

# **COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Vice-Chairman Mark Rischmiller opened the meeting and welcomed all present. **Safety notices were read out.**

### **Present**

**Councillors** Mark Rischmiller, Trevor Goddard, Michael Spinks, Mike Kirkham, Amanda Taylor-Pope, June Lillingstone, Doreen Snelling, Bob Grindrod, Bill Musson, and 18 parishioners and visitors

#### **1. Apologies**

Penny Loiez tendered her apologies which were accepted.

#### **2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 11th April 2016**

Accepted as a true record and signed by Mark Rischmiller as Chairman of this meeting.

#### **3. Police report**

Amanda Taylor- Pope reported that the two vehicles involved in the accident near the butchers' shop sustained damage, but there were no injuries. Parking on the footpath at Hautbois was investigated and found not to be an obstruction. The accident on Rectory Road in January which demolished a telegraph pole was caused by excessive speed; there will be a court case. PCSO Bill Kerr is still unwell; a card was sent by the Parish Council wishing him a speedy recovery.

#### **4. County Councillor Tom Garrod**

Tom Garrod was sad to inform the meeting that District Councillor Alan Mallett has resigned from Broadland DC due to poor health. There will be a by-election in June following the County Council elections. Norfolk County Council had achieved much during the past year, receiving recognition as a caring, courageous Council with a positive future. Children's Services had improved as had school ratings, the Council is working with Barnardo's to better support children and promotes the Children's University for 5-12 year-olds with great success. The Higher Education Scheme links schools with opportunities to ready young people for university, with good results. School buildings are being renovated. Social workers are being recruited and trained via the Norfolk Institute for Practice Excellence; since its inception two years ago some 110 social workers have been employed through NIPE. Adult services are tackling loneliness, helping to facilitate early hospital discharge and reduce readmissions, providing homes for Syrian refugees, combating domestic violence, and have received a good report for Community Learning Services. Better Broadband, an integrated transport strategy, the NDR and Western Link, collaboration with the emergency services, the Summer Reading Challenge, and promotion of libraries as cultural hubs were all in the spotlight during the past year. There were concerns from several parishioners about the water main work on Church Street which had closed the road on 2-3 occasions and affected residents and businesses alike. Bob Grindrod considered the road closures were the result of incompetence on the contractors' behalf. The work should have been completed by today, but the site had not been cleared. **NB The full report is available for inspection.**

#### **5. District Councillor - no report presented.**

#### **6. Chairman's Report – presented by Mark Rischmiller**

Penny Loiez apologised for not being present at this Annual Parish Meeting but family obligations made it impossible to attend. It has been nearly a year since Robert Watson and Mike Warren resigned, but thanks to our clerk and a strong team of experienced and new members of the Parish Council, plus the support and advice of the previous team, she feels that things have been running well. The Sanders bus service has been reinstated down Rectory Road thanks to Doreen Snelling and our District and County Councillors, Alan Mallett and Tom Garrod. The new MUGA is finished and much in use, thanks to Mike Warren . The new exercise equipment is installed and in use by

parishioners of all ages: thanks to those concerned. Coltishall & Horstead Preschool, the most assiduous users of the Village Hall, have a new, safe outside space which is much appreciated by both parents and children. Thanks to their committee and CAST for sorting this out so quickly. The Council welcomed new Councillors Trevor Goddard, Bob Grindrod, and Bill Musson, and still has one vacancy. Work in progress includes the proposal for a telephone mast at the football field. Councillors are working to achieve the best deal for the village, and believe that Bob Grindrod will ensure the best outcome. Developer application for 30 houses on Rectory Road: there was an excellent turnout from the village at the EGM and councillors hope that enough attendees followed up with comments on the application to Broadland District council as without this our concerns may be ignored. The parish must remain vigilant and be prepared to fight our corner to ensure our village and its infrastructure is not overloaded in the interests of a quick profit. The Parish Council is working with CAST to ensure that they have the finance and manpower to continue looking after these valuable village amenities. Speedwatch ceased in the village due to excessive paperwork requirements from police and especially a lack of volunteers. In a village of over 1,500 inhabitants, this is a rather sad state of affairs. More villagers are needed to participate because without them our organisations would not survive. Penny Loiez thanked those who actively participate in running our village, its various associations and clubs, and who turn up regularly to Parish Council meetings. She thanked the clerk for her support and advice.

Mark Rischmiller read a letter from Penny Loiez advising that she will not seek re-election as Chairman, as she will be returning to France in July. She will remain as a councillor until that time.

#### **7. HMP Bure**

Mr Andrew Yeaman, Head of Safer Prisons and Equality. Mr Yeaman thanked the community for its acceptance of the prison; HMP Bure seeks to be a good neighbour and work with the community. The prison currently holds 643 offenders, with no plans for expansion. A recent inspection reported it to be a well-run, high-performing prison. Governor Sue Doolan will shortly be taking up a new post in the Midlands. There have been no complaints about the prison except for concerns about speeding in the vicinity. Mr Yeaman lives in Badersfield, and takes part in Speedwatch to deter drivers from speeding. The prison has been open for eight years, and Mr Yeaman was pleased to say that charities have benefited from thousands of pounds raised by offenders through various events. He reported that the first governor, Paul Cawkwell, is recovering from the assault and undertaking light duties.

