

**MINUTES OF THE HAINFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2013 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

**In attendance:** PC Greig Shepherd  
Mr. J Whitelock (Saffron Housing)  
District Cllr P Carrick

**Parishioners:** 16

**1. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 were taken as read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**3. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

This is my sixth Annual Report as Chairman. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun. As reported last year, the Parish Council continues to maintain and where appropriate improve on what I call Village assets - the Millennium Car Park; the Village Pond; the Village Green and the Queen Elizabeth II Play Area.

Last year we renewed the lease on the Car Park for a further 10 years and levelled and reseeded the area behind for use as a recreation area. This year we have agreed to resurface the Car Park and the use of the area behind is part of the ongoing discussions re the improvement of the QE II Play Area.

Regarding the Play Area, the Parish Council took the decision to close it temporarily for Health and Safety reasons. Following an inspection report and consultation with our Insurers, volunteers led by Teresa Watker undertook a number of maintenance tasks which enabled us to reopen it. The Tom Thumb unit however was condemned and removed. I am grateful to all those volunteers who gave up their weekends to undertake these important tasks and also to Councillors Howe and Crisp and Terry Lloyd for the work that they did.

As I said last year, the Play Area is showing signs of its age and we are working with a group of parents to come up with proposals for its improvement. You will hear more about this later during this meeting and during the course of the next year. The Parish Council has agreed to give a grant of £5000 to the project but much more funding will be needed.

Talking of Health and Safety, we also employed a tree surgeon to check on and report on the condition of the trees which are the Parish Council's responsibility.

The Parish Council, like so many organisations in the Village, benefits from being able to use the Village Hall. Recognising the importance of the Village Hall to the community, the Parish Council gave a grant of £5000 towards the re-roofing of the Hall. This is in addition to the annual donation of the recycling credits of some £1000 per annum. It appears that few Parish Councils donate the recycling credits in this way. We are grateful to those who serve on the Village Hall Management Committee.

We also benefit from an excellent School in the Village and I was pleased to present, on the Parish Council's behalf, "Olympic Medals" at the School Sport's Day on 25 June 2012. As I said when I presented the medals, I only wish my old School had been as good as this one.

During the year, the School lost, through retirement, Carolyn Atherton. However as they say, it's an ill wind, as Carolyn has undertaken the organisation of Hainford's participation in the Norfolk Village Games. I would like to thank her and also congratulate all those involved in the Netball Tournament on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013. At the end of this School year, the School will also lose, again through retirement, its Head teacher Judith Elliot Hunter. On behalf of the Parish Council I wish her a long and happy retirement.

Anne Gillett continues to organise the Spring and Autumn Litter Picks which help to keep down the amount of detritus deposited by those in passing cars and those too lazy to take their litter home with them. We are grateful to her for organising the Litter Picks and to all those who participate in them.

To mark the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Parish Council presented, at the Village Fun day, on 2 June 2012, commemorative mugs to all those children aged 16 and under living in the Village. The day itself was a most enjoyable day and I would like to thank all those involved in its organisation. The surplus mugs were sold and the proceeds from their sale went to the Village Hall.

The Parish Council continues to fund the grass cutting at the Old Church Yard and the gas for space heaters in the Church. On behalf of the Parish Council, I lay a wreath on the War Memorial at the Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony and I would like to thank Mike Brothers for cleaning and renovating the War Memorial.

Last year we were successful in getting the 18:15 Norwich to Hainford bus reinstated after its axing from the timetable. This year a new timetable sees the axing of the 14:45 Norwich to Hainford bus. We have expressed our concerns at this.

The Parish Council is consulted on and responds to all consultations regarding all planning applications in the Village. It is a responsibility it takes very seriously. The starting point for consideration of any application is BDC's Local Plan together with any other relevant Planning Policies and whether or not, in the Parish Council's opinion, the application complies with them. In the case of large scale applications, the Parish Council also considers them in the context of the Parish Plan and whether or not, in its opinion, any benefit economic, environmental or otherwise accrues to Hainford. This was the approach the Parish Council adopted when it considered the application to turn productive agricultural land into a burial ground. After careful consideration, the Parish Council could see no benefit to Hainford in a proposal to import Norfolk's dead into the Village. Consequently the Parish Council objected to the application. This stance was also supported by a petition signed by over 200 parishioners. However in spite of Parish Council and parishioner objections the planning application, which was supported by our District Councillor, was approved by the District Council Planning Committee in August 2012. Clearly both our District Councillor and the Planning Committee saw benefits to Hainford which the Parish Council had overlooked.

