

GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Grundisburgh
on Tuesday 8th April, 2014

NOTICES had been posted according with regulations.

Before and after the meeting an exhibition of World War 1 memorabilia loaned from the Suffolk Records Office, St.Mary's Church and residents was on view.

Present: Parish Council Chairman Mr.D.Crowe (in the chair), County Councillor P.Bellfield, and approximately 60 parishioners.

1. Apologies for absence Mrs P..Coomber, Mr & Mrs. Garnham, Mr & Mrs.Garrett, Mrs. S. Grahm, Rev Canon C & M. Sanders, Mrs.A.Woods,, PCSO Jaqueline Byde, District Councillor T.Fryatt.

2. Minutes: As the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 12th April, 2013 had been available for inspection in Grundisburgh's Post Office and on display on the Parish Council's web site for two months prior to the meeting they were taken as read. It was proposed by Mr.Kendall seconded by Mr.McIvor, to unanimous approval, that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Parish Council's Annual Report The Report (attached) was delivered, with an invitation to the meeting, to every dwelling in Grundisburgh & Culpho.

The Chairman, Dennis Crowe, said that the council was sorry to lose Richard Graham who resigned from the council during the year. The council will shortly co-opt a new member for Grundisburgh to replace him. He thanked the Grundisburgh & District News for publicising parish council news He also thanked Paul Finch who did an immense amount of work around Grundisburgh during the year keeping everywhere neat and tidy.

The big news is the recent granting of planning permission to build a new village hall and an enabling development of 24 units on the field opposite the existing hall. The District Council's South Development Control Committee gave its 100% support.

4. Police Report

In the absence of PCSO Byde the Clerk read her report.

Crime Update

There have been **3** crimes that have occurred since the last Parish Council Meeting on the 10th March 2014 - one Vehicle theft, one theft from Vehicle and one Burglary Dwelling

Theft of heating oil

With the price of heating oil on the increase oil tank owners are urged to take precautions to try to prevent oil theft.

Summer Thefts

This time of year there is an increase in the theft of garden chairs, lawn mowers and garden tools being. Residents are urged to lock these items away at the end of the day.

SNT Current priorities

The last Public Community Engagement Meeting was held in January 2014. The three priorities set by the general public were as follows.

Priority 1: Tackling parking issues on Dobbs Lane, Kesgrave

Priority 2: Tackling Anti-Social behaviour in the Broadlands Plaza Area and the Sandlings Open Space, Rushmere St Andrew IP4 5SU

Priority 3: Monitor the Speeding of vehicles on roads within the Kesgrave SNT area

Public Community Engagement Meeting

To be held on Wednesday 16th April 2014 and starts at 7.30 in The Church Room, Church Lane, Westerfield. This is where the next set of Priorities' will be agreed.

Speeding

Police Officers will be monitoring speeding as per our priorities.

Anti Social Behaviour(ASB)

There has been a recent spate of youths throwing bags of dog waste at properties in Grundisburgh With prompt Police intervention and support from the Parish Council this unacceptable behaviour has stopped..

Police Report cont...

What are we up to?

The Police are organising a Moped Roadshow at the Kesgrave High school on 26th April from 12:00-16:00. There will be a Moped simulator for those who might like to "try before you buy". It is being supported by a local Motorbike Shop, and will have experts on hand to give advice on all aspects of training and safety. The Police will also be supporting Local Fetes held in the Village throughout the summer months. The usual Hi Viz safety items plus other security items will be for sale and of course plenty of free advice.

Police Direct

PCSO Bye urged those that haven't signed up for Police Direct to do so. The service is free, easy to use and is proving to be a very valuable policing tool. The service doesn't just assist the police it also benefits subscribers who receive regular updates either via text, email or landline letting them know what is happening in their area. Leaflets are available at all police stations or visit the police website.

5. County Councillor's Report County Councillor Bellfield reported:

County Council Elections.

The year started with the County Council elections which returned the Conservative Party with a majority of 3. The surprise was UKIP taking as many as 9 seats. Mark Bee was re-elected leader of the Conservative group and leader of the Council and he made changes to the Cabinet.

Budget

As is well recorded central government is reducing the grants to local government. In Suffolk, this year and next, the amount received will fall by £50m, or 37%. It is estimated that over the next four years the County Council will have to make total savings to balance the budget of £156m. To put this in context that is out of total expenditure, excluding schools which is ring-fenced, of a little under £600m. In the financial year just started expenditure is having to be reduced by £38.6m to balance the books.

