

**MINUTES OF THE HAINFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr A Cowles (Chair)  
Cllr L Rogers  
Cllr S Fuller  
Cllr R Crisp  
Cllr S Howes  
Cllr H Pointer  
K Medler (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Mr. A Morton  
District Cllr P Carrick  
County Cllr T Williams

**Parishioners:** 1

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Southgate.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 were taken as read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**3. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

This is my fifth Annual Report as Chairman and as I said last year some things have progressed and some have not.

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of a number of what I call Village assets – the Millennium Car Park; the Village Pond; the Village Green and the Queen Elizabeth II Play Area.

The Parish Council has renewed, with the Diocese, the lease on the Car Park for a further 10 years. Currently the Parish Council pays an annual rent, the rates and maintenance costs in relation to the Car Park. We were also required to pay both parties legal costs regarding the lease renewal. The area behind the Car Park has been levelled and reseeded as a recreation area.

During 2011, the Village Green was reseeded and now looks much better. The Parish Council is grateful to Mick Liston for continuing to mow the Green

The Village Pond, having been cleared and cleaned in 2011, is the subject of a biennial maintenance programme.

The Queen Elizabeth II Play Area is, as I said previously, showing its age and the Parish Council would welcome suggestions from parishioners on ways in which it could be improved.

The culvert in Spixworth Road referred to in my last year's Annual Report was repaired by NCC Bridge Team and appears to be problem free. However, Newton Road does not appear to be problem free following several attempts by Anglian Water to repair the sewer opposite Woodstock.

Last year I reported on problems with Fly Tipping in the Millennium Car Park. This year there have been none – hopefully the action taken by Broadland District Council has deterred potential fly tippers. We do have a problem with litter in the Millennium Car Park, and we would ask users to take their rubbish home with them. Anne Gillett continues to organise the Spring and Autumn Village litter picks and we are grateful to her for organising them and to those Villagers that participate in them. The Parish Council is also grateful to Mr G Byrnes for providing the skip for this April's Litter Pick. Fly Tipping was also a problem on the path adjacent to the Old Church and the Parish Council is grateful to the landowner, Mr A Morton, for the action he has taken to prevent this.

Last year saw cuts in the Sanders 44 bus service through Hainford including the axing of the 18:15 Norwich to Hainford bus. Parish Council representatives met with Charles Sanders and representatives from NCC and although we were not successful in getting the service restored to its previous level we did at least get the 18:15 reinstated. I am pleased that in the recent series of reductions, the bus service through Hainford has not been further reduced.

A Village asset not in the Parish Council's control is the Village Hall and the Parish Council is pleased to note the new lease of life that the current Management Committee has given to it. The Parish Council continues to make a financial contribution to the Village Hall by donating the recycling credits to it. In addition it has made a grant towards grass cutting the field and perimeter.

Hainford School is also another Village asset and the Parish Council was pleased to make a donation to the School's Olympic Medal fund, enabling the School to purchase "Olympic Medals" to be awarded at the School's Sports day on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The Parish Council also funds the cost of the grass cutting in the Old Churchyard and the gas for the space heaters in the Church.

The agricultural/rural environment within which Hainford sits is an asset greatly valued by Hainford parishioners. As I said last year, it is the principles articulated in the Parish Plan which guide the Parish Council in their comments on strategic consultation documents issued by BDC and NCC. With this in mind I met with John Walchester BDC's Interim Spatial Planning Manager to ascertain the impact of various BDC Draft Planning Documents on future planning applications viz a viz Hainford. I was pleased to be informed that, in Mr Walchester's opinion, they would not affect the way Hainford was viewed by the Planning Authority in the context of the Local Plan or the Joint Core Strategy. Since then however, the Government has published its National Planning Policy Framework and we will need to carefully consider the impact of this.

One item that has not progressed is the Woodland Burial Park Planning Application. At the Annual Parish Council Meeting last year, the Parish Council considered the Planning Application to build a Woodland Burial Park on land adjacent to the Old Church. The Parish Council objected to the application which was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. A revised application was subsequently submitted and the Parish Council objected to the revised application, on the basis that a Woodland Burial Park, with a catchment population of "Greater Norwich and the whole of the County of Norfolk" requiring access "almost exclusively by private car", would be detrimental to the quality of life and ethos of Hainford so valued by Parishioners. The Parish Council's detailed objections can be seen on the Parish Council's web site <http://haynfordpcnorfolkparishes.gov.uk>. To date, one year on, the Planning Authority still has not made a decision on the application. They decided to link it with an application to provide a cemetery, incorporating a woodland burial facility, at Canham's Hill, some five miles from here. That application was the subject of a Planning Appeal, which was heard in February, and the outcome of which is still awaited. We are not sure when the Hainford Application will go to a Planning Committee as that will depend on when the Planning Inspector's decision in respect of Canham's Hill is announced. We have expressed our concerns at the length of time this is taking.

You would have to have come from outer space not to know that this year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Following the precedent set by our predecessors, we decided to present a mug to all children aged 16 or under living in the Village. The mugs will be presented at the Village Fun Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and any surplus will be sold.

The Parish Council now has a website the address of which has been published in the Parish News. It is in its early stages and its objective is to compliment the Parish News. We hope that Parishioners will find it of value and we welcome any comments that they might have.

I would like to conclude this report by thanking my fellow Councillors and our Parish Clerk first for putting up with me and secondly for all the hard work they do on behalf of our Village.