In an attempt to understand the way in which BDC approached planning applications in Hainford, accompanied by a parishioner, I met with Broadland's Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. We had a lengthy discussion, during which we asked about the importance or otherwise of planing policy and its place in the decision making process; the relevance of material considerations and the fact that each application is considered on its merits means that there appears to be no consistency in the decision making process. We also expressed the frustrations we experienced when, having spent considerable time putting together a response based on planning policy, we see that policy disregarded in favour of material considerations which appeared to us to have been plucked from thin air. I am not sure if we achieved anything nor if I have a clearer understanding of the planning process but at least we made our views known. The planning process reminds me of the conversations that take place in Alice in Wonderland at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party where the Mad Hatter argues that "I see what I eat means the same as I eat what I see"; the March Hare argues that "I like what I get means the same as I get what I like" and the Dormouse argues that "I breathe when I sleep means the same as I sleep when I breathe". They don't mean the same of course – unless you're a Planning Officer.

We now have another proposal to build in the Village unlike the burial ground because of the potential for benefit to Hainford we have consulted the entire Village. The outcome of that consultation will assist the Parish Council in its decision making and we will hear more about the proposal later on in this meeting.

The Parish Council publishes its minutes, agendas and other important documentation on its website, the address of which is given in the Parish News. I hope that you have taken the time to look at our website and we would appreciate any comments you might have.

I have taken up enough of your time and I would like to conclude by thanking all those Parishioners who do so much to make Hainford the fine place it is in which to live. I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for all the hard work that 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 balance carried forward for the year is £15,776.76.

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

##### **Tree Preservation Orders**

The following TPO's have been authorised during this year:

The Broadland District Tree preservation Order 2012 (No. 22)

Trees on land adj Waterloo Road & Cromer Road, Hainford

This is the land fronting on to the Cromer Road adjacent to the exiting TPO's on the north side of Waterloo Road. All trees on the site are included in the TPO

The Broadland District Tree Preservation Order 2012 No.52 (1125)

Trees at 36,36A,36B & 36C Waterloo Road, Hainford

These are the trees at the rear of the properties in the Loke which include 6 oaks, 1 cherry, 1 tulip tree and a goat willow.

The Broadland District Tree Preservation Order 2012 No.23

Trees at Pillbox Plantation, Hainford

All trees on the site regardless of what species they are.

The Tree Preservation Orders 1972 No 8, 1976 No 4 and 1989 No 3 have all been revoked as Broadland District Council considers the original Orders to be inaccurate with regard to the situations of the trees covered by the Order. These have been replaced by the new TPO's mentioned above.

### **Other activities**

There has not been (as far as known of) any illegal trimming or felling of trees with TPO orders. Doris Bogardis, who has been a tree warden for approximately five years, has moved from Hainford, therefore there is a vacancy for a tree warden. It would be preferable if someone in the Waterloo Road/Cromer Road area volunteered as then the different areas of the village would be covered. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in taking on this role.

Hainford is lucky enough to have a large number of trees, both fine individual specimens and groups of woodland. If any resident of Hainford have 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 the Tree Warden, Judith Lincoln on 01603 890369

## **6. VILLAGE GAMES REPORT**

Having been in post as Village Sport Co-ordinator since October 2012, I've been delighted by the response of the community to the idea of Village Games. The philosophy is enjoyment, community spirit and participation in a range of traditional and new games and activities. Thank you to all for the enthusiastic support I have received, making my role extremely rewarding. Sponsored and supported by Active Norfolk, Village Games is bringing additional funds to Hainford Village Hall and in the future, I hope, Burroughes Hall.

To date I have organised and run two "come and try" days in conjunction with Active Norfolk. In addition to all who have come to participate and share the days, I'm grateful to those who have volunteered assistance in one way or another. Eleven different sports / games have been provided for the community to try. We are currently working towards participation in the Broadland Village Games at Aylsham High School on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It looks as though we will be entering 13 of a possible 14 competitions which I think is excellent for our first year. An afternoon of Family Rounders is planned at Hainford Village Hall for May 12<sup>th</sup>.

In an effort to provide sustainability for activities within the community, for those who wish - a Ladies Netball Squad has been formed. The Ladies volunteered in the first instance to take part in a tournament in Dereham where terrific teamwork, enthusiasm and a desire to continue playing evolved. The Ladies now continue to meet and play on a weekly basis and "friendly opposition" is emerging for matches.

I am currently working with Active Norfolk on plans to provide another sustainable club/ group for the community in the Autumn. I am hoping a table tennis club will be formed for adults and young people using loan equipment in the first instance. The future of this will be dependent upon a nucleus of players willing to take it forward after our initial input.

The Chairman expressed the Council's thanks again to Carolyn and everyone involved for their enthusiasm.

## **7. DEVELOPMENT ON THE 'CHEQUERS FIELD'**

The Chairman advised that out of the 370 surveys delivered; only 63 were returned (17%), 30 of which supported the proposal with 33 against. This is disappointing as this does not give the Parish Council a clear indication of parishioners views on the matter. Various additional comments were made for and against the proposal.

Mr. Whitelock addressed the meeting and said they are regularly approached by landowners wanting to utilize land they own and the NPPF now allows some market properties to be built alongside affordable ones. The market plots cross subsidize the affordable. Saffron always contact the local Parish Council and District Council before taking things forward as well as carrying out simple background checks to make sure the land is 'developable'. They also refer to the local Housing Register to confirm there is a housing 'need'.

