

**GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Grundisburgh**  
**on Tuesday 28th April, 2015**

NOTICES had been posted according with regulations.

Before and after the meeting an exhibition of archery trophies won by members of the 1st Grundisburgh Scout Group were displayed.

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

**1. Apologies for absence** Mr.C. Caryer, Mr.C. Doyle, Mrs.S.Grahn, District Councillor A.Fryatt, Mr & Mrs.Garrett, Mr & Mrs. McIvor, Rev Canon C & M. Sanders, Mr & Mrs Youngman.

**2. Minutes:** As the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 8th April, 2014 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.Sim seconded by Mrs.Willetts, 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 said that the council were sorry to lose Mark Sanders and Richard Graham from the Council and welcomed David Higgins and Mike Taylor who were co-opted to replace them. St.Mary's Church Clock will shortly be restored paid for by a Parish Council grant and a grant from County Councillor Peter Bellfield's locality budget for which we are very grateful. The Village Sign post has been replaced. The poor condition of the village's roads is a constant cause for concern. The Council constantly complains but this is a county wide problem made worse by budgetary constraints. Contracts are being exchanged for the transfer of land and a contribution towards the costs of building a new village hall. The village will be informed when more information is available.

**4. Police Report** PC Joanne Clark reported that 15 crimes were recorded in Grundisburgh over the last year. In the previous year 29 crimes were recorded in the parish. 2 crimes were recorded in Culpho over the last year - the same as in the previous year. The villages, compared with other communities in the area, are relatively crime free.

Police priorities in the Kesgrave SNT area are:

- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour use of Motor vehicles in Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew
- Reducing theft from Motor vehicles in the Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew area
- Monitor the speeding of vehicles on roads within the Kesgrave SNT, including the villages within the district (IP5-IP6)

In answering questions PC Clark said that dropping litter is a police matter but the problem of catching offenders in the act. Traffic calming could only be installed where there is a proven accident record.

**5. County Councillor's Report** County Councillor Peter Bellfield reported that health wise this is a year which he would rather forget. However he is now making good progress and it will be nice to be able to drive again. He had nothing but praise for the NHS, Ipswich hospital and all those who work in the three specialist areas that treated him in the last twelve months, not forgetting his own GP. His gratitude to them all is immense. Unfortunately this has meant that he had not been able to provide the service which he would have liked, particularly in being unable to attend meetings which helped him to appreciate the problems and concerns in the 26 parishes he represents. He hoped that from this summer "normal service will resume"

## ***County Councillor's Report cont...***

### Council Tax

For the fifth year in a row the County Council has frozen council tax. This means that Suffolk residents will not pay any more than they did in 2010/11. The Council has delivered savings of £130m over the last four years. However, if central government policies remain unchanged, it is estimated that further savings of £120m over the next three years, having started with £38.2m for the forthcoming year will have to be made. A significant proportion of the savings have been achieved by a reduction in the workforce of 47% across all council services.

### Two major operational changes

Two significant services changed responsibility in order to reduce costs just before or in the early part of the year. The Customer Services Direct (CSD) services, which were in partnership with BT, were brought back in house after ten years, and the Highways maintenance contract was put out Kier MG.

### CSD contract

The transfer of the CSD contract, which included the financial, IT and HR activities of the council, came back into the Council's direct responsibility seamlessly. Even the few adverse comments which were received towards the end of the contract seem to have dried up. It is also saving money.

### Highways contract

The transfer of all highways maintenance to Kier MG has proved a very different matter. To start with a contract was negotiated with May Gurney with whom the Council had a good relationship, but at the last minute they were acquired by Kier. The idea was that the council staff would transfer to Kier MG under the normal arrangements, but some of the more important staff decided to take redundancy where it was offered, thus resulting in a shortage in the workforce. It seems that the council did not insist on adequate corrective action being taken soon enough, although Councillors were complaining to the highways department and the Cabinet member because of the frustration residents and the Council we were having in getting anything done. It all came to a head in the second half of last year when meetings at the highest level within Kier MG produced action on their part. A list of all outstanding work was drawn up and given priority and most has been undertaken. However it was discovered subsequently that a number of tasks which councillors and parishes thought were outstanding had never got on to the outstanding list, that is the reason why there is still have work outstanding for more than a year but it is now being scheduled.