#### **4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The annual accounts were presented, agreed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. These will be published in the Parish News and on the website. The Clerk noted that the subscription fee for the Society of Local Council Clerks was overpaid last year by £5.00 and this will be corrected by a reduction in the fee this year. The balance carried forward for the year is £15,208.65.

#### **5. TREE WARDEN REPORT**

One new Tree Preservation Order (TPO) has been authorised during the last year. This is land adjoining boundaries at 'Trees' Lady Lane. A group of 15 trees, the majority adjacent to Lady Lane. There are six Oaks, four Silver Birches, two Beech, one Scots Pine, one Cherry and one Holly.

##### **Other activities**

Concern was raised of the felling of a large Oak tree (which did not have a TPO) within a garden of a parishioner in Harvest Close. However the owner of the tree had notified Broadland District Council, who agreed it could be felled.

It has been observed that gates have been constructed, along with some clearing of trees and shrubs, at Long Plantation adjoining to Waterloo Road. The Conservation Section of Broadland District Council has been notified of this and one of their officers will be inspecting the work.

Hainford is lucky enough to have a large number of trees, both fine individual specimens and groups of woodland. If any resident of Hainford has concerns about any tree or group of trees that might be felled please contact the Conservation Section of Broadland District Council on 01603 430560 or contact one of the Tree Wardens, either Judith Lincoln on 01603 890369 or Doris Bogardis on 01603 898830.

## **6. WOODLAND BURIAL PARK**

The Chairman thanked Mr Andrew Morton for attending to update parishioners on the present position and answer any questions.

Mr Morton confirmed the current position was as detailed in the Chairman's report. Although he is awaiting the outcome of the Canham Hill appeal, Canham Hill is very different to his proposal. Mr Morton intends to plant 1000's of trees, form a lake and encourage wildlife. Canham Hill will cover 100 acres whilst he is only proposing to use 18 acres. Being a fourth generation farmer he is keen to preserve the countryside too. When asked why he chose Hainford for his project, Mr Morton said although the land was originally purchased to farm, he feels it lends itself to a Woodland Burial Park because of its location and the surrounding road networks.

The Chairman pointed out that the application will have to be squared with policies which seek to retain agricultural land.

Mr Morton advised he has employed a Planning Consultant to help him with his application as the consultant is far more aware of policy requirements than he is.

Dist Cllr P Carrick confirmed that the Hainford application will definitely go to Planning Committee once the outcome of the Canham Hill appeal is known.

A parishioner said she was concerned about more traffic coming to what is usually a quiet village.

The Chairman asked why the application does not have a Transport Plan incorporated into it when the NPPF requires it. Safe pedestrian access by way of a footpath has also got to be a major consideration.

Mr Morton again stated he has left things like this to his consultant to deal with. The Burial Park will not be like the crematorium however, as the services will be two hours long and it is likely there will only be two services a day, although an average service may attract fifty people.

*County Councillor Tony Williams joined the meeting at 20:10*

Mr Morton pointed out that the vets nearby does not have a footpath to it.

Cllr L Rogers stated the vets do not require a path as the animals are taken there by vehicle but if the Burial Park is to be advertised as having countryside facilities, it will need to have a footpath to it. Visitors will not want to go the long way round, using the public footpath across fields.

Concluding the discussion Cllr Cowles said the the principles governing the Parish Council regarding matters such as this were articulated in his 2011 Chairman's report that is, that the Parish Council, mindful of the comments in the Parish Plan, object to any proposal which it feels adversely affects and is detrimental to the quality of life of Parishioners, unless it can be demonstrated that it has significant overall benefits to Parishioners as the Parish Council is keen to preserve the quality of life enjoyed by Hainford Parishioners. In the context of the Woodland Burial Park the Parish Council were of the opinion that the disadvantages far outweighed any benefits. The Chairman thanked Mr Morton for attending.

## **7. OUTDOOR GYM**

The Chairman advised nothing more has been done on this and suggested the village wait to see what funds the Village Hall may need before proceeding any further.

## **8. LAND AT REAR OF MILLENNIUM CAR PARK**

The Chairman advised this has been reseeded and is being used as a 'kick about' area already. The Parish Council has not received any suggestions from parishioners for future use of the area. It was agreed Cllr S Howes will speak to the farmer of the adjoining land to see if the current use has caused any problems.

## **9. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS**

Could a youth shelter perhaps be placed on the land at the rear of the Millennium car park? The Clerk advised she doesn't think the Lease will allow this but will double check.

Concern was raised about horses and dogs on the farmers field behind Anne Gillett's house but as the field is owned by a farmer, it is up to the farmer if he chooses to let horses and dogs use his field.

It was asked if a Dog Bin could be placed at the end of the footpath on Grange Road as dog walkers are leaving both the mess and bags on the footpath. The Clerk advised someone else has recently raised this with her and having spoken to BDC this is not an option at present. However we can ask BDC to cleanse the area and if they see that this is a persistent problem, they will look again at the need for a bin. It was suggested the bin at the Old Church Road end of the footpath be moved up to Grange Road but it was agreed this would not be helpful to people who use the bin at the Old Church Road end. It was agreed the clerk will ask BDC to cleanse the problem area and monitor. The Clerk will also place a note in the Parish News reminding people to take their mess home.

The Climate Change Group wondered if it would be possible to plant an orchard in the village which would be planted and maintained by parishioners. It was agreed a note should be put into the Parish News to gauge the level of support in the Community before the Parish Council look at possible sites. The matter will be discussed again at the July meeting of the Parish Council.

**The meeting closed at 20:38**