*District Councillor P Carrick joined the meeting at 19:27*

In response to questions Mr. Whitelock advised they would be looking at building 6/8 affordable properties along with 6/8 market properties but this would be subject to what is 'needed' based on the Housing Register as mentioned previously. The exact location of the houses on the field is still to be confirmed. The properties will be good quality, well designed homes and the fabric could be agreed with the Parish Council and Village. Tenure would be predominantly affordable rent with some shared equity and the properties will stay affordable in perpetuity for local people. The Parish Council have no say who gets the properties but local people looking for an affordable home should put their name on BDC's Housing Register either now or once planning permission is granted (if the Scheme goes ahead). BDC are likely to set 'trigger points' in any permission to ensure the affordable homes are built prior to the market homes. Saffron will be taking a risk that the market houses will sell and cover the cost of the affordable homes. The properties in Felthorpe are all affordable as the costs were covered by the HCA. NCC will be a consultee if a planning application is submitted and will say whether or not they feel the School has capacity to meet the potential demand generated by the extra housing. Many landowners look to get as many buildings as possible on land they own in order to gain financially but Housing Associations will not be able to keep delivering large sites and building will be restricted by the housing 'need'. Landowners are often open to negotiation on the use of any remaining land for things like new Village Halls, Playing Fields etc. and so this is something the Village may like to consider suggesting if there is something specific the Village would like.

This is a great opportunity for the Village to benefit from the development. Once a site is granted permission as an Exception site it cannot be pulled into any revised development boundary and then built on under normal rules, it will always be an Exception site and treated as such. If Utility Companies say their current systems cannot take additional properties Saffron would be responsible for financing any upgrades but they are led by the Utility Companies, so if Anglian Water for example are happy their sewers etc can cope, additional work would not be carried out. Saffron will be responsible for maintaining any communal land but residents will be responsible for their own gardens. As landlord Saffron take a pro-active approach in resolving any 'issues' with gardens.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Whitelock for his responses and agreed the Parish Council would consider the matter further at their meeting immediately after this one.

*2 parishioners left the meeting at 20:10*

### **8. QEII PLAY AREA**

Teresa Watker has now obtained 3 quotations and Cllr S Howes has obtained a further quote. Teresa has suggested a consultation afternoon on the 15<sup>th</sup> June for the suppliers to come along and discuss their proposals further with the Village.

In answer to a question the Chairman confirmed that in light of the report received and following discussions with Insurers, the Parish Council decided to close the area for Health & Safety reasons. The majority of the works have now been completed and so the potential risks have diminished and the area has been reopened. The Log Chain will be reinstated as soon as parts are available and the area will continue to be monitored. All agreed the 4 suppliers who have provided quotations should be invited to the Village Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> June to come and present their plans with costs, information on potential funding and ideas on how the project could be completed in stages if necessary. Teresa Watker has agreed to let parents know by giving out leaflets at the School and the Clerk will ask Carolyn to put something in the next Parish News. The Clerk will also put details on the website and try to get links or PDF documents to put on the Parish Council website for those who cannot attend on the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

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

The issue of traffic calming measures outside the School was raised. The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council were unsuccessful in obtaining funding for a flashing 30 sign on a permanent basis and whilst the Parish Council could pay the full costs of installing one, these are very expensive and not something the Council could consider spending the Precept on. NCC is currently looking at bringing in 20mph limits outside Schools so the Clerk will ask them to consider Hainford. The School could do likewise. PC Greig Shepherd confirmed speeding is a problem everywhere.

### **10. POLICE REPORT**

PC Greig Shepherd advised there have been 24 crimes recorded in the Village for the year 2012/2013. A crime prevention night was recently held in the Village due to the increase in crime and this is an ongoing operation. Two men were recently arrested for 'going equipped'.

*Cty Cllr Daniel Roper joined the meeting at 20:27*

There are now three PCSO's covering the area and they have been briefed to attend Parish Council meetings. PCSO L Munro-Oakley recently attended the School to speak about Stranger Danger, Cyber bullying and Online Safety and was warmly received by the students. Speeding priorities can be set through the SNAP meetings but the Police will be covering all Villages with sporadic checks as speeding is an ongoing problem. If there is a specific offender, residents are encouraged to take down the date, time and registration number of the offending vehicle and pass onto the Aylsham SNT to follow up by ringing 101.

The Chairman asked why the two men mentioned previously were only cautioned on an 'out of court disposal' when many Police resources were used including a helicopter. PC G Shepherd explained there are many reasons why cautions are given and on this occasion no actual crime was committed. There has been an increase in crime this year (up 3 on last year's figure) but this is on a par with other parishes and is still low compared to other areas. April has seen only one crime recorded which was actually theft of some eggs and not cash as stated in the weekly updates. PC G Shepherd agreed to find out why an incident that occurred last week of indecent exposure was not brought to parishioners attention through Home Watch etc enabling them to be more aware of a possible repeat occurrence.

**The meeting closed at 20:42**