### Highways fault reporting tool

A very important new highways fault reporting tool was introduced earlier this year and any member of the public can use this system by going to [www.suffolk.gov.uk/report-a-highways-problem](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/report-a-highways-problem). The new highways reporting tool which allows photographs to be up loaded can be accessed by tablets and mobiles. This means that people can access the map on the go and these will be recorded and actioned straight away. The tool also allows anyone to follow up the report to see the progress being made to complete the work. This means that if any member of the public sees a highways maintenance problem they can report it there and then.

### Energy from waste

Towards the end of last year the new energy from waste plant at Great Blakenham was commissioned. This was a major success for the staff responsible because there had been relatively little opposition to the development, unlike Norfolk where the cancellation of the contract has cost the council over £30m. On top of that the plant was opened on time and on budget, again quite an achievement for a Government body.

### High speed broadband

During the year the Council put in a second tranche of £10m towards high speed broad-band for Suffolk which should mean that 95% of the County will have improved speeds by the end of 2017. The latest news is that 75,000 premises are now connected to high-speed fibre broadband thanks to the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme.

### Young people's employment centre

Last November the Council, in collaboration with other organisations, opened in Ipswich the very first young people's employment centre in the country for 16 to 24 year olds. What is notable about this project is that it is not just an employment centre but they are trained how to write CVs and approach interviews. In the first month more than 500 young had made use of the centre.

## ***County Councillor's Report cont...***

### Education

Under the councils new School Improvement Strategy the second risk-rating letter in which each school is rated red, amber or green, based on information the school has provided as well as government data has been recently sent out. This is all part of the work the Council are doing to keep on top of poor performing schools and to be able to pin point where assistance to improve their outturn is required. Meanwhile last year's exam results showed an improvement at all levels, in some cases reaching national levels, but there is still a long way to go.

### Locality and minor highways grants

During the year Mr.Bellfield was very pleased to be able to help various people and organisations with financial assistance, the locality grant being over- subscribed. However, due to the problems mentioned earlier, the highways grant was not fully utilised, but he is able to carry the balance forward to this year.

Mr Bellfield said that as always residents should feel free to telephone him on 01473 735259 or e-mail on peter.bellfield@suffolk.gov.uk for any assistance you may require with the County Council.

**6. District Councillor's Report** Due to the forthcoming election District Councillor Tony Fryatt was unable to attend the meeting. County Councillor Peter Bellfield, who is standing down as a District Councillor, said that, like the County Council, District Council proportion of the Council Tax is unchanged. Objections to a housing development at Martlesham held up the completion of the Local Plan with the result that its completion has been considerably delayed. This has meant that the District Council has been unable to oppose development proposals which it would have, if the Local Plan had been completed. The move to offices at Melton should be completed by the end of 2016. The existing site will be sold which should create a surplus. The dispute over the development of the sea front gardens at Felixstowe had caused the cost to escalate from £2m to £4m. £2m being funded by the National Lottery. Contracts for the Spa Pavilion have been signed. The District Council is trying to ensure that it continues as a theatre.

## **7. Reports from Village Organisations**

### **7.1 Grundisburgh Primary School**

Mr.John Lynch explained that he has been Headteacher of Grundisburgh Primary School for just over four years. During this period the school has gone through a significant period of development: The main area being the growth in pupil numbers with roughly 50 more pupils attending the school. This has meant that the school has grown from five classes to six and then finally to seven classes. In order to accommodate the seventh a separate timber-framed classroom has been built. Pupil numbers currently stand at about 175. However, the school will always need to remain vigilant when it comes to numbers – the main thing is to sustain the good reputation of the school so that it continues to attract families to the school.

Generally speaking, the school is popular amongst parents; the children enjoy being at school; the governing body is committed to raising standards further across the school. FOGS, our parent/teacher association, organises and runs various events across the year including Autumn and Spring fairs and the summer barbeque all of which raise extra funds for the school.

