

PARISH OF NEW BUCKENHAM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF New Buckenham held on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 8pm in the Village Hall, Moat Lane

Present: Councillors Karen Hobley (Chair), Andrew Bingham, Bella Chirodian, Tony Lister, Darren Rush, David Scott Miller and Gerry Walsh

In Attendance: Mrs H A Clutten (Clerk), Adrian Joel (District Councillor), Stephen Askew (Norfolk County Councillor)

Absent
(without apologies) None

Public: 8

1. Welcome:
2. The Chair welcomed everyone to the April 2015 Annual Parish Meeting.
3. To consider accepting apologies for absence:

There were no apologies to record.

4. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2014:

The draft Minutes of the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated; **The MEETING RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2015. The Minutes were signed at the end of the meeting by the Chair of the Meeting, Karen Hobley.

5. To receive reports of matters arising from those Minutes for update and information only:

Nothing to report.

6. To receive the Chairman's Report:

Many thanks for coming to our meeting tonight – especially as I understand that Norwich are playing a vital match! We are delighted that you could join us and hope that you will stay for drinks and nibbles after the business of the meeting is over. As ever, the meeting will be completely informal so feel free to interrupt with contributions or questions at any time.

This meeting is tinged with sadness as it is the last meeting of our current Parish Council before the forthcoming elections. So it is goodbye to Bella, David, Gerry and Tony and possibly au revoir to Darren. I cannot thank you enough for all the hard work and support through some difficult times – I feel we have been a strong and united Parish Council and this has helped so much. I mustn't leave out Andrew, also – just because he isn't leaving, he still deserves much praise! Unfortunately Andrew and I are the only candidates for the election so we will not need to be canvassing for your votes! No kissing babies for us or meeting with Joey Essex, thank goodness! We will not even have a quorum so I am not sure what happens next. It is a pity that the small number of people who have been critical of the Parish Council in the past have not been willing to put their heads above the parapet. (My view, not necessarily the view of the Parish Council)

Hilary remains in post as Clerk and, while not a parish councillor, has been an invaluable, well-informed and hard-working member of the team. She is a diamond amongst parish council clerks and we are extremely grateful for everything she has done for us over the past 12 months, and before that of course. She has an organised and analytical brain whereas mine's quite fluffy so it is great to have her.

This time last year, we had just sold the Town Houses and announced that we were forming a working party to decide how the money would be both spent and invested. For a number of reasons, the working party took rather longer than we would have liked to report back to the village but details of how we are going to move forward are included in April's Parish News. Essentially, we are planning to set up a fund using part of the money to make regular grants to parishioners and village organisations. We are looking for 2 parishioners to form a panel with 3 parish councillors to consider and make recommendations to the full Parish Council for the awarding of these

grants. This was obviously decided before we were down to 2 councillors but we will go ahead and hopefully recruit 2 parishioners. We are also looking at the condition of our assets to see if they can be repaired or improved to reduce long term running costs and we will be considering the provision of any new facilities.

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the Cemetery, the Cricket Pitch and the Play Area. Broadland Tree Services continue to look after the Play Area, the Cemetery and the Cricket Pitch and do a first class job. We are also responsible for the maintenance and provision of electricity for street lights and pay for the maintenance of the Churchyard. We also administer the allotments – we currently have 2 vacancies if anyone is interested.

The council belongs to the Norfolk R.C.C., the Norfolk Association of Town and Parish Councils, the Playing Fields Association and the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Society of Local Council Clerks, all of whom produce informative literature and are useful when we find ourselves sinking in bureaucracy or in danger of being strangled by red tape.

In addition to my colleagues, I would like to thank other people as follows:

Adrian Joel our Breckland councillor who attends nearly all our meeting and works diligently on our behalf.

Violet Highton who co-ordinates the Community Car Scheme and all her volunteer drivers.

Ely and John Newport who maintain our events noticeboard under the Market Cross – please feel free to drop off any posters at Walnut Lodge.

Ken Gee, who has “retired” from his post as Tree Warden but did a very thorough job on behalf of the Parish Council.

Phew! I hope that by now you will have a flavour of the work of the Parish Council and an understanding that it is a lot more work than a meeting once a month.

I will finish with a reminder that Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month and we will be delighted to see you. Parish Council agendas and minutes are posted on our noticeboard on Lovells` wall.

Many thanks again for attending tonight – please stay for a drink and some nibbles at the end of the meeting.

7. To receive District and County Councillors' Reports:

The County and District Councillors gave reports on the work of their Councils over the last 12 months and gave details of ways in which they can help parishioners and Parish Councils.

Details included news about the shared Chief Executive at Breckland Council, the Breckland Joint Venture Company to drive regeneration within the District, and a Matched Funding Grant which has been given to the New Buckenham Village Hall for its kitchen refurbishment.

8. Neighbour Awareness:

There was a discussion on how this might operate in lieu of the Emergency Plan.

9. Open Session for Residents:

There were comments about the Housing Needs Survey and the Street Lighting.

10. Close:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.14pm.

Signed by Karen Hobley, Chair, 12th April 2016