

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on 16th April 2012

Present

Chairman Robert Watson, John Harding, Doreen Snelling, Mike Warren, Michael Spinks, Sue Brodie, David Smith, Keith Childerhouse, Mark Rischmiller, District Councillor Alan Mallett, and 23 guests and parishioners.

Chairman Robert Watson opened the meeting by welcoming all present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were considered and accepted from Rachel Thrussell, Short mat bowls.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 2011

These were considered, approved and signed by Robert Watson as Chairman. Copies were distributed to all present.

4. Chairman's report

As local issues are to be discussed during the meeting, no formal report was presented. Robert Watson thanked Mike Warren as Vice-Chairman, and all parish councillors for their hard work during the year, much of which is behind –the-scenes, and for their unstinting support. He noted that the War Memorial had recently been renovated and cleaned, cracks had been investigated and repaired, and the structure is secure. He asked for views on the re-painting of the lettering : a show of hand indicated that the majority want this to be done.

5. Police Report

The report stated that there were 36 recorded crimes in Coltishall during 2011, and 26 in 2012, primarily thefts and criminal damage. A significant number of these were at the allotments, and police emphasised that all thefts and break-ins should be reported immediately. Safer Neighbourhood meetings are bi-monthly, and are attended by Mike Warren for the Council.

7. Alan Mallett – District Councillor

Broadland DC continued to keep council tax levels unchanged this year, and hoped to do so next year. Base costs would be kept as low as possible without reducing standards. The Chief Executive had retired, and a general administrative reorganisation, including a reduction in senior staff, had been successful. Mr Mallett is an appointee to the Broads Authority, which had suffered a 1/3 reduction in its National Parks Grant resulting in redundancies and cuts in conservation and environment work. The Authority would endeavour to make savings where possible to maintain essential conservation work

8. HMP Bure –Bure Liaison Committee

Keith Childerhouse reported that the Liaison Committee has been welcomed by prison staff, and that early concerns in the parish had been allayed. Local people are now pleased with the way the prison is run, and acknowledge that it operates at the highest level. The committee is kept informed of developments, including the application for

a new accommodation block, first proposed last year. Meetings provide updates on progress at the prison, including provisions for prisoner rehabilitation.

Governor Sue Doolan

Governor Doolan had been in post for 15 months. She reported that the prison was fully operational by March 2010, had a current capacity of 523, and ran to capacity. A new accommodation block is planned to increase capacity to 624. Sex offenders are the fastest-growing group of offenders. The prison received a good report in 2011, and has had many audits so far this year. The prison is rated at level 4, this being the best, in all but one objective. This is in employment on release, understandable in view of the offences committed. The new wing will have 101 beds plus a workshop. Governor Doolan had requested an extra workshop within the existing footprint on which a decision is pending. The prison has a bakery making all the prison's bread. There are 300 uniformed staff, and others working in health, teaching, resettlement and chaplaincy. There are low levels of violence and drugs, and appropriate training courses are provided in preparation for eventual rehabilitation. The prison aims to be a good neighbour, is involved in fundraising for local charities, and recycles used cooking oil to raise funds for the charity Nelson's Journey. There are currently 183 life or indeterminate prisoners, and some very elderly or infirm. There are plans to increase the number of cells for end-of-life prisoners from the two existing, and to provide accessible showers. There are no plans to increase the size of the prison beyond the existing footprint, although it is possible that the buffer zone could provide further accommodation in the future.

9. Coltishall Guides

Guide Leader Claire Gregson introduced two Guides, who gave a short presentation of their trip to Iceland in 2010, and told of their camp under canvas in Essex. Guiding allows them to have experiences not available at school or home, teaches life-skills, and forges friendships. They hope to go abroad again next year, and look forward to camps planned for this year.

10. British Legion

A quiet year was reported by Mr Bob Jennings, as the Legion is short of members, and therefore faces dwindling funds. There are now only four meetings per year, although three new members have joined recently. Mr Charlie Smith, now living in Halsey House, attended the Remembrance Day service last year, and was made Life President on his 95th birthday.

Mr Jennings was pleased that the War Memorial had been renovated, and promised that the Legion would attend the rededication service.

11. Church Clock

As Mrs Turner of Vibe Fitness did not attend the meeting, Major Bradshaw was invited to address the meeting. The clock had been refurbished, automated and electrified, and now works well. It is 135 years old, and will need major work within 2-3 years. A quotation from Michelmeyr was between £8100.00 and £9200.00; Major Bradshaw hoped that some funds might be forthcoming from the parish, and from grants and fundraising events. He thanked the Parish Council for paying the maintenance costs, and hoped they would continue to do so.