Mr.Lynch said that as always, the educational landscape is changing all of the time as are national expectations in regard to the curriculum and the accountability of schools. Good schools are always looking to change and develop but responding to constant changes from above can be difficult to manage. In the end, as a school, we need to be clear about what we value and what we think makes Grundisburgh School a happy place to be and a place where the children continue to learn and excel. As long as we continue to share our school values and ensure that they are seen in our everyday actions then we will be able to absorb the never-ending new requirements from central government.

## **7.2 St.Mary's Church**

Mr.Willetts described the problems encountered with the planning of an extension. An Archaeological Survey revealed far more burials than had been anticipated - some 300 going back hundreds of years.

Although there is no evidence as to who these people were and little left in the way of remains, the church was informed that each grave would need to be investigated, recorded and any remains found forensically checked. The cost of dealing with each burial would be in the region of £200, which would be a prohibitive sum of money. To overcome this the Church has asked its architect to redesign the area. The area to be disturbed would be minimised.

Like all things associated with the extension this is not straight forward, as the plans are different from those submitted to the District Council for planning they have to approve the revised layout. The Archaeological department also has to be happy with the new layout. This is on-going.

The extension apart the life of the church continues in good heart and spirit working with the elderly though Lunch club and good relations with the Lyttleton Club; at work in school through assemblies, Open the Book and Storytime , plus visits from the school to church for RE curriculum input and involvement in Cribfest ; continued commitment to children and young people with Tiddlywinks, Funsters and involvement with the village youth club, both in a committee capacity and in commitment to attendance at sessions once a month by Clare.

In church it was good to host the service on Remembrance Sunday, which had particular significance in 2014 and Cribfest where once again we welcomed visitors from all over and exhibited art work from children in local schools of an exceptionally high standard.

Mr Willetts thanked the Parish Council for their contribution to the maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard and thanks also to County Councillor Bellfield and the Parish Council for meeting the cost of the refurbishment of the church clock. Work on that will be starting on June 8<sup>th</sup> . The scaffolding will be up for 3 weeks but access to the church will not be effected.

**7.3 Baptist Church** Pastor Colin Grimwood said that the church was pleased that Bruce Francis has now joined as a mission worker, along with his Filipino wife, Mary, and two children, Josh and Isabella. Some villagers will have met them, but there will be an interview with them for the next edition of the Grundisburgh & District News. This was part of the plan when the Church agreed to join with Charsfield. It is hoped that later in the year Bruce will give an illustrated talk on the Philippines.

A record number of families enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt, which raised nearly £65 for EACH. This is not the only thing the Church does for children and families. A family evening with a barbeque is to be held later this term and a family picnic and games afternoon in the Summer holidays. Unfortunately low numbers means that for the time being the youngsters groups have had to be combined. This meets on a Monday from 6.30 till 8.00, and is for children and young people up to 13+. It is hoped that the two groups will be able to resume eventually.

Ladies' meetings and Men's groups are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday afternoon of each month. The Ladies' meeting is usually like a short service, but the Men's meeting takes a different format which is very informal. The meeting starts with a cup of tea and then a variety of speakers on topics of interest and time for discussion and chat. All ladies and men are welcome.

The Church is here to serve this community in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The hall is hired to four different groups and the Church is also involved in the Youth Club and the Primary School. Mr.Grimwood is always willing to visit those who would appreciate it and give support where he can, but the most important thing, he said, "is to minister to the needs of souls. Above everything else we need to be saved from our sin and restored to a good relationship with God and we are here to help you with that. If you would like to talk about these things or have questions you would like help with please don't hesitate to get in touch".

Mr.Grimwood thanked the Parish Council for their support towards the upkeep of the graveyard.

#### 7.4 Grundisburgh, Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society.

Treasurer Iain Langdon said that the Village Show Schedule will be delivered to very home in the three villages next month which will contain comprehensive details about the events.

The first event of the year is Hidden Gardens which will be held on the weekend of 13th / 14th June from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. each day when it is planned to have around 30 gardens open to view. The Village Show takes place on Grundisburgh Playing Field from 12:30 on Saturday 18th July followed by a dance to live music in the evening in the Show marquee. This is followed with a Garden Party, which is essentially a Cheese and Wine evening, which will be held in a garden in the centre of Grundisburgh on Friday 7th August from 6:30 p.m. Finally, The Pumpkin Festival will be held on Saturday 17th October on Grundisburgh Village Green from midday.

