

# **COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## **Present**

Vice-Chairman Mike Warren, John Harding, Doreen Snelling, Michael Spinks, Keith Childerhouse, Mark Rischmiller, Penny Loiez, District Councillor Alan Mallett, County Councillor James Carswell and 18 guests and parishioners.

Vice- Chairman Mike Warren opened the meeting by welcoming all present.

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were considered and accepted from Robert Watson, Mike Kirkham, Rachel Thrussell, Major Bradbury, Mrs Turner – Vibe fitness, Rev. Engelson, Peter Croot – Tree Warden, PCSO Laura Munro-Oakley.

## **2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 16th April 2012**

These were considered, approved, proposed Alan Mallett, seconded Ray Thompson, signed by Mike Warren as Vice-Chairman. Copies were distributed to all present.

## **3. Chairman's report**

Robert Watson offered his apologies for missing this most important meeting. The past year had produced many proposed changes in and around the village, thus far without any formal applications for either the RAF base or housing developments. Renewable energy schemes put forward may well produce concrete applications in the near future. Parish precepts, currently under Government review, will need a prudent approach to ensure sufficient funds to meet parish needs. Regrettably, Councillor Dave Smith stood down due to work commitments, but Councillors were pleased to welcome Penny Loiez and Mike Kirkham to the Council. Robert Watson thanked his fellow councillors and the clerk for their support and commitment to improving the community despite, sadly, general apathy.

## **4. Police Report**

There were 3 recorded crimes in Coltishall and Horstead during March: theft from a motor vehicle, one malicious wounding, and one burglary. Residents are warned against doorstep-sellers following reports of rogue traders. SNAP meetings are held at the Jubilee Centre in Aylsham, and are attended by Councillor Mike Warren.

A letter had been sent to Norfolk Constabulary protesting that no police officer had attended Parish Council meetings for over a year. A letter of apology had been received, pointing out that reduced resources and shift patterns had precluded attendance. It was accepted that swingeing cuts to the Police budget had resulted in a far less visible presence. The clerk will investigate the cost of funding a PCSO, who could perhaps be shared by neighbouring villages. PC Greig Shepherd will try to attend at least one parish meeting this year. The matter will be further discussed at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May.

A letter had been received from Mr Luck, resident of Abbey Court. Speeding on Wroxham Road past Abbey Court is of concern as there is no footpath and the road narrows considerably on this stretch. The 40 mph limit is routinely ignored by traffic travelling towards Wroxham, and should be reduced to 30mph. John Harding will contact Highways to request a site visit. It was suggested that a 20mph speed limit

should be enforced along Rectory Road. Norfolk CC Highways had refused a similar request in the past, but the Parish Council could use the proposed new development, with the inevitable increase in traffic, as a lever to reduce the speed limit. School start and end times produce considerable congestion, which is dangerous to pedestrians and a hazard to through traffic. Cameras on telegraph poles had been used in the past to monitor traffic in this area.

#### **5. County Councillor James Carswell**

James Carswell had announced his resignation from both Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council due to work commitments. As he would be joining the meeting later in the evening, he would be invited to give his report in person.

#### **6. Alan Mallett – District Councillor**

Broadland DC continued to provide a sound service at the lowest possible cost to residents. In 2002, it appeared that funds would run out by 2006. Subsequent reassessment of responsibilities, justifying outgoings, and generation of income outside Council Tax had enhanced services and protected funding for six years to come whilst keeping Council tax low. There has been no increase in Council tax in the last two years.

#### **7. HMP Bure**

Mr Kenny Wood, Head of Security, Intelligence and Operations, was pleased to attend the meeting. A visit from HM Inspectors in 2010 had produced a good report, and standards had been maintained. The prison still has a very low level of drug-taking. A full security audit in February 2013 showed 92% compliance, which is an indicator of how seriously security is taken. There are no plans to have prisoners working in the community. Released prisoners have strict conditions placed upon them, but employment is difficult as some occupations would not be appropriate, and the economic situation means a general shortage of work. A new wing will house 101 prisoners and there will be two new workshops. Staff for the new unit will be drawn from within the service. The Saville case had increased the number of prisoners convicted on historic crimes, and with an aging population generally the new wing may be for geriatric prisoners. An audit on the sex-offender programme was very positive. Links with the Police and sharing of information had shown good results. Following the death of a prison officer in a road accident, prisoners have taken part in a variety of fundraising events for the Air Ambulance.

Mr Wood was thanked for his report, and he left the meeting.