#### **8. Scottow Enterprise Park**

Mr Michael Graham was welcomed to the meeting. His organisation is a specialist in infrastructure planning. The site is successful in attracting businesses and creating jobs, and is at 80% capacity. There are currently 53 active planning applications, none of which relate to either the prison or the solar farm, which are to be consolidated into one set of consents and restrictions with the aim of clarifying the type of business allowed on the site, and the restrictions applied to it. There are two changes thus far : noise pollution will be restricted and monitored to prevent high-speed testing, and the number of HGVs per day to the site limited to 30. The highway network in Norfolk can support a large number of HGVs, but roads to the site were not considered appropriate for more than 30 HGVs due to noise pollution of local homes, although Highways considered 150 to be acceptable. The aim is to control noise, not stifle potential businesses. There is no housing in the application. A number of groups are involved in discussions about a heritage centre. Keith Childerhouse noted that none of the measures alleviated the problem of excess traffic through Coltishall, or HGVs using the wrong route. Mr Graham promised to actively log all HGVs to ensure the drivers use the designated routes; foreign drivers follow sat-navs and often use the wrong route, but Mr Graham stressed that the site wants to be a good neighbour, and he will endeavour to ensure compliance. The Officers' Mess is being considered for National Listing, and is unlikely to be designated for housing. A new access is in the application, but will protect the cemetery. It would be in close proximity to other roads, and might not be cost-effective if traffic did not increase. Bob Grindrod congratulated Mr Graham on the recent presentation, time spent with visitors, and the quality of information to hand.

#### **9. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity**

The Directors of the Charity thanked all hirers for their continued support of the village facilities. Although some bookings have been lost, many groups are flourishing. The past year had been

difficult due to increased maintenance work and vandalism, which put a strain on finances. Two football teams have been lost, but the Bure Valley girls' teams and their manager have been very supportive. New income streams must be found to increase the use of the facilities and boost funds. The Pre-school has installed an outside play area, which is very popular, but vandals have attacked it on a couple of occasions. Anyone having information about vandalism was asked to report it to the police. Doreen Snelling thanked her fellow directors for their support in this difficult year.

### **Reports from village organisations**

**Tree Warden.** Peter Croot gave a full and extensive report on the activities of the Tree Wardens during the past year. Mr Chesney-Beales left Broadland DC, and it was feared that the Tree Warden scheme could end. It has now been transferred to the Norwich Fringe Project, although advice is still available from Broadland DC. Peter Croot is involved in the Bure Valley Conservation Group taking on conservation tasks along the Bure Valley, and in creating a wildflower meadow at Community Orchard, pruning trees and maintaining hedging. The primary school and Brownies helped to plant daffodils around the village. Tree surveys have been carried out, although ash die-back is still prevalent. An area at Lower Common has been cleared to install a bench, and part of the Church field will be prepared for occasional parking for the Church. Tree Wardens are happy to advise parishioners on gardening matters. Peter Croot thanked his fellow Tree Wardens, the Parish Council and Broadland DC/Norwich Fringe Project for their support.

**Cricket.** The Cricket season begins shortly; the second season as a stand-alone club. There is a base of 15-16 players, mostly the older age group, so younger players are needed, especially from the village. There are 9 home games plus midweek matches. Kevin Fisher has played in Coltishall for many years and looks forward to many more.

**Pre-school.** There are 29 children ages 2-3 currently attending pre-school, which is at capacity, and looking to expand its services to accommodate demand. It is financially sound, and fundraising has enabled the creation of a well-used outside space. The organisers thanked the Parish Council for its help, and hoped that developing relations with the Village hall Charity would allow the updating of facilities, leading to an expansion of services.

**Bowls Club.** The club is preparing for the new season which begins on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The ground is in good condition although it is costly to maintain. The advertising boards supplement fundraising. There are 30 members playing in three leagues, and more members would be most welcome.

**Short mat bowls.** The collaboration with Wroxham was very successful, and Coltishall members will continue as a new group in September.

**Bure Valley Girls' Football.** The Under15s and Under 16s had a good year, reaching the cup finals, Under11s are drawn mostly from the primary school, and there is interest in the formation of team for 2-6 year-olds. Teams compete against bigger, well-established teams, but the Club is well-run and gaining in popularity. Ted McCarter thanked Doreen and Charity Trustees for their support in encouraging village children to play sport. There was some concern that parking for matches could impede buses along Rectory Road.

**Coltishall Commons Management Trust.** The Trust works hard to maintain the Commons, trees and dykes. Tree surveys are commissioned regularly, risk management checks documented, work done to comply with recommendations, pot-holes repaired at Lower Common, and the grazing marsh managed in line with Natural England requirements. The leases to EDF were also finalised. This year has seen a great deal of work done to repair storm damage to trees, and the completion of the Trust's application to Fields in Trust to protect the Commons, Regular litter picks by Bill Musson, Peter Croot, Bob Grindrod and other volunteers keep the Commons tidy.

**Brownies.** Brownies meet on Monday evenings, followed by the Guides. The meetings are very popular, led by a good team of volunteers, but more leaders are needed. The Brownies helped plant daffodils around the village, and have helped with beach-cleaning as their community projects.

**Lunch club.** This club has gone from strength to strength, with numbers increasing to 32-36 people per week. New volunteers have come forward, some via the Good Neighbour Scheme. Members come from Coltishall and Horstead, with a pick-up service for some members.

**Sporting Lonsdale.** James Read was unable to attend but advised that the club will change its name next season and become independent from the first team. He asked for a volunteer to take over as club secretary, to ensure the future of the club.

**Planning.** There were 27 applications of which objections were raised against 4. These included a proposal for 30 houses in Rectory Road, which is still awaiting a decision from Broadland DC. The

Council had raised its concerns about density and infrastructure, which it hoped would inform the decision, due in May.

**Meeting closed at 9.00pm. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in the Village Hall Lounge at 7.30pm**