

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on 14th April 2014

Present

Chairman Robert Watson, Vice-Chairman Mike Warren, Doreen Snelling, Michael Spinks, Keith Childerhouse, Mike Kirkham, Mark Rischmiller, Sue Furness, District Councillor Alan Mallett, PCSO Laura Munro-Oakley and 11 guests and parishioners.

Chairman Robert Watson opened the meeting by welcoming all present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were considered and accepted from John Harding, Penny Loiez, Rachel Thrussell, Yvonne Sidebotham – ballroom dancing, Nigel Noble – Commons Trust, Peter Croot – Tree Warden, HMP Bure.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 15th April 2013

These were considered, approved, proposed Mike Warren, seconded Keith Childerhouse, signed by Robert Watson as Chairman. Copies were distributed to all present.

3. Chairman's report

As always the past year had presented Councillors with several issues, many relating to the proposed developments. The Parish Council had taken into account parishioners' views, and made strong representations to Broadland DC concerning the size and location of future developments. A revised Development Plan had arrived two days before this meeting, thus Councillors had not had the opportunity to read it. Two sites are now allocated for development – Rectory Road and the Jordan's site, both with 25- 30 houses. St John's Close is not now included in Broadland DC's preferred options. The Parish Council will reiterate its views and make a strong response to this document, and see what Localism will really mean to our community. The past year saw the completion of renovations to the War Memorial, which were well-received. Working with the Responsible Financial Officer, Barbara Elvy, the Council has rationalised its budget to reflect the uncertainty around future funding. By addressing the issue early the Council has avoided the need to increase the parish precept whilst maintaining reserves for identified parish projects.

The new financial year will likely bring new challenges including the impact removal of the runway ends would have on our villages. Robert Watson assured parishioners that Councillors' prime concern is the well-being of the parish.

He thanked Mike Warren as Vice-Chairman for his support, and his fellow Councillors for their hard work in deploying their expertise for the benefit of the parish. He also thanked the Clerk for her sound advice and support.

4. Police Report

PCSO Laura Munro-Oakley reported that there was little change in crime figures from last year, which were low. Crime prevention is paramount, and parishioners were reminded to ensure sheds and out-houses are adequately secured. Oil theft had increased, so tanks should also be secured. The Police will visit homes free of charge to advise on security measures; call 101 and ask for PCSO Munro-Hartley in the. Child sexual exploitation is increasing, especially via the internet, and Broadland DC

is pioneering the initiative against cyber-crime. Free workshops are held for parents, and it was suggested that one could be held in the village. PCSO Munro-Hartley visits schools, and runs family sessions. There is currently no legislation to remove offensive web-sites. Anti-social behaviour is the biggest problem in the Broadland area, but it remains the safest place to live. There are currently 249 PCSOs in the Norfolk Constabulary, all being phased out by 2020 to be replaced by 49 regular posts. Although the safer schools officer will be retained, he/she will be a regular, and it is likely that the standard of service will drop whilst the work-load will not. The best deterrent is a visible presence, which will be lost. Robert Watson advised parishioners to be on their guard against scams from impostors masquerading as service providers. He thanked PCSO Munro-Oakley, and she left the meeting.

Speedwatch

During the past year nine sites were monitored and 12 sessions held. There were 33 offenders, of whom 20 were on the North Walsham Road and 10 on the Wroxham Road near the boat-house. From 2012-2014 there were 61 offenders in these key areas. In future the nine sites will be reduced to four, largely due to a shortage of volunteers, and there will be two sessions per month.

5. County Councillor Tom Garrod – not present.

6. Alan Mallett – District Councillor

The new Development Plan is under consultation from today until the end of May; he regretted that the information had not been available at the March meeting.

Broadland DC must maintain a 5-year stock of development land, and without a development plan a speculative developer could submit a planning application which, although refused by the District Council, would have to be approved on appeal. Plans for many houses across Broadland have already been approved in the Broadland area as a whole, and the area may need 15-20 thousand houses in the next few years.

7. HMP Bure – unable to attend. HMP Bure Liaison Group

There are two meetings of the group per year, which has been running for four years. The new cell block has brought the capacity of the prison to 624, with little space at present. There is great pressure on the prison due to the current climate; many prisoners are elderly, often with medical problems. Ormiston Trust works to help families, especially those with children, many travelling considerable distances in order to visit their relatives. Their work is invaluable in ensuring that families are treated fairly when they visit. Visits take place on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, lasting around four hours. Meetings of the group now take place inside the prison, where security is extremely tight. Although there was consternation in the community when the prison was proposed, there have been no problems and it is now considered a good neighbour.

8. RAF Coltishall Liaison Group

Work is ongoing by Norfolk County Council to find tenants for the buildings on site. They may be close to signing agreements with one or two large organisations, and planning for the removal of aggregate from the runway ends is under consideration. The Parish Council has made representations to Norfolk CC concerning the impact of some 50 HGVs each way per day. The assertion from Highways that HGV traffic has reduced since the closure of the base was disputed. Broadland DC as a consultee

considered the application on 4th April 2014 when planners advised to refuse it, and councillors voted against it. National Heritage is also opposed. Plans are being prepared for a public heritage trail around the site. Norfolk CC has appointed a development partner to convert the Officers Mess into housing and build new houses on surrounding land. The plans are under design and there will be a local consultation. The next meeting of the Liaison Group will be during May or June.

