

HOLTON ST MARY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON 15th APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Sally Thurlow (Chairman), Dot Steeds (Clerk) and 18 parishioners.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Chris & Marjorie Haste, Chris Clark, Rev Rosalind Paul, Jean Styles, Paul Torrington, Mick Coulthard, Tony Howard, Russ Thompson

3. MINUTES OF 2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Sheila Gibson. Seconded by Erik Ellis.

4. MATTERS ARISING: It was commented that Broadband speeds have improved. The pot holes in Church Square, despite having been filled last year, have re-appeared.

5. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman began by giving thanks to the following people. Dot Steeds (Clerk to the Parish Council) for her continued excellent work, Parish, District and County Councillors, David Yorke-Edwards who is standing down after many years service and Bill Priestley who is not standing for re-election, Garth Cracknell as Tree Warden, Erik Ellis as Highways representative, Ernest Eagle as Millennium Green representative, Bill Priestley as Village Hall committee representative and Tony Howard and Naomi Ellis who regularly walk and check footpaths. Heelis & Lodge continue to act as internal auditors. The volunteer band of litter pickers were also thanked for keeping the village tidy.

Parish Precept: This has remained the same except for the residual transition grant.

Footpath: Construction of the extension to the footpath will create a recreational circular walk linking paved and public footpaths. It should be built shortly.

Broadband: The speed has increased this year.

Parish computer: A laptop has replaced the desktop as the old operating system no longer received security updates and BDC intend all planning documents to be viewed on line in the future.

Noise Nuisance: Thanks to the effort of a resident the 'clanking' manhole has been repaired.

Cycling: In May the Women's Race passed through the village and this year there will be the Women's Tour on 18th June and the Tour of Britain on 7th September.

A12: Current roadworks are resurfacing and the installation of average speed cameras. Thanks was given to the long running campaigning by the District Councillors to improve safety on the road.

Planning: A list of planning applications was circulated.

Coronation Gates: It has still not been possible to identify a contractor able to sand blast, powder coat and paint the gates.

Church Square: Resurfacing will be a matter for the new PC. Rotten posts have been replaced. Thanks was given to the volunteers who continue to maintain the pots and keep the grass cut.

Well-being: Following concerns regarding the Constable Medical Practice the County Councillor actively took up the issues.

Community Matters: There was a 'Meet the Village' event in October 2014. 'First Friday of the Month Lunches' will start in May. There is a closed Holton St Mary village group on Facebook.

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT: The Clerk presented the accounts for the year 2013-2014 which were passed by the Audit Commission on 19th August 2014. The clerk explained any significant differences in income/expenditure with the accounts for the previous year. (Attached)

7. VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS: Using these signs, to alert drivers to their speed, is reliant on volunteers. The view of the Parish Council is that using these signs may mean the loss of the service provided by the Police who regularly monitor speeds at Church Square. The Chairman sought the views of those present. Gretel Maddison asked why there can't be fixed cameras? Erik Ellis explained that the location doesn't fit the relevant criteria. Mark Anderson suggested that residents should display their own 30mph boards outside their property as in Higham. Erik said that standing beside the road wearing a hi-viz jacket and holding a mobile phone is an effective way of slowing traffic and that there is a cost implication for VAS. Gordon Jones explained that Higham's own speed control measures aren't legal and that there is no suitable stretch of road in their village on which to place a VAS. Gretel Maddison said that crossing the road is difficult. A bus was reported as having been observed travelling too fast. Erik Ellis suggested that the new Parish council should revisit the criteria for having a fixed sign and that a decision can't be made without knowing the cost. This will be an action for the new PC

8. VILLAGE WEBSITE: Several years ago the Clerk set up the website and reiterated that it is the village's not the Parish Council's website. It is not used to its potential and the Chairman suggested that it would be good experience for a young person to become involved in its development.

