

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting

Thursday 13th April 2017 at 7pm

Held at the Edgar Sewter School

Present: Councillors;

Anne Fleming (Chair) David Thomas (Vice Chair), Peter Dutton, Keith Forster, Rosemary Lewis, Sandra Leverett, Maureen Took, David Wollweber.

In Attendance: N J Rees (Clerk), PC Kevin Stollary

Apologies: Cllr Tracy Gardner, Cllr Keith Greenberg, Cllr Andrew Payne, Cllr Paul Widdowson

Members of the Public: A register was kept on the door, manned by Mr M Fleming, 27 members of the public attended for the meeting.

The Chair explained that this meeting was the Annual Parish Meeting and not a Council meeting, there was no formal agenda but instead it would follow the usual format of a question and answer session.

PC Kevin Stollery presented a Police Report for the year April 2016 – March 2017 (attached). PC Stollery reported that their computer system was still under development but he had provided a list of 260 investigations into various crimes for the year. PC Stollery also reported that the Police had followed up complaints of drug use in the Town Park but although they had found no evidence of drugs he said plain clothes patrols would continue. Many residents that were present expressed surprise at this statement. PC Stollery encouraged residents to report any issues by ringing 101. PC Stollery also explained the Community Speed Watch programme which included Halesworth and ten other parishes. There were four suitable sites identified in Halesworth for monitoring speeds. Warning letters would be sent and repeat offenders would be targeted by the Police. It was noted that PCSO Jackie Adams had retired which was a great loss to the town and it was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of thanks for her many years of service.

The subjects for discussion received from residents were as follows:-

- 1) Barrow Crossing Gates
- 2) Bonfires - Byelaws
- 3) Patrick Stead Hospital & Rayner Green
- 4) Support for Halesworth Area Community Transport
- 5) Parking outside the Police Station
- 6) Letter to Patients of Cutler's Hill Surgery
- 7) Condition of pavements in the town
- 8) Access through the Thoroughfare

Barrow Crossing Gates

Cllr Dutton explained that the gates were not ideal, particularly for mobility scooters. For this reason the Town Council had requested a disability assessment and the report was expected soon. However, the Council were also mindful discussions with Network Rail would need to be delicate as everyone wanted to keep the crossing open.

Bonfires A resident wished to know if there were any byelaws covering bonfires as one of her neighbours regularly lit them and it was a nuisance as well as a potential health risk. The Council were not aware of any byelaws regarding bonfires and suggested contacting WDC who may have powers to follow it up if it was deemed to be a nuisance.

Letter to Patients of Cutler's Hill Surgery

The Chair read out a letter that was provided to patients visiting the Surgery. The content described the problems facing the NHS nationally and specifically the Cutler's Hill Surgery. It was worrying that the Surgery was having difficulties in attracting GP's to replace Dr Luddington who had recently left and a senior partner who was currently unwell. It was suggested that the letter should be posted on the website.

Patrick Stead Hospital & Rayner Green

Cllr Thomas reported that the Rayner Green Resource Centre was still under review but the CCG and ECCH were still supporting it for the time being.

It was also noted that there was a meeting at Southwold to discuss the future of the old former Southwold Hospital building which may be useful in the future for ideas for utilising the Patrick Stead Hospital building.

Support for Halesworth Area Community Transport

Mr Gray asked whether it was possible to get any Community Infrastructure Levy payments for HACT. Cllr explained that HTC only receives 15% of the CIL monies, the remaining 85% was retained by WDC for use in the area. Cllr Thomas explained that the Council can bid to WDC for some of the 85% and roads and transport was one of the categories that it could be spent on. The Council would be looking at this in further detail.

Cllr Lewis read out the list of grants awarded to the groups and organisations by HTC over the past year which amounted to a total of £21,220, all grants awarded by the Council were posted on the website. A resident asked why Bungay High School was on the list. Cllr Lewis explained that this was a small donation of £40 towards prizes for achievements and the majority of children in the town attended Bungay High School.

Parking outside the Police Station: A resident was concerned about the parking outside the Police Station and how this was becoming a hazard for traffic in both directions. It was noted that there was a designated parking area and this was generally full with vehicles owned by workers at the Police Station. This was perfectly legal, however it meant that on the school runs cars were parking on the side of the road as there were no spaces available. The Police were aware of the problem but unfortunately there wasn't anything the Town Council could do about it.

Condition of pavements in the town: A resident wished to draw attention to the very poor condition of some of the pavements in the town. The Chair suggested that this could be looked at by the Urban Improvement Working Group. The first meeting would be held in May and it was hoped Mark Kerridge of Suffolk County Council would attend. The Chair asked residents to report specific pavement/road issues so that the Working Group were aware and could look at the problem.

Access through the Thoroughfare: This was another subject that many residents had expressed concerns over and was partly the reason the Urban Improvement Working Group had been set up. All aspects of access for vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and mobility scooters would be reviewed by the Working Group

The Chair reported that the repair work to the Thoroughfare Car Park had been successfully completed and it was hoped this would cure the problem of pooling water.

Other matters:

A resident had heard rumours that the Skateboard Park was unsafe and may need to be replaced. The Clerk advised that Waveney Norse made regular safety checks and had recently made repairs. The Council were unaware of any other issues with the Skateboard Park

Domestic Waste: A resident asked whether there was any chance of getting a local recycling centre. Cllr Thomas advised that this was potentially another use for CIL monies and the Council would be looking into it.

A resident expressed concerns that there was a potential risk of serious flooding in the town at some point in the future and wished the Council to consider ways of managing the risk by slowing up the flow further up the river. This could be achieved relatively cheaply and valuable information could be learnt from the National Trust Holnicote Estate where they had created catchment areas to solve the problem. The Chair thanked the resident for this information and reported that the Council were currently in the process of drafting an

Emergency Plan in the event of a flood but did not possess the means to implement prevention work it as this was dealt with by the Environment Agency. Another resident reported that the flood of 1993, due to high tides and heavy rain was less likely to have the same effect now as the Fishing Lakes would absorb most of the additional water.

The Chair thanked all her fellow Councillors for their work during the year and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all their work. The Chair reported that she would be stepping down as Chair in May and wished to especially thank everyone that had supported and encouraged her during the last two years.