

WILBURTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Chair: Kevin Hennessy

Clerk: Mrs G Woods

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Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday 14 May 2014 in St Peters Hall

Present: Councillors Fella, Warren, Yarrow, Dodson, Forsyth, Hennessy, Reynolds Furness and Kirk. Councillor Hunt and 8 local residents.

1. Apologies

None

2. Chairman's Report

Councillor Fella gave the following report:-

Firstly thanks to all of you for attending in such good numbers! It's always nice to see the AGM well attended.

As most of you will know this is my first year as Chair and not even a complete year, when unfortunately our previous chair Tracy Newman stepped down in September.

Well it has been another trying and busy year on the council with its fair share of problems coupled together with, I'm glad to say, a larger share of positives.

We were all sad to see the loss of a number of councillors due to what some found unacceptable regulation changes and I would like to thank them for their hard work. My thanks to Chris Day and Neil Thompson.

So when one chapter ends, another starts and we have welcomed on quite a few new members and they have been very busy. Thanks to them for their input and time. I would also like to thank the other councillors who continue to give their time to the betterment of the village.

I agreed to take the reins of the parish in September and have now stepped down for Kevin Hennessey to be chair, with Gordon Forsythe re-elected as vice. I wish them well and will, I'm sure support them in most if not all that they do. Being a democracy that may not always be the case but even if I disagree it will be with the best intentions and a smile none the less!

2013 saw the sad passing of John Seaman. He was a much loved and admired district and parish councillor. He had served on the Parish Council for some forty years and during that time had also been a District Councillor for this Ward. He had constantly put the interests of the village first and had been diligent in representing all of us. Our condolences go to his family.

The Village Hall has had some much needed attention especially to the Stage, ropes and pulleys. My thanks to Peter Warren and Barry Samuel. It will allow the great work the Wilburton Theatre Group and SWAT do with their excellent productions to continue safely.

The Recreational ground continues to be a discussion point but I am optimistic that we may finally be making headway. In the meantime I'm pleased to say that we have completed some badly needed maintenance on the Pavilion, with thanks to the Cricket club for the exterior painting and to the 77 Committee for the donation and installation of the kitchen along with the help again from Peter Warren. I am also very pleased that we have been able to complete phase 1 of the Playground, which is sited in Berristead and look forward to phase 2 and the planned completion in the summer. My thanks to the great work done by the Playground working group they are Joanne Forsyth, Hannah Reynolds, Tim Hickling, Jo Emmerton, Pam Austin, Liz Thompson and Jo Temple.

Finally I would like to thank all my fellow councillors; there have been a few hard times but mainly good ones this year and I hope we can continue to move forward as the thriving community that we are here in Wilburton and I look forward to my lesser, but continued role on the Parish Council.

Thank you

3. Annual Accounts – 31st March 2013

The accounts were presented to the meeting and question raised regarding amount of reserves answered.

Resolved: It was proposed by Jenny Warren and seconded by Brian Austin that the accounts be approved. All in favour.

4. Reports from County and District Councillors.

Councillor Bill Hunt gave his reports as follows

On 2nd May he was very pleased to receive a large majority vote (especially in Wilburton – thank you) which has secured him as the County Councillor for Haddenham Division until 2017. He will try to be worthy of that trust.

The 2nd May Elections produced a "hung" administration with 32 Conservatives, 14 Lib Dems, 12 UKIP, 7 Labour and 4 Independents. A total of 35 is needed to carry a vote so a further 3 are required. This will make it more difficult, but the following are the decisions that were made in 2012/13 with commitments for 2013 and into the future.

There will be massive A14 improvements which will reduce traffic on A1123. (There will be both national and local carriageways) He is delighted that this is going ahead without a toll.

The Ely southern by-pass is to be started in 2015. (Another traffic reducing measure for A1123).

There will be a new Railway Station at the Cambridge Science Park which will be linked to the guided bus.

90% of the County is to get superfast broadband and everybody to get at least basic broadband.

The County Council have agreed that there will be no wind farms on the 34,000 acres of County Farms estates. He is also personally against them.

The County Council have signed up for £1 billion City Deal for improvements to transport. It requires 50% to be raised by the County Council with Central government matching the amount. The first £100,000,000 will be made in April 2015 and the County Council will have to show how good they are with the money and improvements made to receive further funds.

He supports any measures that make our roads safer. (Including a weight limit at Earith, reducing HCVs on A1123 and making Soham to Stretham a "B" classification road). Also a 50mph speed limit on A10 at Little Thetford.

There will be an improved Bus service between Haddenham, Stretham and Ely (an hourly service).

He supports the re-laying of electrified rail lines between Hitchin and Bedford (which will allow direct Norwich, Ely, Cambridge, Oxford, Swindon and Cardiff trains).

He is in full support of the Dial-a- ride Scheme.

He is the chairman of the asset management scheme which is looking at the best use of the Council's assets.

One of it's assets is free car parking which he believes is an essential tool to preserve and expand the city centre and he is delighted that eventually the charging regime has been rejected.

He supports the proposed district leisure centre and multi-screen Cinema in Downham Road Ely, with the developers putting in an underpass under the A10.

He believes that the Community Land Trusts are a very exciting route to give local homes, run by local people, controlled by local people to local people.

He is, however, against speculative companies who want to build on the outskirts of villages such as Wilburton, Haddenham and Witchford, but, provide very little contribution to the village whilst using their facilities.