#### **8. RAF Coltishall Liaison Group**

CETAG was set up following the proposed Eco-town, and disbanded in mid-2012. The Liaison Group consists of representatives from surrounding parishes, and has an input into the re-use of the site. Norfolk County Council bought the site and intends publishing a master plan in June 2013, but it is unlikely to include use of the runway for flying. The plan will be open to public consultation, and heritage is important. Norfolk CC has published articles in the EDP and The Marlpit. Proposed turbines of 126.5 m tall in Scottow were refused by North Norfolk DC following objections by the Ministry of Defence that they would affect the Trimingham air defence radar. It is thought that the applicant, Airvolution Energy Ltd, will appeal against the decision.

## **9. Coltishall Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity**

John Harding reported that the charity was still running well, with a good bank balance. The ramp was installed last year, and lighting at the football field is under way. Following repairs, the changing-rooms wiring is now safe. The cricket pavilion roof needs repair. Village Hall users are still coming forward. John Harding read his letter of resignation from the Charity, effective from May 2013, and hoped that younger people would drive the Charity forward in the future. He thanked his fellow Trustees and volunteer secretary Vicki Tovell for their involvement and support. Mike Warren proposed a vote of thanks to John Harding for his unstinting work and tireless commitment during his time as Trustee and Chairman of the Charity.

## **10. Reports from Village Hall and Recreation Grounds Hirers**

- 1. Good Neighbour Scheme.** Julie Douglass reported that the Scheme, set up last year, has 14 volunteers providing help to local residents of Coltishall and Horstead – befriending, small DIY jobs, transport. There had been 120 requests since October 2012 from mainly elderly residents, none of which had been refused. There are currently five drivers, but more are needed due to the increasing number of requests. Donations are invited for small journeys, with a charge of 45p per mile for longer journeys. Norfolk Rural Community Council had donated £500 to cover first-year insurance, a mobile phone, and CRB checks, and a table-top sale raised £340.00. Grants are being investigated. Mrs Douglass noted that the scheme can pick up on vulnerable people whose needs were previously not identified. Farm Foods will hold a presentation in the village, as the Meals on Wheels scheme had ended.
- 2. Church Clock.** Major Bradbury thanked the Parish Council for its donation towards maintenance of the clock. The loan taken out for repairs was reducing and now stood at £1044.70. He advised that the clock is 140 years old and will need a complete overhaul before long, which will likely be costly.
- 3. Bowls Club.** The green opened yesterday for a 14-15 week season, and although expensive to maintain, is looking good. Ray Thompson expected that some 20 clubs will play circa 50 games here. The team plays in three leagues, and reached the final of the North Walsham knockout cup. Some members play in County competitions. The club is self-supporting, holding fund-raising events including jumble sales and barbeques, although a planned quiz was cancelled due to lack of support. Younger members are needed, and coaching sessions open to all ages from 12 – 80 are being run.
- 4. Broadgrace church.** Matthew Horton noted that the Church has been meeting for some three years, using the village hall as one of three venues. The Church is inclusive, welcoming non-churchgoers to a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Families from both Coltishall and Horstead attend, and enjoy events such as the recent “Mad with Dad” Easter event for younger children and their fathers.
- 5. Royal British Legion.** The past year had seen four new members, winning this branch the Cromer Cup for “membership and retention”. Bob Jennings thanked the Parish Council for the refurbishment of the War Memorial, where wreaths were laid on Remembrance Sunday, as well as at Buxton, Badersfield, and Horstead. The Poppy Appeal had raised £3128.93, and volunteer collectors were thanked for their efforts. Fundraising had raised sufficient monies to replace the Standard, which had become worn and beyond repair. A taxi persists in parking on the War Memorial grass. This is damaging to the

grass, but more importantly, is disrespectful to the War Dead and their families. Efforts will be made to identify the culprit and a letter will be sent.

6. **Cricket Club.** Kevin Fisher reported that three teams play on Saturdays, covering ages from 11-18, as well as a ladies' team. Teams from Barton, Ashmanhaugh and Coltishall play, and a Sunday team with Worstead also plays. Other teams use the ground producing funds for the Charity. He thanked John Harding, Keith Childerhouse and the groundsman for their help in keeping the field in good condition.

