

Minutes of Griston Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 at Angelica Place Day Centre.

Attending: Malcolm Bellingham, David Barnett, Stephanie Merrit-Morling, Malcolm Newby, Stewart Southgate, Stan Hebborn (County Councillor) PCSO Tonya Winsley and five members of the public.

Mr Bellingham took the chair and welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies: Les Pask and Phil Cowan (District Councillor)
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed. Mr Barnett asked what had happened about the bulb planting. The clerk said the licence had been obtained. It might be possible to find funding to obtain the bulbs to plant this year.
3. Matters Arising: There were no outstanding matters arising
4. The Clerk presented The Parish Council accounts that showed balances of £3019.38 in the Current account and £9101.81 in the Deposit account. The accounts had been audited by Mrs L Wellbelove. Mr Newby noted the usual donations had not been made and asked if there was a reason for this. The Clerk said it had been proposed that these were not paid unless a request was made and there had been no requests. She pointed out that Wayland Partnership did not make annual requests as it had been suggested when this was set up that Parish Councils pay £1 per person on the electoral roll which had been done until this year. Mr Newby proposed the accounts be approved seconded Mr Southgate. The Clerk asked members if they wished £3000 of the balance in the Current account to be transferred to the Deposit account as the first half of the Precept had been received. This was agreed and the letter to the bank signed. Mr Barnett said he thought a lot of people did not realise that the bottle bank earned income for the village. Mr Hebborn said that Breckland did not earn money from the glass put in wheelie bins it actually cost them and therefore the Council Tax payer's money to dispose of it. An item to be put in The Waylander and on the website to remind people that the bottle bank earned money for the village.

5. Reports:

a) Parish Council Chairman.

The Chairman was not in attendance and had not provided a report. Mr Bellingham said he had not prepared a report as he was not expecting to have to make one. He said there had been ups and downs with the street lighting. The Annual inspection of the play equipment had found a number of items needing attention although they were all low risk. Members of the council together with volunteer help had rectified most of these over two weekends. While this was being undertaken a problem had been found with the chain on one of the swings which had subsequently been removed for safety. The manufacturer had been notified and it was hoped this would soon be reinstalled. The flyers regarding the website that had been delivered with The Waylander had not brought the response to the website it had been hoped for and so it was proposed a separate A4 newsletter would be delivered to all households. Mr Hulyer asked what the ups and downs of the street lighting were as there had been an article in The Waylander asking for peoples views but nothing further. It was explained the council had looked into the costs of fitting timers to the existing lights, replacing the existing with LED lights with timers and removing the lights. However it had been found that the cost of all three options were very high and if the lights

were just switched off they still had to be insured and maintained for safety. It had therefore been decided to keep the existing lights and only replace them when they fail.

b) Breckland District Councillor

The new District Councillor had contacted the Clerk to say he would be on holiday and not available for meetings for two weeks.

c) Norfolk County Councillor:

Mr Hebburn reported on the Committee System, NCC Administration, the 2015/16 Budget, Norwich Park and Ride, RAF Coltishall, Better Broadband, Breaking New Ground – the Brecks and The Future of Waste. His full report is available from The Clerk.

d) Police:

PCSO Winsley said there had been low crime figures for the village. Although there had been an increase in the number of burglaries in the district only one had occurred in Griston. There is a free service offering advice on crime prevention. She said there had recently been activity around the prison including the police helicopter due to suspicious activity around the perimeter fence. The next SNAP meeting is on 27th May at the fire station in Watton when people can raise any concerns. She was asked if there had been any thefts of heating oil but she said no, since the price had dropped there had not been so many of these.

e) Griston Community Committee:

Mr Pask had told the Clerk if he had been able to attend his report would have been the same as last year, “in limbo”. Mrs Merrit-Morling asked why this was and if it would be possible to resurrect it. Mr Bellingham, who was a committee member, said that there had been lack of support from the village although initially they had managed to raise a good amount, part of which had been donated towards the play equipment. There were still funds in the bank and the committee owned a marquee. Mr Bellingham would look into the possibility of restarting the committee. A member of the public responded to the suggestion of lack of support by asking how residents were supposed to know what was going on in the village. She had attended Parish Council meetings but felt information was not passed on. Mr Barnett said this was why the web site had been set up to give another way of passing information on to residents.

f) Archive Group:

Mrs Park said the group were still working on the World War One Project in conjunction with the Wayland Heritage Group. An exhibition will be held over the weekend of 14th and 15th of November at Watton Sports Centre. While looking at the listings of records held at Norfolk Record Office it had been discovered that an early Parish Meeting minute book had been lodged with some church records. She was hoping to photograph this and wondered if it would be possible for her to photograph the others which she holds as Clerk so that a digital record could be made. This was agreed.

g) Wayland Partnership:

The Clerk said an initiative to promote jobs in the area utilising Facebook and Twitter had been set up. The Dragonfly Gallery currently had an exhibition “Made in Norfolk” and many others to follow throughout the year. A number of craft workshops were planned. Dementia Aware training for businesses and the Dementia Café had been launched. A Healthy lifestyle Marquee is being

organised for the Wayland Show. Parish Appraisals and Neighbourhood planning will be discussed over the next few months with a meeting for Chairmen in July.

6. AOB:

There being no further business the meeting moved on to the Parish Council AGM