

**GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Grundisburgh**  
**on Tuesday 26th April, 2016**

NOTICES had been posted according with regulations.

Present: Parish Council Chairman Mr.G.Caryer (in the chair), District Councillor A.Fryatt, County Councillor C.Hudson and approximately 90 parishioners.

**1. Apologies for absence** Mr & Mrs. Barnett, Mr & Mrs.Bruce, Mr & Mrs.Coomber, Mr & Mrs.Garrod, Mr & Mrs.Grimwood, Mr & Mrs.Ross, Mr & Mrs.Sim, Mr & Mrs.N.Wilcock, Mr & Mrs.Youngman, Miss.V.Barker. .

**2. Minutes:** As the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 28th April, 2015 had been available for inspection in Grundisburgh's Post Office and on display on the Parish Council's web site for eleven months prior to the meeting they were taken as read. It was proposed by Mrs.Willetts seconded by Mr.Kendall, 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 Chairman informed the meeting that County Councillor Peter Bellfield had sadly recently died. He had been a great supporter and encourager of the villagers and will be sadly missed. County Councillor Christopher Hudson is temporally looking after the Carlford Division. The Annual Report (attached) was delivered, with an invitation to the meeting, to every dwelling in Grundisburgh & Culpho. The Chairman said that that there had been several changes in the council over the year and welcomed the new councillors to the meeting. The poor condition of the roads was a county wide concern. The criteria which determined whether pot holes would be repaired are too stringent. It seemed that potholes have to be the size of sink holes to have any action taken. He was pleased with the response for suggestions for the name of the new road on the Top Field Development which are on display at this meeting. The Parish Council are discussing the installation of a defibrillator in Grundisburgh. The Parish Room south wall has been recommended as a suitable site. District Councillor Tony Fryatt said that £1,000 could be available from his Locality Budget.

In answer to a question regarding the summary of accounts included in the invitation to this meeting the Clerk said that much more detailed information will be published and available for public inspection later in the audit process.

Vice Chairman, Mrs.Ann Willetts, reported that the Core Strategy of the Local Plan was approved and adopted in September 2013 by the District Council. It provides the policies for the district to 2027.

A further document has been produced i.e. Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies. As far as Grundisburgh is concerned this document shows the village Physical Limits Boundaries (PLB) and areas to be protected from development.

Two consultations have already taken place. The first showed an extra area of land in Stoney Road; and an extra area along Park Road backing onto the playing field to be included in the PLB. The Parish Council objected to both sites being included mainly because Grundisburgh had already exceeded its allocation of housing in the Plan by 45dwellings.

The second consultation showed only the area in Park Road. The Parish Council objected once again.

Mrs.Willetts was pleased to report that the Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Proposed Submission Document, which has just been published for its final examination for soundness, shows Grundisburgh's PLB as it was in 2001 except for the inclusion of Ablitts Meadow and Top Field.

Land within the physical limits boundaries has a presumption in favour of development.

Mrs.Willetts had put on display a plan of Grundisburgh showing its PLB, he Core Strategy of the Local Plan and Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies

**4. Police Report** In the absence of a representative of the police the Clerk reported that Suffolk Constabulary, as with many police forces across the country, have recently been reviewing how they provide services in the future as they are working to bridge a gap of £20.5 million by April 2020 As part of these changes Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) have been reorganised and Grundisburgh & Culpho are now part of Woodbridge SNT which is staffed by one Sergeant, one Police Constable and four Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) who are responsible for 47 parishes. The Sergeant and PCSOs' will now not work after 6.00pm.

- The police will now not routinely attend this meeting or parish council meetings unless there they are needed to discuss recent incidents or events.
- There will be no further specific village crime reports delivered to councils and if this information is required the police web site [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) (which regrettably is not up to date) will have to be used. .
- The mobile police stations would no longer be visiting villages on a timetable basis;
- Police Officers and PCSO's would no longer "own" villages; and the 101 service should be used rather than sending individual emails. to officers.
- There are now only three police stations in the whole of Suffolk open to the public at Ipswich, Bury St.Edmunds and Lowestoft.
- Parishes will no longer attend a meeting with the police to set priorities but are asked to submit their suggestions for inclusion.
- The police are confident that the level of police officers and PCSOs in the county will provide the service the people of Suffolk need however communities are invited to join with other parishes to jointly fund a PCSO £32,000.

