois Road is to be considered by Highways for next winter. It was confirmed that members of the public can clear and grit paths without the fear of litigation provided they do it in a responsible manner. The council has purchased four grit bins, to be sited with approval from Highways at the entrance to Gt Hautbois Road, Coltishall High Street, Ling Common, and on the hill at Wroxham Road, near to The Limes. A request has been made to Highways for a dropped kerb near the Church Rooms and one opposite to facilitate wheelchair and pushchair users.

The Tree Warden has been advised of several felled trees along the Mayton footpath.

16. Pharmacy seat.

It was **proposed** that the clerk write to the owner of the Pharmacy asking if he would consider making a donation towards the replacement of the seat, **all agreed**.

17. Any other business

1. Robert Watson and the clerk had attended a Vibrant Communities workshop at Santon Downham on 4th March. It was split into five areas of discussion; the over-riding message from participants was the need for a bottom-up approach from government to the needs and wishes of communities. It focussed on maximising resources, engaging with communities, and the need to foster community cohesion. Many ideas promulgated are already happening in communities like Coltishall. One delegate from Broadland DC complimented our “exemplary” Parish Plan.
2. HM Revenue and Customs require that the clerk’s salary must be paid through PAYE by the council. Robert Watson offered to do this from April 2011, **agreed**.
3. The Parish Plan made recommendations that should be addressed by the council following the elections. One of the objectives of the Plan was working towards Quality Council. It was agreed that QC is not an academic exercise, but a commitment to a better, more professional council that will be prepared to take on more service provision in the future. The new Chairman should call a meeting with all concerned agencies to address issues

identified in the Plan.

4. It was noted that the signs for the Diplomat had been removed.
5. The Colt Jags had requested temporary use of the cricket field to allow the football field to regenerate. Although they were still using the cricket field, it was confirmed that any degradation of the cricket pitch would necessitate their return to the football field.

18. Public participation pursuant to Standing Order 58

County Councillor James Carswell said that the petition re gritting had ensured that the matter would be considered by Highways.

He had received a letter from Mr Beardmore, also sent to John Harding, about vehicles causing deep ruts to appear in the grass verge in front of his house. A site meeting had not provided a solution, and the situation had not improved. Mr Beardmore requested James Carswell's assistance. The debate at County Hall on 14th February re cuts in finances had been difficult. Although libraries will not be closed, and the council will endeavour to maintain services as far as possible, cuts are unavoidable.

A meeting today concerning the incinerator near King's Lynn had been extremely difficult. The Council had agreed that the procurement process should continue, with the project still to go through various stages including planning, environmental issues et al. It was recognised that King's Lynn residents will be angry, and there is still much work to do, more debate, and many challenges.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Next meeting is the **Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 18th April 2011** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall