

**UNAPPROVED NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SADBROOKE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SADBROOKE**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Heath (Chairman), Christine Myers (Clerk),  
Bridget Solly (Treasurer), Mr Richard Dixon-Warren – Lincolnshire  
Police Independent Advisory Group, 8 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Ian Russell

**1 APPROVAL OF THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5RH APRIL 2018**

Proposed by Bob Waller, seconded by Andy Cottam that the notes were a correct record and be signed as minutes.

**2 CHAIRMANS REPORT - Councillor Peter Heath**

It seems time has flown since our last Annual Parish Meeting but during that time your Parish Council has not been idle. Our greatest challenge was to ensure the completion of the Sudbrooke Neighbourhood Plan. The plan will essentially protect the village from uncontrolled development and guide future Parish Council members on the direction of policy for the next 25 years. It has been completed by a dedicated team who have worked hard on a complex process encompassing all aspects of the village, past, present and future. We have brought in external consultants to assist in this process so that we may fully recognise the attractions of life in Sudbrooke. The Neighbourhood Plan has now been given to West Lindsey District Council for examination and when completed will be subject of a referendum of Parishioners.

Our other main concern has been the development in the Sudbrooke Park. The building works are proceeding apace, however we have had to raise the problems on construction traffic with the developer. The initial Traffic Management Plan was abandoned by the developer as being impractical. This led to heavy vehicles using Manor Drive and West Drive. We pointed out that the original route through the farm roads was more than adequate and should be used to lessen the impact on our roads. This was agreed. Holme Drive will now take more construction traffic whilst West Drive has new culverts installed necessitating closure of that road. We will continue to press to minimise the impact of the works on the village. We have also been pursuing the developer for greater involvement in the Landscape Plan for the woods and public access when complete. Our two positions have not always coincided on this but we continue to persevere.

Sadly our Sports Day this year was a washout due to the weather but we hope to hold the event again this year. Emma Chapman has agreed to organise this with support from the PC. Our Christmas tree lighting was a great success thanks to all who volunteered their time. We obtained a temporary licence to sell alcohol so that we could legally sell mulled wine. The sale of raffle tickets provided funds to cover additional costs and we intend to repeat that success this year. Our litter picks have been well supported by village volunteers but it is always disappointing that they have had so much to pick up. We continue to seek grants and assistance to improve the village. We are hoping that a group from Lincoln College will be repainting the park gates as a project. We are also grateful to the Lincoln Rapid Relief Team for their sterling work in clearing the footpaths around the Millennium Stone

The sports field in Poachers Lane is now owned by the Parish Council but will require some work to ensure that the playing surface is safe to use. In recognition of his work for Sudbrooke it has been named after Stuart Curtis, himself an accredited football referee.

It is hoped that the next year will be as successful as the last and that more residents of the village will put themselves forward to serve as Parish Councillors.

### **3 CLERKS REPORT – Christine Myers**

The beginning of the year was dominated by the new General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect last May which involved much additional work for Parish Councils.

As the Chairman has mentioned the Parish Council now has ownership of the sports field adjacent to the village hall and it is hoped that this can be developed into a village asset.

The village is fortunate in having Richard Gadsby of Greenfield Groundskeeping keeping a watchful eye on the play equipment when he is doing his weekly inspections. With Richard's observations and those of the RoSPA Annual Report on the play equipment there has been the necessity to spend a considerable amount of funds on the general upkeep of the play equipment but this enables it to be used safely by the children of the village.

The Village will again be entered into the Best Kept Village Competition. It is heartening that residents are assisting more and more in the upkeep of the village – tidying and moving of plants and shrubs in the Jubilee Garden, tree and shrub cutting, verge cutting back, maintenance of notice board and of course the erection, maintenance and taking down of our village Christmas tree, to name but a few examples.

I am also aware that residents are notifying me more often when something in the village needs attention, i.e. broken street sign, street lights not working, broken bins. If I or a Councillor is made aware that something is not right then we can act and try to have that problem rectified. Please do bring items/problems to our attention.

The Parish Council has commented on 14 planning applications since last April.

The Parish Council is currently a member short and it is hoped that the vacancy will be filled after the May elections.

### **4 TREASURERS REPORT- Bridget Solly**

The Council received a Precept (budget) of £26,900.

This year the Council spent £4,565 on grass cutting. The County Council's contribution this year was £458 meaning that the Parish Council paid just over £4,000.

The Council spent £1828 on printing and preparing the Sudbrooke News with advertising revenue generated of £633.00. The Council recognise that the Sudbrooke News is an essential part of our community and continues to support it financially.

A grant from Groundworks UK was received to support the Neighbourhood Plan – to date monies spent has been £5,955 and the final paperwork is currently being prepared for submission.

A full copy of the accounts will be available to members of the public in due course as per instructions from the External Auditors.

The Council lived within its budgeted precept for the year.

## **5 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Sue Rawlins, Welton Rural Division**

The County Council year of 2018/2019 has continued to be a financially challenging one. The Council has increased its element of the Council Tax for 2019/2020 by 4.95%, including 2% which will exclusively be spent on adult social care. The County Council's Fairer Funding Campaign has led to an additional *one-off* payment of £7 million in the current year for rural services and social care from Central Government - the Council's key increasing costs. We are expecting an announcement on longer term fairer funding later in 2019. Until then, we face lot of uncertainty over how we will fund services in the future unless we have sustainable funding.

The Council is continuing its programme of upgrading its IT provision to accommodate the ongoing changes in the digital environment, which can be a challenging process for all organisations. The Council has in the current business year undertaken much needed highways maintenance on the A46 from Nettleham Heath to the Nettleham Roundabout and village road repairs, all of which were very welcome.

On 5th March 2019, the Council's Executive issued a decision notice to compulsory purchase land and a side roads order in respect of the construction of a 60 meter diameter roundabout with associated realignment and improvement works to the existing A46 Dunholme/Welton junction. Surface dressing will take place on the A46 at Dunholme during the year

## **6 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Bob Waller**

Compared to activities in central government in the last year, West Lindsey District Council has been focussed and united in providing services for residents in a positive and value for money approach.

Locally the Sudbrooke Neighbourhood Plan was revitalised and driven forward, it has been submitted to WLDC. The next stage is a referendum and I hope that residents will vote for the plan and in so doing will be showing their appreciation and acknowledgement of all the hard work put in by the steering group, who are all residents and volunteers.

One of the aspirations included in the plan was the establishment of a Village Post Office in Sudbrooke. This has been achieved and the post office opened in our village shop last week. I have been helping the owner to get his business rates reduced with WLDC and will continue to campaign on his behalf. I hope that all residents in Sudbrooke and Scothern continue to support the new owner of the shop. We now have another major asset to the village.

The war against fly tipping continues. I think we are winning some battles. Sudbrooke Lane now looks a lot smarter for instance, but we must continue to be watchful and report any incidents of this very unsocial behaviour that we observe. WLDC figures on reported fly tipping are going down as prosecutions against offenders are increasing.

My Councillors Initiative Fund has helped various local groups during this reporting period. The list includes Scothern Community Gardens, a grant to enable Scothern Village Hall to continue with their film nights, Sudbrooke Pre-School for new furniture, the Village Hall for baby changing facilities and the Parish Council for replacement bulbs for the Christmas tree lights for the village.

During the past year I have served on the planning Committee of WLDC and as such I have been able to support and assist residents on individual planning matters. I am also a member of the Lincolnshire Show Committee and have attended the Challenge and Improvement Committee as well as the County Wide Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Board, which is a multi-agency initiative driven by the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

I am constantly campaigning with our County Councillor Mrs Sue Rawlins to the Highways Department of LCC to ensure that our roads are properly surfaced and maintained and that 'pot holes' are reported and repaired at the earliest opportunity. Some roads in the ward need completely resurfacing and not just constant repairs.

Currently I am trying to get some passing places installed on Heath Road in Scothern. There is an urgent need for these as the traffic on this single track is increasing as it supports the new developments. I am also working with my conservative colleagues at WLDC to try to implement a 'free' bulk waste collection that will not only be useful to all residents but should help in the fight against fly tipping.

Hopefully I will be able to continue to represent the residents of Sudbrooke Ward after the local elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

## **7 LOCAL ORGANISATION REPORTS**

**A) SADBROOKE LADIES CLUB – Mrs Gill Rignall** - Sudbrooke Ladies' Club meets in the Bramham Lounge on the third Thursday of most months. We usually have a speaker. In July we go out for afternoon tea and in December we have a Christmas lunch.

Twelve members have re-joined for 2019. New members and guests are always welcome. We collect small coins and stamps for charity and there is a book stall. Our programme is on the Parish Council website.

**B) SADBROOKE GARDENING CLUB – John Whitaker** - The Club is currently looking for new members and enquiries about joining the Gardening Club should be made to a committee member.

The Club holds nine meetings per year as follows:

- ⤴ Speaker Evenings take place in March and October at the Village Hall and non-members are invited to attend. In 2018 we had a talk about the history of Clumber Park Walled Garden and also a talk entitled "Autumn into Winter" by Pam Tatam from Hall Farm Garden, Harpswell.
- ⤴ As in previous years, in April and September members organise and run the Village Spring and Autumn Shows, held at the Village Hall.
- ⤴ The May and June meetings are hosted by members on a voluntary basis at their homes. We enjoy quizzes, some nibbles, have a Flower of the Month competition and run various horticultural challenges. For example we have grown garlic in a pot and had a tallest sunflower competition. We hope to extend the tallest sunflower competition to the whole village in 2019.
- ⤴ Our annual outing takes place in July and in 2018 we visited Scampston Hall & Gardens, Malton, North Yorkshire.
- ⤴ Our AGM is held in August and will be hosted in 2019 at the Chairlady's house.
- ⤴ The Club Christmas Dinner takes place in December at a local venue. In 2018 we had a great time at The Carpenter's Arms in Fiskerton.

Throughout the year the committee endeavours to share information about open gardens, garden centres and places to visit. In 2018 members shared transport and enjoyed some ad hoc visits, including Baumber Walled Garden. So far this year members have been to see the snowdrops at Edlington, near Horncastle, as well as Easton Walled Garden.

On behalf of the whole village we run the “Best Kept Front Garden” or the “Best Hanging Basket” competition. In 2019 the shortlisted hanging baskets will be judged in July and we are grateful to Scothern Nurseries for providing prizes and judging the finalists.

**C) SADBROOKE CARVING CLUB – Mrs Coral Evans** - The carving club is going strong with 6 regular members. We meet on Mondays from 10am till 12pm and share our knowledge and skills and also enjoy a piece of cake and a cup of tea. During 2018 the group was offered some oak kitchen cupboard doors which they gratefully accepted. All members have now made a carved bird box. A carved bird box was also made for the kind folk who gave us the doors. The birds of Sudbrooke should be very happy in 2019! Projects planned for this year include a large owl from another piece of donated oak, a shaped house marker/trunk, a marker post for the wildflower area on the jubilee garden and garden signs and adornments. Although I am unable to fit any further people in my shed, please contact me if you are interested in learning to carve as I may be able to accommodate someone if there is good weather over the summer.

**D) SADBROOKE PRESCHOOL REPORT – Mrs Olwen Edwards** - Sudbrooke Preschool continues to thrive, serving the children and families of Sudbrooke and the surrounding villages. This year the preschool has been able to increase the hours available for children to attend by offering afternoon sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as well as the Monday already offered, increasing available hours to 22 per week.