12 - 16 Invitees did not attend.

17. Broadgrace Church

Minister John Hindley reported a good year for the church which had grown in size and encompasses a wide range of ages. Weekly meetings are held in Hoveton, and monthly meetings in Coltishall are popular, as members appreciate the facilities, and children enjoy the playground. There is a mid-week Bible study group and a fortnightly Kids' Club. The Church works with the Sure Start Children's Centre in Hoveton, helps a parents' group in Coltishall, attended a family event in Hautbois, and ran a children and dads morning which it hoped to repeat this summer. It welcomes new members and aims to be open and accessible to all.

18. Short Mat Bowls

Mrs Harman had sent a report noting that the club had won one league, and been runners-up in two cup competitions. It hoped to be successful in the coming year, and would welcome new members.

19. Bowls Club

The results from last season had been reported in the Marlpit; the club ended mid-table in three leagues. The club was pleased with the new fence, which had prompted the creation of a garden area. Brian Bell had retired as greensman after many years of dedicated work, and had been warmly thanked. Tony Elvin has taken over as greensman. The green opened on 15th April for this season, with some 50 matches and cup competitions planned. Fundraising is a major concern; last year's events included a jumble sale, barbeque and an end-of-season meal. A bric-a-brac sale, two barbeques and a quiz night are planned for this year. There are concerns that the hose-pipe ban will adversely affect the green, new members are urgently needed, and funds must be raised.

20. Preschool

No report presented.

21. Allotments

There are 75 plots let, and one spare. Several plots had been given up during the year, most of which had been re-let. Priority is given to Coltishall residents. Rent was kept at £10 per plot, and most people have paid. A spate of thefts, vandalism and break-ins prompted the Police to emphasise that all crimes should be reported immediately as allotment crimes are being prioritised. Alarms are being sourced by the PCSO. Dog fouling continues to be a problem, with a few owners refusing to stop their animals from fouling on crops. The Parish Council joined the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners on behalf of the Allotments Association. They offer advice and help, and can provide insurance cover. The problem of nuisance from noisy cockerels has abated, as only two now remain. The oak tree at the top of Chapel Lane will be surveyed during the tree inspection, and any remedial work undertaken. A local resident had requested that it be lopped; the matter is with Broadland DC. Tree Wardens requested that vehicles refrain from turning in the Orchard; a turning area may be created. Allotment funds will be used to purchase signs for gates, new taps, a new gate, and work to the Kings Road entrance.

22. Cricket Club

The 2012 season begins in May. 2011 was something of a mixed bag in terms of both players and performance. There are three teams, but the shortage of new players resulted in amalgamation with two other clubs. Saturday matches will continue, the club will field a Sunday team, and the first team is now secure. Kevin Fisher hoped that 2012 will be a successful year although many members have been playing for 20 years or so. Younger members fall away in their teens as other interests take precedence, and they are reluctant to commit to the rules' time schedules. 20-20 cricket would help, but is not permitted. Clubs are lobbying for a change to the rules to encourage young players.

23. Tree Warden

Peter Croot presented a very full report on the Tree Wardens' activities. In honour of the Queen's Jubilee a Crimson King maple was planted at Hautbois, a native Field Maple will be planted at the school in June, and another tree will be planted at Lower Common in May. All trees planted for the Jubilee will be recorded by the Woodland Trust in a book to be presented to the Queen. A Liquid Amber was planted at Lower Common in memory of Alan Spinks, a long-serving member of the Commons Trust and a parish councillor. A tree survey is underway to ensure that all trees on parish land are safe and in good order. Some dead fruit trees at the school will be replaced, and hedging around the apple orchard is in progress. The orchard is a valuable village asset and used as a template by other parishes and organisations such as Ormiston Academy for their own projects. A Tree Preservation Order is being considered to protect it from future development. Peter Croot and family have again planted daffodils, to great effect. Tree Wardens continue their training at Broadland DC, attend various seminars, and are an important source of advice for the local community and beyond. Peter Croot thanked staff at Broadland DC for their support and encouragement, the Broads Authority for advice, and the Parish Council for its continued support of Tree Wardens' work in the parish.

24. CETAG

Keith Childerhouse explained that the group was set up to represent neighbouring parishes when the eco-town was proposed. It continues to represent local views during the ongoing negotiations for the sale of the remainder of the base. There are approximately 600 acres including the runway. TAG engineering withdrew their bid last year due to the economic downturn, and discussions are underway with another potential buyer. The Ministry of Justice will make a decision by June, which should not be on purely financial considerations. The mast installed near the boundary is for data collection only.