Amongst areas where the savings will be achieved is 'energy from waste' and bringing back in house the IT, HR and finance activities of the council after the end of the CSD contract with BT, each contributing around £9m. Unlike most highways authorities there are no proposals to reduce expenditure on road maintenance.

Education

Education is the top priority. The Council has been criticised by Ofsted as an under performing council and in particular the performance of the Learning Improvement Service. After the appointment of a new director of Children's Services and a new Cabinet Member last Summer major initiatives have been launched while continuing with the 'Raising the Bar Programme'. There were improvements in last year's exam results, GCSE rose from 9% below average to 5% (137th out of 151) and at Key Stage 2 Suffolk was up 16 places to 133. At A level Suffolk were above the national average. Mr. Bellfield has expressed his own concerns at great length to both the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council saying that we will not have a second chance if further improvement are not seen in this summer's results.

Apprenticeships

The Council is investing £1.5m to increase apprenticeships across Suffolk. The plan involves three key programmes of activity; making apprenticeships more accessible to employers, particularly to small and medium sized businesses, raising the profile of apprenticeships in schools and supporting young people to participate, and finally, community based marketing and communications to raise awareness of the benefits of apprenticeships.

Most improved Council

Suffolk was again short listed for the most improved council award category for the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards. The Council have been recognised for being at the cutting edge of the national broadband project, in the vanguard of moves to share office accommodation with other public sector organisations, and for managing the multi-million-pound energy from waste project towards completion.

Free School Meals

During the year a further 2,500 children were signed up for free school meals. The council had a drive on this, not to help primarily with parent costs but because the school receives an additional £900 per child who is in receipt of a free school meal.

Broad Band

As a result of additional money the Council has agreed to put into high-speed broad band the Government has contributed additional funds and it is expected that 95% of houses will be in receipt of it compared with 85% before.

Care Homes

Last year the council sold its care homes to Care UK, one of the conditions being that they would open 10 new homes, adding about 150 extra beds. Mr. Bellfield was pleased that 9 of them have receive planning permission and the first has had its 'topping-out ceremony.

County Councillor's Report...

Suffolk/Norfolk partnership

In November the leaders of Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing the two counties to working more closely together. While both County Councils will remain as independent sovereign bodies, they will now work together to strengthen existing joint working and explore areas where the councils can join forces, cut duplication and so save money for the tax payer whilst protecting front-line services.

Street lights

An interesting fact is that where street lights have been turned off in some of our towns between mid-night and 5am the level of crime has fallen and of course it is saving the council money.

Mr. Bellfield paid tribute to John Ager, who he rated as one of Suffolk's top Clerks, for his tireless commitment and efforts over many years in trying to get a new village hall for Grundisburgh. He was delighted that at long last planning permission has been granted and the building of a new hall can go forward..

He reminded the meeting that he is always available to help any organisation or person who may be having a problem with Suffolk County Council. His telephone number is 01473 735259 or e-mail peter.bellfield@suffolk.gov.uk

6. Reports from Village Organisations

6.1 Lyttleton Club

Mrs. Bean reported that the Club now in its fourth year has 26 members - 15 of whom are over 80. Membership has doubled since its reforming in 2011. The club meets monthly as a social club and has a new venue at the Baptist Church where Pastor Colin Grimwood had made the Club very welcome. Last year the Club had 6 outings including a trip to the Riverside Theatre, garden tour and tea at Otley Hall, Fish & Chips at Felixstowe, Musical concert and tea at Moat Farm, Christmas Party at Farlingaye School. pre Christmas lunch at the "Dog" - a double celebration for Jeff Jay's 90th birthday.

The Club also had two interesting speakers Gavin Hodge from Age UK and Debbie talked about her trip to Uganda. A very busy year. Mrs. Bean was very pleased that Joan Hertcliffe had taken on the role of Treasurer. She was grateful for grants from the Parish Council and from the Wood Trust which helped to pay for Transport Costs which are every increasing. She hoped that the Parish Council will help the club again this year.

6.2 St. Mary's Church Churchwarden Robert Fletcher said the Church was in good heart although there is always room for growth in numbers and holiness. The church believes very strongly that it is not only at the heart of the community geographically but seek to be at the service of the community in Grundisburgh and beyond.