**5. District Councillor's Report** District Councillor Tony Fryatt apologised for missing many council meetings during the year due to his hectic schedule.

Local Plan

Much of his time has been spent preparing two documents- The Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies and the Felixstowe and District Area Action Plans.

These are required to complete the Local Plan that was adopted in 2013 to show, where the employment sites, retail centres and areas to be protected from development should be located. However, the major requirement was to show where the 7,900 (minimum) homes that will be needed in Suffolk Coastal by 2027. should be built. This target has been exceeded by nearly 1,000. It was essential that this is achieved with the agreement of the communities involved.

As far as Grundisburgh is concerned:

Completions as at 31/03/2015	16
Permissions and Resolutions to Grant Permissions as at 31/03/2015	29
Total to date	45
Indicative Minimum Contribution 2010 - 2027	45
New Housing Required	0

Both these documents are being reviewed currently prior to being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Housing Enabling Officer.

Mr.Fryatt has been campaigning for a new post to be established to promote ideas and schemes to encourage house building, particularly for the first time buyers and the last time buyers. He wants to keep our communities together. Housing Enabling Officer, Mr/Jack O Sullivan, started at the beginning of April.

Mr.Fryatt has asked that he investigates the potential for development on exception sites and the development of self-build opportunities and the provision of affordable houses.

Budgets

There was much soul searching about whether to start charging for the collection of green garden waste after Suffolk County withdrew its subsidy. The Council eventually worked out how it could continue to provide the service without an increase to Council Tax. Unfortunately, the Council was confronted by changes to the Rate Support Grant which forced them into the first increase in Council Tax since 2010.

***District Councillor's Report cont....***

**Merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.**

Over the past few years the District Council has been working very closely with Waveney District Council – sharing Chief Executive and senior officers and service teams. This has resulted in savings of around £800,000 per annum. After considerable discussion, a review has been instigated to produce a business case for the complete amalgamation of the two Districts.

**Devolution.**

Again, considerable time has been taken up discussing with Government the potential benefits that could be achieved through a devolution of powers from central Government and the problems to be overcome. The current position is that there could be an amalgamation of Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge and Peterborough into a Combined Authority. This Authority could have an elected Mayor with responsibilities that included spatial planning and infrastructure. Nothing is firm at present but there is a drive to have some details firmed up by the end of the year.

**6. County Councillor's Report** County Councillor Christopher Hudson paid tribute to the late Peter Bellfield who had been a good friend to the villages. He will be sadly missed.

He was pleased that Suffolk has agreed to take up to 200 Syrian refugees over the next five years as part of the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Person Scheme.

One of the largest sources of complaints from residents is the poor state of the roads. The County Council is suffering from a poor contract which is leaving potholes not repaired for too long.

He believed the quality of life of residents is under threat. The County now comprises three or more different communities. For example, incomers from the London area with high house prices could afford to buy the relatively cheaper Suffolk properties, making it difficult, if not impossible, for local young people to enter the housing market. Large developments such as that planned for Framlingham, which will double the size of the town, does not include sufficient improvements to the town's infrastructure.

Education standards in the county are still lagging far behind the rest of the country. Academies might be the way forward and local authorities are being encouraged by government to set up Academy Chains. He advocated the setting up of Grammar Schools in every town. Apprenticeships are vital.

**7. Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday - Village Celebrations** Mrs. Willetts reported that the Parish Council had arranged a programme of events

Friday 10, 11 & 12 June A Flower Festival St Mary's Church Open from 1000 to 1800 except Sunday when open from 1330 to 2100. Refreshments will be available all day on Friday.

Saturday 11 June A Street Party in the School grounds at 1430 for The Lunch Club, The Lyttleton Club, Children of Primary School age and below. Including games and races for the Children followed by tea and entertainment from the school choir and Upbeat and Music from the 90s.