The Society is often asked “where does all the money go that you get from your events”, it’s an easy answer - the entire profits go to charity. There are high overheads. For example the hire of the marquee and other furniture for the Village Show is nearly £3,000. Other high costs are things like printing, prize money and the cost of consumables such as food and drink. The amount given away each year does vary as all the events are weather dependant. As a rough guide a turnover of approximately £9,000 / year resulting in yearly profits usually between £1,500 - £3,000. In the last 9 years in excess of £18,000 has been given to around 20 different charities.

The Society aims to support two charities each year and in addition, it has been providing long term support to the Grundisburgh Uniformed groups (i.e. the Scouts, Guides, Brownies etc.) to help them raise funds for their new HQ . .

Charities are chosen that are either local or have a local connection to, for example through one of our members needing their services such as with Macmillan Cancer Support or AGE UK.

This year our two charities are “Krissy and Friends”, which is a new local charity, and Home Start East Suffolk which has been established for some time.

Krissy and Friends was started by Kris Moore, an Ipswich girl, who has terminal cancer. The charity provides therapy through music from their many friends to families who have children with life threatening injuries or illness. They also have a very close relationship with EACH, the hospice in Ipswich, who also does a lot of music therapy.

Home-Start is a national charity with local branches. Quoting from their web site: “In an ideal world Home-Start wouldn’t be needed. But for many parents the pressures of family life are simply too much to cope with alone. There are so many reasons for this including poverty, illness, family breakdowns, isolation, addiction and physical and mental health issues. This is where Home-Start steps in to support parents and their children”. Mr.Langton said he was passionate about community service and urged anyone to join in with any of the local clubs and societies, of which there are around 40 in the three villages. He always found the satisfaction gained by knowing that you are contributing in some way is immensely rewarding which he has certainly found in the many organisations he has been involved with over the 40 years he has lived in Grundisburgh with his wife Heather and our family.

#### 7.5 1st Grundisburgh Scouts Group Scout Leader Stuart Ross thanks the Parish Council, the Wood Trust, the Church and many other local organisations and individuals for their support and various grants and donations kindly given to the Scout Group.

The Group has had a very busy year. The Archery container was broken into twice and £1,600 worth of equipment stolen. Thankfully the items were insured. He thanked District Councillor Tony Fryatt who gave financial support and advice resulting in the provision of a secure container to store the equipment.

In 2013 the Beaver Colony had to disband but was revived in April 2014. The section now has 21 members with nearly as many girls as boys. The new colony hiked to Bealings where they were invested and had their first sleep over in the Scout Hut in February half term.

The Scout Group with the Fynn Valley Explorers has nearly 100 members including Leaders and Assistants and all four sections continue to achieve awards, badges and challengers within our balanced programme and have taken part in many events, hikes and camps.

Many other interesting venues have been visited too numerous to mention.

Over the Spring Bank Holiday Scouts, Explorers and adults along with Kesgrave Scout Group cycled from Norwich to Grundisburgh staying in village halls at night, a total of nearly 95 miles. They will be taking part in the Cycle Camp next week end from Bedfordshire to Grundisburgh - a total of 105 miles.

Cubs have been on District Camp in Boxford with other groups and also to the local Scout site at Hallowtree, Nacton.

Scouts have hiked from Stowmarket and Needham Market back to Grundisburgh and Explorers have been on Camp at Bury St.Edmunds.

Scouts and Explorers went on Summer Camp to the New Forest and took a boat ride to Brownsea Island where Scouting all began.

### *1st Grundisburgh Scouts cont...*

The Duck Race in 2014 raised over £2,400 towards our new HQ although the event will not be held in 2015 as the date in September when the Race is normally held is taken up by the Village Show.

All four sections had great Halloween Nights and at Christmas the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts went 10 pin bowling and Explorers went skating, paintballing and crazy golf.

The Christmas Postal Collection Scheme raised £205. The Textile Bin is well supported and in four years has collected 13,810 kilos and raised over £3,400 towards Scout funds.

Leaders, assistants and helpers are always needed.

A small subcommittee has been formed to take forward our plans for a new HQ.

