

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HORNINGTOFT HELD AT St. EDMUND'S CHURCH ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**Present:** Councillor A Hill (Chair)  
Councillor T Hawke  
Councillor I Baker  
Councillor G Drew  
Councillor P Greenwood

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris  
District Councillor T Carter

1 member of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Mrs Cleverley had forwarded her apologies as she was on holiday.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Councillor Drew proposed and Councillor Hill seconded the resolution the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2011 be approved. All were in favour.

**3. County Councillor Report.**

The past year has seen work continuing on making the Council as efficient as possible to make inroads into the £155m shortfall in government funding reported last year. We have managed to make £60m worth of saving thus far this financial year, largely through transformation of services, there are some 111 change programmes either completed or underway, where possible staff have been redeployed to save on redundancy costs.

This has allowed the Council to set next years (12/13) Council Tax at the same level as last year. We are aiming to have no tax increase the following year (13/14). Additionally we have been able to keep those services that the public identified during last years Big Conversation as being most valued; we have not closed any Fire Stations and have invested £10m in new fire appliances. Unlike other Councils our public libraries remain open, some with revised opening hours (saving 10% of operating costs) as suggested by the public. Next financial year we have committed an extra £3.5m to maintain and improve roads throughout the County. We were successful in our Broadband Bid with a County Council investment of £15m being match funded by Government. This should lead to 99% broadband coverage of at least 2Mbps in due course (2015 target). We have retained post 16 travel for students receiving further education and restored the budget to maintain Public Rights of Way.

Thankfully, although it is not yet over, this winter has not been as severe as the previous 2. The one bad spell of recent snow was dealt with efficiently with all priority one routes kept clear and priority 3 routes gritted within 48 hours of the first snowfall. There are still concerns in some communities that their preferred travel routes are not on the priority gritting routes. I continue to try to address these concerns and have had some small successes over the last 2 years; however each community does have at least one route to the main highway network which is gritted.

The Council signed an agreement with Cory Wheelabrator to build a energy from waste plant at Saddlebow near Kings Lynn which will save £200m in landfill tax over the life of the contract. This has understandably been the subject of vociferous protest from those near to the proposed site. I am not an expert on the technology involved and cannot argue for or against any claims on health grounds; I will leave the final word to the Environment Agency who are the experts as to whether the plant is safe or not and will issue the permit to operate if appropriate. I have had one letter on the subject from my area which supported the proposal.

Norfolk is bucking the national trend as far as unemployment is concerned, while our unemployment figures are concerning especially in the 16 -24 age range they are better than the national figures. The dualling of the last bit of the A11 through Elveden, projected improved rail links to London and Cambridge and the development of the outer harbour at Great Yarmouth is the infrastructure that will put Norfolk at the forefront of economic recovery. The Council have in the past year invested £58m in Norfolk's economy and earmarked £3m next year to fund 200 apprenticeships for 2 years.

The schools in this local area continue to provide excellent education for our children. The County's Children's Service support children and young people with a revenue budget of £154m ( this excludes the cost of running schools which are funded direct from Government through the Dedicated Schools Grant) and a capital budget of £70m (for new infrastructure). In all it has been a challenging year for Norfolk County Council and with careful financial management now and over the next year I am positive that we can maintain the services we provide to the people of Norfolk and provide the stimulus to the local economy that will provide meaningful jobs in a growing economy.

Mr Robertson queried if Horningtoft will be the 1% that does not get faster broadband. The County Councillor replied that he hoped that if enough register to the Say Yes to Broadband Campaign then the service will be upgraded. Mr Robertson had heard that the exchange at Tittleshall is to be upgraded to fibre optic. Councillor Chapman had also heard this.

Mr Robertson also queried the incinerator at King's Lynn and was informed that there had been a vociferous anti-energy from waste campaign but the County Council can not open up any more landfill sites.

#### **4. District Councillors Report.**

Mr Robertson stated that Breckland Council is definitely a listening council as it had changed the listings for the wheelie bins following representation from him as he is colour blind and can now discern the different dates for each bin.

#### **5. Chairman's Report.**

As attached.

#### **6. Homewatch Report.**

Mr John Robertson reported that he is still considering that he needs to resign my commitment (age). Looking for replacement. Not an onerous job these days. No Pay! But will continue for time being as changes are still afoot with Home Watch and I would like to see what they are before I go.

The Breckland Home Watch Association (which I formed at the request of the Police) is still going but they are waiting to finalise their relationship with the Police which, at the moment, is not strong.

Not a great need for the position of Homewatch Co-ordinator today as we now have more direct access to the Police and with more helpful contacts than there used to be.

The number to telephone for a non-emergency call (e.g. a crime that has already happened) is, simply, **101** (now changed from the former 0845 456 4567).

But, continue to dial **'999'** in an emergency (e.g. for a crime that is happening.)

The Police SNT (SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM) at Dereham adds a further line of contact.

The PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) covering our Parish is PCSO 8554, Jade Fuller, who can be contacted at Dereham by telephone at 0845 456 4567 Extn: 2212 – or by Fax: 01362 691319 (these numbers are according to her recent message but in view of the above I would suggest we dial '101' and ask for extension 2212)

The Police also have useful Norfolk websites, the main one being:

[www.norfolk.police.uk/contactus.aspx](http://www.norfolk.police.uk/contactus.aspx)

(with all the information you ever need about the Police)

[www.norfolk.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods.aspx](http://www.norfolk.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods.aspx)

(where you can get details of crimes committed)  
John Robertson 01328 700031 or email (note, recently changed)  
[jrobertson1571@btinternet.com](mailto:jrobertson1571@btinternet.com)

**7. Charity Trustees Report.**

Horningtoft Eleemosynary Charity

Financial Year End 31 March 2011

Gross Income £232

Gross Expenditure £250

Balance carried forward £217.39

A successful year for the charity, the income from investments increased and four awards were made to residents. This year to date we have helped one resident and have one application from another however 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 were confirmed in 2011 by the Parish Council and are Pauline Chapman, Heath Gooch and Liz Logan.

**8. Parochial Church Council Report.**

Councillor Hill reported that the rector, Robin, is working manfully and a faculty application is being made for improved electricity within the church..

**9. Heritage Society Report.**

2011 was a quiet year for the Society as a full scale exhibition was held in 2010 and we usually have one main exhibition every two years when the PCC hold a fund raising event. Small exhibitions have been placed on the permanent boards in the church, the most recent theme was for 20<sup>th</sup> November which is the Saints day for St Edmund the patron saint of this church. In June this year we will have a minor exhibition on the boards here in the church about previous Coronation, Silver and Golden celebrations in the village.

Enquiries continue to come in via the Horningtoft web site, and the visitors' book in the church. Heather is kept busy researching family history and helping compile family trees for people. We are always looking for any information, old deeds, photo's etc relating to the village. We can either photograph or scan and return items to the owners.

**10. Any Other Business.**

The Horningtoft Village Walk is on 6 April starting from the bus shelter at 1030. The first walk was done on 1 April 1994. There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2000