Sunday 12 June A special Songs of Praise 1100  
Musical Firework Display 2115

The Dog Mini beer and cider festival - plus something extra special.

**8. The Year in Pictures**

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

## 9. Progress Reports

Extension to St.Mary's Church The Rev Canon Clare Sanders reported that the planned extension to the church, to include a meeting room and toilets has been amended. The discovery of 100 bodies and the resulting cost of exhumation of £300 each has caused a change in plans. The Parochial Church Council is in the process of obtaining designs for an extension to include toilets and a new oil-fired boiler.

While the plans are being drawn up, permission has been given for a new temporary portaloo, with disabled access, which has been positioned at the rear of church with easy access via a new pathway. Lighting has also been installed to allow evening use during services and events held at the church. It is not open during the day. The church as part of the wider benefice of 8 parishes – COSA/GBBH is exploring the possibility of providing wireless Broadband as a community resource. On a more pastoral front the Church has continued with the Lunch Club; working with school, visiting people at home where requested and facilitating a support group for those caring for folk with dementia. The Church is also hosting an occasional get together for widows in the village- we've not forgotten the widowers- it's on the "to do" list!

On May 21<sup>st</sup> the Church is hosting a workshop run by the Contented Dementia Trust on Understanding Dementia, with particular reference to a method of care – SPECAL. This is open to anyone who would find it of interest- it is not religious in any way. 9.30am- 12.30pm.

Carlford's Community Wi Fi Broadband Initiative Mr Clive Willetts, on behalf of the Carlford Benefice, outlined a community initiative to use the church towers as a base for wifi aerials to improve the broadband reception in our rural locations. County Broadband is the preferred provider of the service. It is likely that advertising for the public meetings in Grundisburgh and Otley will take the form of a combination of leaflet drops to houses and businesses in our areas plus advertising in the Grundisburgh News and Parish magazines. County Broadband will only proceed with this project if there is sufficient take up of their service and this will be assessed from reaction at the public meetings.

New HQ for the Scouts & Guides Leader Stuart Ross reported that progress was slow and the need for a new HQ was now more urgent as the group is getting larger. New designs are being looked at. Fund raising was slow and held back by the lack of finalised plans. Mr.Dunnett said that the existing HQ had been erected largely by volunteer labour and he recommended this approach for the new HQ. He also suggested that the Scouts could use the old hall as their new HQ. Mr.Ross said that the close proximity of the playing field was essential to the running of all the Scout and Guide groups. The Duck Race will be held on the 25th June.

New Village Hall Mr.Peter Kendall explained that as Chairman of the New Village Hall Steering Group he provided a link between the Village Hall Management Committee, who are responsible for managing the existing hall and the building of the new hall, the Steering Group and the architect. A questionnaire recently completed by villagers had provided many ideas of the activities they wished to see in the new hall and these had contributed to the design which was on display. The new hall can accommodate twice the number of people accommodated in the old hall, with twice as much storage space. There were two "green room areas" to meet the requirements of GADS. The hall will incorporate a large foyer, an enlarged kitchen, provision for a small office and a cleaner's cupboard. The hall will be large enough to accommodate carpet bowls but not badminton. High quality sound, projection and lighting are planned.

To fit in with the landscape the hall will have the appearance of a Suffolk Barn conversion.

Planning permission has been applied for the demolition of the old hall and a change of use to residential. A condition will be that the old hall cannot be demolished until the new hall has been built and in use.

Every effort is being made to involve local businesses and people in the building of the new hall. A Web site will be created to promote the new hall.

To fulfil the requirements of the 1962 conveyance a meeting of the electors of the Grundisburgh area of benefit will have to be held to seek their approval of the selling of the old hall site and to use the proceeds to part fund the building of a new hall.

**10. Any Questions** The Parish Council are members of SAVID (Safer Village Driving) and will investigate the using of a speed check indicator in the village e.g. similar to that used regularly in Tuddenham. Its positioning would have to conform to police guidelines. Previous surveys had not revealed significant breaches of the speed limit.