

Belstead Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 23rd May 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Richard Clift (chairman) Trevor Beckett, Mark Fiske, Ken Stowe, Christine Eade, County Cllr Christopher Hudson, District Councillors Nick Ridley and Barry Gasper, clerk Samantha Barber and 13 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from David Cobbold.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2017 were adopted as a true record proposed by Trevor Beckett and seconded by Mark Fiske signed by the Chairman of the meeting Richard Clift.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising from the 2017 meeting.

REPORTS:

Chairman's report: Cllr Richard Clift gave the following report. Much of what was topical during the last year still seems outstanding.

This includes items such as reduction of road noise on the A14, public open spaces at Mill Farm Place and the LNR, motorbikes still using public footpaths despite the metal restrictors and the village gates in Church Lane not being repaired. On Thursday 10th November 2017 a public meeting was held to air concerns about a possible quarry with worries being raised about the increase in lorry traffic along the A14 and through the village. Two representatives from SCC spoke about this at length and a revised plan is due this year. An application was made to convert grain silo's in Bentley Lane to dwellings it is not clear whether these will be holiday or starter homes.

County Council: Cllr Christopher Hudson reported that there had been a change of leader at the Council to Colin Noble. An ambitious figure of £56million is needed to be saved in the next few years from the budget. The Conservative party won the election with a majority of 29 seats. A lot more fibre broadband has been installed which is good but not perfect. Many children in care are often placed out of county due to a lack of spaces in Suffolk. The largest expenses are elderly care, children's services and adult social care with no idea where increasing amounts come from in the future. It is estimated that £21 million is needed to resurface roads to a good extent. Current roadworks and resurfacing can be viewed using the website www.suffolk.roadworks.com. The issue of parking at Suffolk ONE could be solved with cooperation from a local garage and that is being investigated. The new Chief Executive Nicola Beech takes up her post on the 24th May.

District Council: Cllr Nick Ridley gave his report and said that due to reorganisation of the wards by the Boundary Commission this would most probably be their last for Belstead. There had been a change of leader at Babergh from Jennie Jenkins to John Ward after a vote of no confidence. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are now occupied in Endeavour House which is working well. The two previous headquarters are likely to be redeveloped. The council needs to make savings of £1.5 million which is increasingly difficult. There have been 27 new council houses built with another 34

on the way. There will be a reduction of councillors from 43 to 32 after the boundary commission review. A new swimming pool is to be built at Hadleigh. There is no five- year supply of housing at the moment. Any possible merger between Babergh and Mid Suffolk will probably now happen after the elections in 2019.

Barry Gasper gave thanks to Nick Ridley for his 16 years of service to the district.

Village Hall:

Marilyn Wosahlo reported that the Village Hall Committee had 12 members. There is now a new monthly market and weekly knit and stitch club. Finances at the hall are healthy. New doors at the front of the hall have been installed as part of a legacy from Anthony Wilson, a weather vane and plaque will also be erected. On July 21st the church and village hall will be joining together for an exhibition of photographs with cream teas, there will be a competition for children as well. It is hoped to have more joint events with a fete or similar in 2019. Chairs were given by a group who use hall. It is hoped to make more improvements in the future Marilyn thanked the village and committee for their help. A request was made to anyone who may have old photographs which could be used as part of the exhibition.

Belstead Consolidated Charities:

David Cobbold sent the following report. Belstead Consolidated Charities Reg. No. 206484

The Charity is an amalgam of several local charities, centuries old, for the relief of the poor of this Parish. They predate the welfare state which now substantially replace the work of the charity. Over many years, in the absence of real need, the funds were disbursed in very small amounts as a sort of Christmas gift. However, it was decided to hold the small annual income to allow it to accrue in case a real need arose. The only alternative was to wind up the charity and allow what money to go to another local charity with similar aims. No such local charity exists.

At the moment the charity has £816 it could use should a local need arise. In the past there has been such a need but the charity at that time was unable to help as it had such small capital. The trustees are David Cobbold, Peter Hands and the Rev Annette Shannon. At the following Parish Council meeting the Council needs to appoint two trustees for the following 3- year period. The present appointed Trustees Peter and David are willing to continue.

Garden Club:

Marilyn Wosahlo reported that in September 2018 the club would have been running for three years and has 42 members with at least two visits a year. There is an annual club dinner and several social evenings. Speakers cover a varied and interesting programme and a warm welcome awaits everyone.

St Mary's PCC and Friends:

Richard Clift reported that in the last 12 months there have been 7 weddings and several baptisms at the church the carol service was well attended and community events such as the garage sale and Christmas bazaar well received. The 250 Club goes from strength to strength. Kevin Ellis has kept the churchyard in a very good condition thanks to the generous contribution from the Parish Council and thanks must also be given to Mick Potter for cutting the long grass at the back of the church. There is normally a congregation of 25 to 30 at the monthly church services

Cameo Club:

Zandra Cobley reported that the club is going well with over 25 people at the last meeting. The club meets on the 2nd Monday afternoon in the month, villagers are free with visitors making a small donation.

Residents

A resident raised the issue of a footpath down Grove Hill. Enquiries had previously been made to the Highways department who had replied that the local highways budget amount was not sufficient to make this viable.

It was discussed that the new development on Grove Hill could incorporate a footpath but as planning has been passed it would not be likely.

A resident spoke about road safety and provision for traffic not being considered before planning permission is granted for developments in the village. There was a long discussion about how highways are consulted about every planning application and that once this judgement has been made Babergh cannot do anything.

The junction at the Bucks Horns was spoken about as being dangerous and should be altered however as there have not been accidents and certainly no fatalities then Highways would consider it to be of low priority and would have to channel their very limited finances elsewhere.

The unsuitable for HGV's sign at Copdock needs replacing and the clerk has reported.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm