

**Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting of the parishes of Bramfield and Thorington held in the Village Hall, Bramfield on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

**Present:** Cllr A Thomas (Chairman), Cllr A Rozkalns (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Bond, Cllr. A. Niven, Cllr P Layfield, Cllr W Shoote, County Councillor M Gower, four parishioners and two members from Bramfield Primary School.

**Apologies:**

District Councillor R. Catchpole

**Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2015:**

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 were read, confirmed and signed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Rozkalns:                      Seconder: Cllr. M. Bond

**The Parish Council – A report from Cllr. A. Thomas:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the attached report on the activities of Parish Council over the last twelve months.

There was one question concerning the land at the top of Pitman Grove. The Chairman said that the ownership had not been established. One suggestion was to turn it into a leisure area. The parishioner suggested a park.

**Report from the District Councillor R. Catchpole:**

A copy of the report is attached.

**Suffolk County Council – A report from County Councillor, Michael Gower**

County Councillor M. Gower reported that the Council Tax would rise this year by the Government recommendation of 2%. He said that Sizewell C would bring many jobs but it would not be built until Hinckley Point is completed. He said that the British and French Governments were committed to Sizewell C with the Chinese having a 20% stake. County Cllr. M. Gower said that Southwold-Wenhaston Railway had been rejected by Planning Appeal and the Thorington Wind Farm had been rejected as well. He reported that the incinerator was working very well and he had supported financially the local Speedwatch and defibrillator initiatives. Cllr. M. Gower said that Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk were looking at devolution with an elected mayor heading the Combined Authority and recent flooding in Bridge Street had to be looked into to try and prevent it in the future.

**Bramfield Primary School**

Head of School, Kate Woodruff, reported that Catherine Benefer had retired at the end of the Summer Term last year. She said that year 6 had largely gone to Thomas Mills, Bungay High Schools and the Saxmundham Free School. Kate Woodruff said that the late Charles Mullett had given out bibles at the school so the school had planted a tree in his memory. She said that the school had raised £4000 to make a CD, there had been two nativity plays and the pupils were currently preparing for their cycling proficiency test. Kate woodruff said that they were visiting outstanding schools and having the County Improving Officer come to the school so as to improve the school for OFSTED. She said that they had an Interim Executive Board as their Governors currently and Sam Cutler was their Executive Headteacher. There were no questions.

### **Neale and Archer Charities**

It was reported that Brian Alexander was the new chair as Brian Booth had retired and Aubrey Holmes had taken over from the late Charles Mullett as Treasurer. It was also reported that the Charity had £4060-37 in the Educational Fund and £5416-59 in the Senior Fund. There was a question on the history of the Fund which was answered that legacies from wills had been invested and the income generated paid for any expenditure by the Charity.

### **Bramfield Village Hall**

A copy of the report is attached. Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that Hall had no major or special events planned. However the stage had been finished and mood lighting had been put in. He said that Stepping Stones, the School, Carpet Bowls, Bingo, Drama and the Lunch Club all use the Hall. The School was also going to hold its Christmas Bazaar at the Village Hall. Cllr. A. Rozkalns reported that bookings for the Hall had reduced and were at their lowest for some time. He said that the AGM was in April so any new people to take the Hall forward were welcome.

### **Community Policing - Report by the Safer Neighbourhood Team**

There was no report however it was reported that on March 30<sup>th</sup>, there was a meeting in the Rifle Hall where the Police would be publicising their proposals. Cllr. M. Gower said that he would speak to the Police Commissioner, Tim Passmore, about the Police giving a report. It was also wondered if there was a newsletter giving feedback on the Speedwatch initiative.

### **Any questions/comments/matters of interest.**

Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that the Village Hall was free for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and it was agreed to get a group together to arrange a hog roast and a date to celebrate the event. It was arranged for the group to meet on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7-30pm at the Village Hall and for the plans to be announced at the Village Hall AGM on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Cllr. A. Niven reported that Speedwatch now had thirteen people involved who were all fully trained. He said that the best site was by the United Reform Church and on average two cars a session travelled over 35mph. Cllr. A. Niven explained that after each hour long session, the team of three sent a sheet showing the registration numbers, speed and time of those who had broken the speed limit to the Police. He said that the team did one session a week but at different times and day of the week. Cllr. A. Niven said that the Police sent out a very polite first letter to those who have been caught breaking the speed limit for the first time. However if the law is broken again, a less polite second letter is sent and a third offence led to prosecution. Finally Cllr. A. Niven said that they were always looking for new volunteers.

Cllr. W. Shoote said that Bramfield is many miles from a hospital and an ambulance can take up to fifty minutes to reach the village. Therefore he said that the Council were looking at providing a defibrillator in the telephone booth outside the Queens head Public House in Bramfield. He reported that the cabinet would not be locked as the defibrillator was not that valuable and because the mobile phone signal was weak, it may be hard to get the code needed to unlock the cabinet. Cllr. W. Shoote said that the cost would be borne by grants from the County and District Councillors' Locality Funds and the Council was looking to have a defibrillator provided by the Community Heartbeat Trust. He said that they provide training to raise awareness and to increase ease of use, insurance,

counselling after an event to those who used the defibrillator, registered the defibrillator with the ambulance service and also provided the defibrillator's consumables.

**The Meeting ended at 9pm.**

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