9. Coltishall Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity

Hiring of the hall and fields has been steady over the past year, and regular hirers were thanked for their support. Two new fire doors have been installed and the hall floor is currently being renovated. Hall lights have been replaced and lights in the football and cricket pavilions will be replaced shortly. The cricket pavilion roof has been repaired. Repairs to both the football changing rooms and the cricket pavilion are needed but as funds are limited work will be done when funds allow. Work on the car park is under way. One act of vandalism resulted in a broken roof tile, which caused a water leak, damaging the ceiling and lights. Doreen Snelling thanked her fellow directors for their support over the past year, and Vicky Tovell for her excellent minute-taking.

10. Reports from Village Hall and Recreation Grounds Hirers

- 1. Short mat bowls club.** Mr Bunn reported that the club had been running for 30 years, but now had only 11 members for whom it was more of a social occasion. New and younger members would be very welcome, and an event day might attract support. The Girl Guides would be having a taster evening soon, which could be repeated for other groups. Mr Bunn thanked Doreen Snelling for her support.
- 2. Broadgrace church.** Matthew Hall reported that the conversion of the former Salvation Army Hall was progressing well, and that the café owners were pleased with their new surroundings. He had received positive comments from parishioners, and had a good rapport with the Commons Trust and neighbours. The outside space will be tidied, the stairs and the upstairs café area completed, and offices created. The café will have the right-hand side downstairs and upstairs, and there will be a large hall, which will be available for community hire. The Church will shortly begin holding meetings on Sundays. The building is to be known as The River Rooms.
- 3. Youth Forum.** The Forum is very popular, with some 30+ children attending regularly, from Coltishall and surrounding villages including Horstead, Frettenham and Badersfield. They will soon be able to enjoy outdoor activities, and it is hoped that bibs can be bought for informal football team games. Other activities are being planned, and may include short-mat bowls. Mark Rischmiller said that although it was hard work, it was very worthwhile. More volunteers would be most welcome.
- 4. Bowls Club.** Ray Thompson was pleased to report new members to the club. Last year's results were disappointing, and fundraising efforts were largely unsuccessful. Additional expenditure on equipment meant that funds are tight. The AGM highlighted concerns about insurance and the club's relationship with the VH&RG Charity. The club felt communication between them was poor, and clear information is now needed concerning responsibility for maintenance of the pavilion and hedge-cutting. A meeting will be convened.

5. **Cricket Club.** Kevin Fisher reported that four teams now play, following a change in leadership. New members have joined and first team captain Luke Caswell had proved well-respected and popular. He also leads the youth cricket, and would liaise with Doreen Snelling on possible fixtures. Norfolk Cricket promotes new membership and the over-40s league. A mid-week league should encourage more members to take up the sport.
6. **Allotments.** There are 75.5 plots let, a half-plot spare, and the community orchard. The Committee had decided to keep the rent at £12 for this season. There is a small waiting list. The protracted legal dispute with Mr James had been resolved following sound advice from a solicitor. As a result, the Committee will redraft the agreement to prevent disputes in future. Dog owners continue to be a problem, refusing to clear up after their pets, and there have been issues with some cyclists. The Police ask that all incidents be reported so that a pattern of offences can be tackled. Remedial work this season will include a new tap and new gates.
7. **Tree Warden.** Peter Croot's report thanked fellow wardens for their work and support. Hedging around the orchard has been completed, and Norfolk apples supplied to the National Trust's apple fair. It is hoped to create a wild-flower meadow in the orchard. Trees have been planted and tagged, but there are concerns about diseases including ash die-back and leaf mining moths. Peter Croot, Michael Spinks and Brian Abbs have all contributed greatly to the beauty of the village, and offer parishioners advice and practical help.
8. **Coltishall Jags** – not present.

11. Rectory Road and St John's Close proposals

The revised Development Plan would be circulated the councillors and a response made on behalf of the village. Consultation runs from today until the end of May, and is open to responses from individuals and parish councils. The parish objected to the inclusion of St John's Close and Rectory Road in the original plan in favour of developing the Jordan's brownfield site. The revised Plan shows the St John's Close is not now included, but both Rectory Road and Jordan's sites are included, with 25-30 houses each, although the inclusion of the Jordan's site may only be in recognition of the parish's preference. The onus is on the Jordan family to progress the site : if not then Rectory Road would probably be developed by default. A transport assessment would be required for both sites; there are no obvious solutions to the impact of increased traffic on Rectory Road. The Plan shows pedestrian access to the playing field and the Bure Valley railway from Rectory Road, and across the cricket field from the Jordan's site. Both fields are held in Trust by the Parish Council, but to date no approach has been made to the Parish Council by Broadland DC. Rectory Road is a greenfield site, and it is important that the hinterland is protected from further encroachment. There are concerns about the aquifer. This site was previously refused planning permission on the grounds of protecting the hinterland. Should Rectory Road be developed, there is the possibility that future development could extend to St James.

12. Overview of planning for 2012-13

Applications were as follows :-

10 – extensions, 1- new dwelling, 1- timber building, 1- function room, 1- variation of opening times, removal of 10 trees, 4- alterations to buildings, 7- modular buildings, six of which were at the former RAF Coltishall for Fire Service Training.

Other business

Mr Mallett reported that Hautbois Church costs some £1000-£2000 per year more than it receives, and the PCC is considering making it available for alternative use. The Girl Guides have shown an interest. A previous application by the Norwich Diocese for housing was refused as it is outside the development limit.

Mr Mallett has been District Councillor for 14 years, and feels he should not stand for a further four-year term. He would support a Conservative candidate from the village, which deserves proper representation from an interested local person.

Meeting closed 9.20 pm. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 12th May 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.