Last May the 20 members of the Archery Section attended the 9th National Scouts Archery Championships in Hertfordshire and after a fantastic weekend came back laden with 22 gold medals, 10 silver, 6 bronze, 19 other trophies and many National Champions. Training has been taking place over the last several months and next week our Scouts will be at the 2015 Championships. Two years ago Mr. Ross and a few Scouts and Explorers joined Deben Archery Club and in only two years have gone on to great success in the UK Archery scene and Archery GB.

Mr Ross introduced four Scouts who between them had achieved outstanding success.

- Winning National Scout Archery Team
- Winning Regional Junior Club Team
- Winners of the Perris Junior Indoor League
- Part of AGB Winning Junior County Team
- Part of UK Indoor winning Regional Team
- Part of Regional winning County Team
- Combined 88 County Records
- 6 UK Records

Mr. Ross has been asked to become a Talent Coach for Archery GB and the Talent Development Programme to help train and produce Archers for future success in international competitions.

### **7.6 St. Botolphs Church, Culpho**

Church Warden Mr. Richard Garnham reported that during 2014 Culpho along with the parishes of Playford, Great and Little Bealings were without an incumbent and the Church is indebted to Clare Sanders and her ministry team for providing cover for its services.

It has been the Church's good fortune to welcome its new priest Celia Cook in February who has taken up residence in Playford. She has a passion for music which she was sure she will use to good effect to enhance her ministry.

Mr. Garnham was pleased to report that the fabric of the Church both internally and externally continues to be in good repair. The entrance gate along with the seat and notice board have all been cleaned and wood preserved. The Church is grateful for the financial assistance from the Parish Council which enables the churchyard to be kept cut and tidy.

Fund raising is always an important part of the Church's activities and the main event in 2014 was a Strawberry Supper held at Wood Farm which was well attended and financially successful.

The Church is hosting a number of musical events during the summer to support charities - details will be available in the coming months.

At present two services are held every month. Holy Communion on the 1st Wednesday in the month at 9.30am and evensong at 3.00pm on the 3rd Sunday.

### **7.7 Lunch Club** Mrs. Sue Harvey reported another successful year which continues to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month between 10.30 and 2.00pm.

In March a former member celebrated her 100th birthday. It was her wish that if she survived till she was 100 she should come back to the village and have the church bells rang in her honour. A large gathering of friends and Lunch Club members gathered with her on the Green. Sadly she died later in the year.

In May the Club had its usual trip to "The Hut" in Felixstowe and enjoyed a fish and chip lunch with apple pie and custard to follow. A walk along the prom for those who wanted a bit of sea air and an ice cream finished off the day nicely

In September the Club visited Otley Hall for lunch. The food was good and the pleasant surroundings made it even more enjoyable with the peacocks for company.

### ***Lunch Club cont...***

During the year two members had to go into care homes and one member died but their places were soon filled. Two ladies who had previously been loyal helpers for several years became members and it was lovely to see them being spoilt a little after all the help they had given in the past.

Christmas was celebrated with lunch and shopping at Wyvale and Farlingaye High School's Christmas concert with tea and cakes. Everyone received a small gift on leaving. The tea and cakes were prepared by the sixth form and the gifts were brought in by the pupils. Children from the Primary School came and sung carols which were thoroughly enjoyed.

When in the Parish Rooms members enjoy playing whist or dominoes and sometimes Wendy brings her keyboard for a sing song. Most of all members love the company and an old chinwag.

The Dog continues to provide lunches for which the club is very grateful and with a great band of helpers the club still thrives.

### **8. The Year in Pictures**

Mr.Peter Kendall of the Grundisburgh & District News gave an impressive slide show of "News" photographs of village events during the year.

### **9. Mary Moore - Forty Years at the Forge**

Mrs.Moore gave a fascinating illustrated talk on her life with Hector Moore the famous blacksmith who created most of the village signs we have in Suffolk. Mary married Hector in 1954. As an Art Student she brought her design skills to the Forge and they were soon preparing special commissions for establishments such as Trusthouse Forte for The Bull at Long Melford, Bury St.Edmunds Cathedral and elsewhere. She has worked on 53 Village and commemorative signs, most of them her design. Grundisburgh sign was architect-designed but Hector and Mary worked on it together.

The Chairman closed the meeting and refreshments were served