

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HORNINGTOFT HELD AT St. EDMUND'S CHURCH ON TUESDAY 8TH MARCH 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillor A Hill (Chair)
Councillor G Drew
Councillor P Greenwood

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor J Labouchere
Prospective District Councillor T Carter

4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Councillor Chapman had forwarded her apologies as she was on holiday.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Drew proposed and Councillor Greenwood seconded the resolution the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2010 be approved. All were in favour.

3. County Councillor Report.

The headlines since last I reported to you have all been about the results of the last election and the subsequent appraisal of the financial health or otherwise of the Country.

The autumn comprehensive spending review impacted on all local government finances with spending power of local authorities reduced by a maximum of 8.9%. As a result of the review Norfolk County Council has had central government grants reduced by £155m over the next 3 years.

Norfolk's "Big Conversation" was initiated in an innovative way, the amount we spend on all the discretionary services we provide were included in a consultation document and we asked people to identify those services that they attached the most importance to. Whilst it is regrettable that some services have been reduced in scale and others removed completely we have managed to keep some of the services that are so important to our largely rural population such as:-

Post 16 education travel
Repairs to rural roads
Children's Centres

All remaining services will be looked at with a view to making them more efficient, this will include a review of all the jobs within the Council. Indeed a review of the senior and middle management posts has been undertaken and 750 FTE posts have been removed affecting over 1,000 people.

As you will all be aware the very cold weather before Christmas tested the County Councils gritting policy. The PFI contract we have in place kept up the supply of salt so that we didn't run out. However, some of the gritting that we carried out was not effective as the efficiency of the mixture is dependant on the temperature remaining above about -6 and lots of vehicle movements grinding the mixture into the snow and ice.

The heavy weather also did considerable damage to the roads, which had only just been repaired from the ravages of the previous winter and many temporary repairs have had to be carried out, these will be replaced during the summer maintenance programme which is due to start in April or May.

The hot topic at the moment is the proposal to site an Energy from Waste facility at Saddlebow near Kings Lynn. Norfolk County Council Cabinet yesterday let the contract for its construction however there is a long way to go, including a licence to operate from the Environment Agency, before a clod of earth is moved. The imperative to move away from land fill is driven by the ever increasing cost imposed by the landfill tax, at present £44 per ton deposited rising to £80 per ton by 2015. The facility at Saddlebow, if it is built, will take 260,000 ton of waste per year over the course of the 25 year scheme at an estimated cost of £500m. (One year at £44 per ton = £11.4m saved in landfill tax)

4. District Councillors Report.

He reported that this would be his last meeting having been the District Councillor for 16 years which had gone very quickly. Throughout this time there had not been a problem working with the Parish. He had worked with four chairmen and attended 33 meetings. He reported that six months ago the Little Dunham Sub-Station had been refused and this had gone to appeal. Economy has improved as Breckland is now sharing services with South Holland with about £200,000 being saved with joint chief executive and savings have been made. Breckland Council and is very efficient with the lowest Council Tax in England. The Standards Board is to be disbanded but members still need to register their interests. It is common sense not to use your position to further your own interests. The new act when law will mean that complaints will not be able to be made vexatious but failure to comply will still be an offence. He hoped that Trevor Carter will be elected in May and that the Parish will go from strength to strength.

Mr Cleverly asked the District Councillor if the planning system at Breckland is efficient as the previous.

The District Councillor thought that the new system is a good one and working well.

Councillor Hill raised the matter of North Pole Farm which continues to drag on and the District Councillor would pursue the matter.

Councillor Hill thanked the District Councillor for his input and service over many years.

5. Chairman's Report.

As attached.

6. Homewatch Report.

Mr John Robertson reported that this had been a very bad year as more members had been lost as police removed support. The police review may renew support. The police through the SNT are doing a good job in supplying information but it has not been going to Mr Robertson although this is being put right.. He will stay for another year as he felt that the year ahead could see some valuable input for the Homewatch Scheme. Crime is up a little and there has been a rise in distraction burglary and theft of household oil. No crime had been reported to Homewatch in the last year and he enquires if the Parish Council wished him to continue. Councillor Hill replied that it did. The crime from farms had not received much help from the police once the goods had gone and were advising the victims to claim on their insurance. There is a campaign to stop suspicious vehicles and to check them for any stolen farm goods.

7. Charity Trustees Report.

Horningtoft Eleemosynary Charity

Financial Year End 31 March 2010

Gross Income £225 Gross Expenditure £295

Balance carried forward £235-36

A successful year for the charity, the income from investments increased and deserving cases were found to make grants to. This year to date we have helped four residents and we still have funds we can give so anyone who needs some extra help or knows of someone else in the village who does they are encouraged to approach the Charity. The trustees are Pauline Chapman, Heath Gooch and Liz Logan.

8. Parochial Church Council Report.

As attached.

9. Heritage Society Report.

Horningtoft Heritage Society 2010

An exhibition was held the weekend of 11th & 12th September in St Edmund's Church. The theme was family trees of past and present residents of Horningtoft and emigration, with many photographs of the people in the trees.

Once again we were very pleased with the interest and number of visitors. One visitor Mick Reeve found the event on our www.horningtoft.org.uk web site and travelled down from Doncaster, sticking together a family tree in his camper van when he arrived. This was laid out on the floor, the full length of the alter rail and dating from about 1700. Mick met up with a family now living in the village who tie into his Reeve family tree. I first helped Mick with his research in Horningtoft many years ago.

We were also given a postcard of the village shop c1930 (not sure of the date) by Joe & Pat Beales, Pat being the niece of Violet and Nellie Blyth who used to run the shop. We now have seven postcards, two of The Manor, The Hurdle, The Church inside and out, The shop and Bell Cottages and Street, would love to know if there are any more out there.

Enquiries still coming via the Horningtoft web site, and the visitors book in the church.

Would still like any information, old deeds, photo's etc relating to the village. We can scan and return to the owner

10. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 1940