It is that value of service which has led the church to be a collection point for FIND (Families in Need) - an Ipswich based community charity providing food to those recommended by Social Services and Health and Education personnel. There has been a tremendous response and the cupboard at the church fills up regularly. St. Mary's continue to support the work of West Villa, Homeless Families unit in Ipswich at Harvest and at Christmas with a collection of toys for children in their care over the year.

It has been good to host village occasions and concerts though "Upbeat" might have to think of 2 Christmas Concerts rather the one. Bringing the village together in support of the church at Midsummer Music and the Fete was another positive in 2013.

Organisationally the biggest change that has happened is that in January 2013 the church became one parish in a benefice of eight parishes, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Burgh, Boulge, Clopton, Otley, Ashbocking and Swilland now called the "Carlford Benefice" after the old Hundred of that name. The eight parishes are served by a team of clergy and lay ministers. Clare Sanders is the Rector assisted by 3 non stipendiary priests, 2 readers, a retired Bishop, a retired priest and her husband. This team has meant that Grundisburgh has been able to maintain all its Sunday services and Clare commits to being at Grundisburgh on the 1st and 2nd Sundays. Pastorally Clare has the responsibility for Grundisburgh, Burgh and Boulge with the parishes receiving pastoral care from other members of the team.

The first meeting of an embryo fund raising group took place towards the end of the year. We are reasonably confident that Diocesan permission is just around the corner for our project to provide a toilet and small meeting room with a sink etc for the provision of refreshments.

Clare enjoyed a 3month sabbatical during the summer months and it is indicative of the level of commitment that people have towards the church and its activities in the community that nothing had to be cancelled - everything continued. Mr. Fletcher thanked the Parish Council for their continuing contribution towards the cost of the upkeep of the graveyard.

Reports from Village Organisations cont...

6.3 St.Botolph's Church, Culpho Churchwarden Mr.Guy Hartfall explained the long history of the Church which was mentioned in Domesday Book. The present building has served the village for over seven centuries dedicated to St.Botolph a 7th century Saxon missionary. Its primary purpose is for Christian worship. A weekly communion service is held and evensong is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday in the month. The church is open all day on Wednesday. Its secondary function is to host village functions - recitals and musical events. The Parish Council holds its July council meeting in the church.

Culpho is a "Thankful Village" having lost no men in the 1st World War. On the 31st July the church was visited by Medwyn Parry and Dougie Bancroft who are visiting all 53 Thankful Villages in England and Wales raising funds for the British Legion on motor cycles. A short service was held and a cheque from the village for £1,600 was presented.

The Organ has been cleaned and restored at a cost of £2,870. Mr.Hartfall thanked the Parish Council for their grant for churchyard maintenance and the benefice magazine.

6.4 Grundisburgh Local History Society

The Chairman of the Society, Mr.Albert Usher, said that the Society was founded over thirty years ago with the aim of organising a programme of talks and visits to encourage interest and research into the history of Grundisburgh and the surrounding area of East Anglia.

Currently the Society has a membership of just under seventy and continues to attract full houses at the Parish Room for its programme of talks which run each year between September and May. Fortunately they don't all turn up at once although there have been occasions where he had to stand and another when the quick thinking secretary borrowed some chairs from the "Dog".

The Spring and Summer Programme, which has just been published, also includes details of a number of visits during the summer months to three local places of interest. Following a talk last autumn on the local upheaval caused by the arrival in the area of American forces at the airfield at Debach during World War 11 a guided tour of the museum has been arranged. Again linked to a talk some time ago another visit is to Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich and the historic Guildhalls in Hadleigh is the third.

When the original group founded the Society, there were several people involved who had the time and interest for research into aspects of village history. Douglas Shotton analysed local records, Hilda Tuck and Peter Bishop published books and the members contributed articles to a series of Society Magazines for several years. More recently the focus has shifted away from research and these magazines have not appeared as frequently in recent years but the Society is currently planning to produce another magazine in the near future. From time to time requests are received for information, mainly about former residents of the village. Whilst n help can often be given, work has been ongoing for some time to organise the archive to make it easier to search the records currently housed at the chapel for which the Society is indebted to Colin Grimwood.

7. Any Questions ?

New Village Hall The mix of housing types had changed to include 8 affordable dwellings which includes two 2 bed bungalows and four 1 bed flats. The number of units remained unchanged at 24.

8. World War 1 - Grundisburgh & Culpho The Clerk gave a talk about the impact the First World War had on Grundisburgh & Culpho and the building of Grundisburgh's War Memorial.

The Chairman closed the meeting and refreshments were served