Questions raised.

Councillor Dodson had heard talk on the radio of refurbishment of Village Halls with funding by the County Council and will E-Mail Councillor Hunt with the details.

A local resident requested an update regarding the Post Office in Ely. He confirmed that the rental of the space at the Paradise Car Park keeps being increased to push them into finding premises. There are suitable premises available but they do not seem prepared to pay business rents. He thinks it is disgusting and appalling the way the Post Office has treated the community.

5. Reports from Village Organisations

Cricket club

John Gothard thanked the Parish Council, 77 committee and everyone else connected with the refurbishment of the Pavilion which is a great improvement. He confirmed that the Club are obviously interested in the future of the pavilion and lease and would like to be kept informed and updated.

The Club now has 3 teams, games every Saturday and some on Sundays, details of which are on their website. Two teams play on a Saturday, a young team on a Sunday and 15-20 colts in the week, (training on Monday's and games on Tuesday and Thursday evenings).

Councillor Reynolds requested contact information for a member of the Cricket Club that he could contact so that details of the Club could be published on the Parish Council's website.

Councillor Forsyth requested that a representative from the Cricket Club sit on the Pavilion Working Group.

Swat (Students of Wilburton Amateur Theatre Group)

Vaughn Moll, the Director of Swat confirmed that 2 shows had been produced since last meeting, Our House (featuring many of madness' songs) and Joseph And His Technicoloured Dream Coat. Very diverse but popular and ambitious shows which the youngsters did really well.

Nearly all of the group are, or were, students of Wilburton primary school. The group now have 40 youngsters and some adults. The next show, marking their 10th anniversary will be Whistle Down The Wind which is probably the most difficult show they have tried to do. They do, though, have a great music director who comes most weeks, teaching the children the singing and the music, which is very important. The show dates for the production are 9th, 10th and 11th October 2014.

He thanked the Parish Council for their support and good will, and contribution to the stage repairs. The use of the Hall is absolutely paramount to their success, as is the goodwill and support of the local community. He gave his personal thanks to the Clerk for her patience and help with changes that had to be made to the Hall Bookings for shows, due to illness etc.

They were sorry to lose John Seaman and the group were honoured to sing at his memorial.

Councillor Reynolds asked for a contribution from a member of SWAT which could be put onto website.

77 Committee – Fireworks Display

Councillor Hennessy confirmed that the committee was now a working fundraising group of the Parish Council. It is one of the best village displays in the area and one of the few that has themes and music. It is a professional event with all those that fire the fireworks professionally trained.

The profit from last year's event went towards a new kitchen in the Pavilion, which was installed, free of charge, by members of the committee who were qualified electricians and plumbers. He thanked Councillor Warren for installing the work surfaces.

This year's event will be on Saturday November 8th 2014.

Beer Festival

Councillor Forsyth confirmed that the committee was also now a working fundraising group of the Parish Council. This will be the 16th beer festival, is on 21st/22nd of June, and the theme is tour de beer!

The main beneficiary last year was the playground at Berristead, and this year will be Wilburton Primary School. They have several new committee members this year, and the emphasis will be on it being a family event, not just for adults, with children's entertainment etc.

Stretham and Wilburton CLT

Councillor Dodson confirmed that she is the Vice chair of the scheme, and that herself and 1 resident were the only trustees for Wilburton. More trustees are needed for Wilburton with relevant expertise.

Currently the work being carried out at Stretham is the setting up of rules and regulations and making sure policies are in place, which will be used for Wilburton moving forward. One of the Stretham trustees is an accountant who is doing a lot of work, although the Trust have appointed independent accountants.

In Wilburton work is going on to locate suitable sites and speak to the landowners.

The Trust is going into a period of spending/committing a lot of money so a lot is going on behind the scenes with the help of expertise from Foundation East.

Wilburton 14 - Community Led Plan

Councillor Reynolds confirmed that the above scheme had been set up and was an opportunity for residents to voice their opinion for what they want in Wilburton.

It will be launched at the Beer Festival with suggestion boxes around village for questionnaires to be completed, and information provided on Facebook and the Parish Council's Website.

It is a starting point for gathering evidence of what is wanted as a village by the residents and a plan and springboard for funding will come from this information.

The Plan (which will be a 5 year plan) will then to be handed back to the Parish Council to try and implement.

6. Any Other Business

John Gothard requested an update on the recreation ground and pavilion. Councillor Forsyth confirmed several options had been identified. The first option was the building of a new pavilion but there would be significant problems with grants. The second option was to leave pavilion where it was and update surrounding area and enhancing facilities. Will be publishing documents shortly for comments which will go into the Community Led Plan. Need to map out views of overall area before going to trustees for debate.

A local resident requested an update on the path at Broadway. It was confirmed that the Parish Council apply every year for a grant for this purpose and had applied again this year, but was unsuccessful. The Parish Council will apply again next year and it has been identified as a high priority, but again needs to be part of the Community Led Plan.

It was then asked why the Parish Council had asked for estimates/quotes if they do not have funds, and Councillor Reynolds confirmed that we need to have an idea of costs for any funding requested. We were 11th on the list (top 10 received funding), so if one dropped out we could become eligible. As the grant is only for a maximum of £10,000 we would need to know how much the Council would need to contribute and commit too. It is understood that the cost will be high and probably in the region of £28000).

Meeting closed 9.00pm

Signed

Date