25. Youth Club

The Youth Forum began in 2007 and continues to be well supported, with some 30 to 40 children aged from 9 to 14 attending regularly, some from surrounding villages. Subscriptions enabled the club to arrange a half-day trip to Hill Tops activity centre last year, and a Christmas party. Hill Top staff congratulated the club on being the best-behaved and most enthusiastic group they had entertained during the year. This year some will be involved in the Jubilee fete arranged for August. The club's success is due to the support of the twelve adults who volunteer their time weekly to run the club, and the enthusiasm of the children. A skate-park was suggested by a group of young people who gave a reasoned and professional presentation to the

parish council; the likely cost is circa £80,000-£90,000, and will need the children to be involved in fundraising and grant applications.

26. Planning and Rectory Road proposals

Doreen Snelling presented the planning report for the year. There were no objections to twenty-five applications ranging from extensions and change of use, to quay heading repairs and a notice-board. All planning applications were reported in the Marlpit during the year.

The possibility of development in Rectory Road between the football field and the bridge was fully discussed. At present this site is not included in the Site Specific Consultation document issued by Broadland DC. As no application for inclusion has yet been received, Broadland DC has not considered the site in the consultation document, and has not indicated whether this site would be preferred to the other two, at the end of Rectory Close and at Jordan's yard. The possible third site would be in addition to the others, raising concerns about sustainability and viability, and that the cumulative effect of development at three sites would have a massive impact on village services and traffic congestion. Inclusion into the Site Specific document would take some time, but it has been made clear that there must be some development in Coltishall to satisfy the Government's requirement for housing. The District Council is obliged to maintain a five-year rolling supply of potential sites within the 15-year Joint Core Strategy. Chairman Robert Watson and Doreen Snelling are to meet the Planning Officer at Broadland DC on 8th May to discuss the matter.

27. Jubilee fete

The fete is to be held on 5th August, and will include a variety of stalls, activities, displays, and a fancy dress competition. Applications have been submitted for grant funding, and the event will be advertised. Parking has been arranged at the football field. Profits will be given to local good causes.

28. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity (CAST)

Trustees have worked hard during the year to make a range of improvements to the village hall and the fields. The heating and electrical system in the hall has been replaced, and a number of improvements made to make the hall safer and more comfortable. The hall is well-used, and it is hoped that the improvements will attract more users. New floodlights are being installed at the football field, and plans to renovate the changing rooms are being drawn up, to bring them up to FA standards. More volunteers are needed, and help with fundraising is always welcome. The AGM is to be held in May.

29. Coltishall Commons Management Trust

The Trust is working with Peter Baker of the Bure Navigation Trust on an event at Lower Common in August. A new footbridge at Lower Common was completed at the end of 2011, and considerable work on trees has been done at Ling Common. A tree in honour of Alan Spinks was planted in January, and an engraved plaque will be placed on or near the tree. A notice-board on Lower Common will contain a map of the village and advertisements to promote local businesses, and also details of local services. Posts have been installed to complete a line from the Rising Sun to the river to prevent cars from driving onto the grass. An acer removed from the Anchor street end of Lower Common will be replaced by a native tree, and repairs to the quay

heading have been approved. All dykes were cleared in 2010, and will be cleared again during 2012-2013. Work will be done this spring, with help from Natural England and the RSPB to raise the quality of grazing land at Upper Common and encourage bird and plant life. Work to the poplar at Upper Common has been approved by the Broads Authority.

30. Village centre parking

Following representations from local businesses, the Parish Council undertook a survey to establish the number of available spaces, provisions for staff at each business, and parking requirements for staff. Most of the 33 spaces are occupied by employees, and the lack of parking discourages customers from shopping in the village. It was agreed that there is a problem, and that more parking spaces are needed. Possible solutions put forward were the formalisation of parking on Upper Common in front of the Salvation Army Hall, the use of spare land at the Church, signs to the Village Hall car park, and encouraging employees to park away from the centre. Land owned by Mr Bradbury would be unaffordable, although it is an ideal site. The Salvation Army Hall is not for sale. A meeting between the Commons Trust and parish councillors discussed the matter. The Trust is willing to look at possible solutions, but to date no proposals have been put to Trustees. It was agreed that a plan be formulated and put to the Trust. Reverend Engelson promised to discuss the use of Church land at the next PCC meeting. It was agreed that any option would be expensive to implement. It was suggested that all parking spaces should be restricted thus forcing employees to park further away from the centre.

Meeting closed 10.20 pm. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 14th May 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.