**11. Reverend Engelson.** Unable to attend.

**12. Allotments.** Some 71 plots are let, four are spare. The rent has been increased to £12 this year to cover repairs to gates and taps, and any increase in insurance costs. There is a waiting list, with priority given to Coltishall residents. Final accounts were presented to the AGM in March; all plots were paid for and accounts balanced. Adverse weather last year produced poor crops; it is hoped that the weather improves this year. Cockerels were removed following several complaints. Theft and vandalism is a continuing problem, and Police request that all incidents are reported immediately. A few persistent dog-owners continue to allow their pets to foul despite repeated requests for more consideration. Mr Rivett, long-standing committee member, resigned due to health problems. He was thanked at the AGM for his hard work, help and commitment over the years.

### **13. Tree Warden**

Trees were planted in honour of the Queen's Jubilee, details of which were collated by the Woodland Trust into a book for presentation to Her Majesty. Tree Wardens helped to compile an assessment of parish trees, and any necessary work has been done. An evening walk for some 150 Tree Wardens through Coltishall, hosted by our Tree Wardens, was warmly received. Saplings donated by parishioners and nurtured by Peter Croot have been found good homes, and advice is always available from him. Ash die-back may result in 90% of ash trees being affected. The apple orchard produced a disappointing crop last year, but its popularity has grown and it now hosts visits from groups wanting to create their own orchards. A daffodil-planting day is planned for the autumn to extend the work done around the churchyard gate to other areas of Coltishall. Peter Croot thanked fellow Tree Wardens Brian Abbs and Michael Spinks for their support, Ben Hogg of the Broads Authority and Stephen Chesney-Beales of Broadland DC, the Parish Council and parishioners, and especially Linda who has patiently helped with and supported his work throughout the year.

### **14. Youth Club**

The Club continues to be a great success with some 30 children attending each week. After volunteering since its inception in 2007, some supporting adults will be retiring from the Club, and there will therefore be a need for new helpers to keep the club running beyond July, when the school summer holidays begin. A meeting in May will decide the final decision.

### **15. Rectory Road and St John's Close proposals**

Following the public presentation of proposals for Rectory Road, no further contact has been made by developers with the Parish Council, and no application has been made to Broadland DC. It is thought that the developers may be awaiting Broadland

DC's new Site Specific Allocations document due in the summer. An approach to the Parish Council concerned land beyond St John's Close. A meeting was held in March between Councillors and the land owners, who feel that circa 45 houses could be built on the site. Residents oppose any development, citing existing traffic problems especially at school start and end times, congestion, lack of parking space for surgery and school, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient capacity in the school. Pupil numbers will rise by 40+ next term, and any new housing will exacerbate the problem. Mobile classrooms will be installed to accommodate the 40 extra children, reducing the play area. Traffic problems would increase, and the school is meeting with the Police and Highways to seek a solution, as parents refuse to heed requests not to park in St John's Close. The Joint Core Strategy identified a requirement for 24 houses for Coltishall and Horstead combined; this proposal exceeds the perceived need. Residents argued that brownfield sites should be used before agricultural land, that the development boundary should not be extended, and that the integrity of the village should be maintained. The community should resist inappropriate development and prevent the village becoming a suburb of Norwich. It is clear that there will be some new housing, but there is a fear that this development could eventually extend as far as St James. The Parish Council will attend Broadland DC if and when an application is heard, and make representations on behalf of the village.

#### **16. Wind Turbines at Scottow**

See item 8

#### **17. Overview of planning for 2012-13**

There were no objections to :-

1 Single story extension, 1 two-storey extension, 2 rear extensions, 1 rear conservatory, change of use from public house to two dwellings, works to tree on Upper Common, new boundary wall, installation of 40 solar panels to roof at Patteson Lodge, variation of permission to re-site accommodation block at HMP Bure, continuation of siting of wind monitoring mast (Sco Ruston), 2 conversions of agricultural buildings to residential dwellings

One objection to change from flat to pitched roof of existing garage

#### **County Councillor James Carswell**

James Carswell had resigned from Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council on 15<sup>th</sup> March due to altered work commitments. He began representing the village four years ago, and deemed it a privilege to represent Coltishall where so many groups work to make it a vibrant, pleasant place to live. He has always tried to serve Coltishall's best interests, and has concerns about the old RAF base and Norfolk CC's forthcoming business plan. A roundabout at North Walsham Road would cost around £150,000 according to Highways, but should nevertheless be installed if the proposed housing goes ahead. The community must ensure that it engages with developers and councils to extract from them the concessions we feel we need to accommodate the extra population, and probable increased traffic through the village. He felt it a great honour to have been our County Councillor, and thanked John Harding as the previous Chairman and Councillors for their support, and also the clerk for her patience and encouragement.

Meeting closed 9.30 pm. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.