Since the start of the school year in September, as well as our usual activities, the children have enjoyed celebrating Christmas with a party and a Nativity performance. We have just recently put on a storytelling session, with parents attending to watch their little ones tell the story of the Gingerbread Man. We enjoy regular visits from the Library Bus, the children climbing on board and selecting books to borrow, before being read a story. We make regular use of our outdoor areas and hope to increase this as the weather improves. The children have been learning about their world by making crafts and celebrating Diwali, Bonfire Night, Chinese New Year, Mother’s Day, Easter and of, course, Christmas when the hall is adorned by the children’s work.

We had 18 children move on to Ellison Boulton academy in September and all are settling well. We received regular visits from the teaching staff and supported our children during their transition visits to the school.

Our staff continue to train, with two members of staff working towards their Level 5 qualifications. We also continue our fundraising activities – we held a wreath making workshop in early December and have sold coffee and cakes and held raffles at our Nativity and storytelling session. We recently received a grant from West Lindsey Council which we aim to use to enhance our reading area.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Village Hall committee for their support over the last year.



**E) SADBROOKE VILLAGE HALL – Mrs Gill Rignall** - Sudbrooke Village Hall was opened in 1986 and is an asset to our community. It is cared for by a Management Committee which consists of seven trustees elected from the village and representatives from village organisations which use the hall.

Committee meetings are held every six weeks to ensure proper governance of the facility. It is a Registered Charity governed by a Constitution and an annual return is made to the Charity Commission.

Last year the Committee liaised with Lyn Curtis and her family and the main hall was named the Stuart Curtis Hall. Stuart was one of the original fund raisers who enabled the hall to be built. He devoted a great deal of time as Trustee, Booking Secretary and Co-Licensee and his advice was always valued. He is greatly missed and this seems a fitting tribute to him. The unveiling of the plaque was well attended by family and residents.

Over the last year the hall has been well used and regular users include Sudbrooke Preschool, Seniors, and Ladies' Club, Kick boxing, Pilates and Parish Council. It is also used whenever elections take place and WLDC use it for training sessions.

The monthly quiz is very well attended and we are grateful to Bob Waller for the huge amount of time he devotes to this.

Finances are in a healthy state. However, our Treasurer has retired after ten years of service. We are now seeking a new Treasurer as a matter of urgency.

A feasibility study was commissioned to explore the possibility of extending the hall to provide a further meeting room. After much discussion it has been decided to leave this in abeyance for the time being. There have been no occasions when an extra room was required. At the request of the Parish Council the views of residents were sought and there was no response whatsoever.

## **8 SPEAKER – Richard Dixon-Warren - Lincolnshire Police Independent Advisory Group**

Richard explained that the group commenced in 1981 and comprises of twelve members who seek to improve two way communication between the police and their communities. The role is to monitor and offer advice on the impact of police activity. The group isn't like a neighbourhood panel, where people would typically take their day to day concerns but it may, for example, get a sense of how the community feels about particular things and feedback how the police may be seeking to approach these things. The group's aim is to engender trust and confidence in police activities. It meets every six weeks. All members are voluntary. They have no connection with victims.

## **9 PARISHIONERS ITEMS**

A report was read that in February 2019 Bernard Bartram (a Sudbrooke parishioner and ex-railwayman) placed an article in Sudbrooke News about the possibility of creating a small model railway club in Sudbrooke. He asked residents to contact him with expressions of interest.

Since the article appeared, the club now has 5 members with the possibility of several more joining in the near future. We have made contact with the Lincoln District Model Railway Club who have been in existence for 38 years and use the Village Hall in Aisthorpe as their working base and meeting place. The idea is that rather than create our own club in Sudbrooke, we look at the possibility of joining forces with a well-established club who have their own premises, members and layout. Following a couple of visits to their club and several discussions it has now been decided that this is probably the preferred option for Sudbrooke members. Besides joining a well-established club, it has the additional benefits of accessing their experience and expertise. Bernard intends to keep anyone who might be interested in the activities of the Sudbrooke Model Railway Club updated with occasional articles in Sudbrooke News.

*The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.*

*Refreshments were served by the Clerk and Treasurer following the meeting.*