9. PARISH CHURCH REPORT: Paul Torrington was unable to be present so the Clerk read out his report which is attached.

10. UNITED CHARITIES REPORT: Frances Torrington read out the report which is attached. She reported that the Trustees have awarded £500 to the Footpath extension as they consider the project is supporting the village and meets their criteria.

11. SOCIAL CLUB REPORT: Erik Ellis reported that membership is down but this is not a concern as no big events on the way. Whist continues on the last Friday of the month. Future events are a progressive dinner, golf day, coach and river trip to Kew Gardens, an autumn quiz, fireworks and Xmas dance. All Risks and Public Liability Insurance is held and there is a club licence from Babergh DC but that only covers events in the hall, any others require a Temporary Event Notice. Accounts have been accepted at the AGM and, even though having funded the 'Meet the Village event', there was still a profit of £606.98.

12. VILLAGE HALL REPORT: Erik Ellis reported that the hall is let to several regular users as well as occasional lets. Thanks to committee and non-committee helpers the outside of the hall has been decorated, weeds cleared and stone drainage laid. Finances are solid and next year it is intended to extend the acoustic ceiling. The new Village Hall Committee was elected en bloc with a representative from the Parish Council to be nominated at the AGM of the new Parish Council. Members are Chris Clark, Chris Haste, Alan Beak, Rachel Eagle, Jan Chang, Geoff White and Rob Clarke. Proposed by Sheila Gibson. Seconded by Gretel Maddison.

13. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT: No representative attended.

14. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Council Tax has been frozen for a further year. However there are budget challenges. £2m has been allocated to a Wet Dock Crossing in Ipswich. Regarding education Suffolk is slowly rising up the league tables especially in early years and Key Stage 1. 75,000 households have been connected to superfast broadband with a target of 100,000 by the end of 2015. It is aimed to create 5,000 apprenticeships and MyGo has been set up as a job centre solely for young people. The energy from waste project is up and running with the Gt Blakenham centre taking waste from both Suffolk and Norfolk making a saving of £1m per year. Work continues regarding mental health issues and Gordon has, locally, supported the footpath extension, met with the practice manager at Constable Medical Centre and been involved in issues surrounding the work on the A12. Sheila Gibson reported that there are pot holes at the southbound junction at the Four Sisters.

15. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: Sue and Kathy circulated their annual report (attached). Sue Carpendale explained her involvement with A12 diversion problems during the roadworks. BDC and Mid-Suffolk DC have not merged but will, when appropriate, have some joint policies in place. Suffolk is a low wage area with a low skills level relative to the high growth industries sector. BDC has identified 5 years' worth of land supply for new housing development which means speculative projects are unlikely to get planning permission. There should be proportionate development in small villages. She alerted residents that there have been instances of threatening and aggressive behaviour from many bogus people 'door-stepping'. Inform Police please. She finished by congratulating the PC on its forthcoming election. Kathy Pollard added that BDC has become more entrepreneurial e.g. Solar panels fixed on council buildings. Regarding health, with an ageing population all organisations are working together ensuring care packages are in place allowing discharge from hospital. The Mental Health Trust is currently in special measures but Ipswich Hospital has received recognition for excellent services, especially in A & E. Pam Quare asked why the solar panel project at Tattingstone had been refused planning permission and it was explained that it would use prime agricultural land. It was suggested that new builds should have solar panels and that buildings be aligned to receive maximum sunlight.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Sally Thurlow reported that water and sewage connections are about to be made at the new build opposite requiring the use of temporary traffic lights. An open day is planned soon. She also reported that BDC is the 11th best place to live in the country. The pot holes in Church Square have degraded and the new PC will consider repairs.

Pam Quare said there are Health and Safety issues for wheelchair users. The notice board in Bacons Green is looking sad and tatty. The bench around the oak tree needs refurbishment.

Sheila Gibson thanked Earnest Eagle for organising oil deliveries.

Mark Anderson said HGVs are still passing through the village earlier than 6am as permitted according to planning permission.

The meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

Signed

Dated