

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SUDBROOKE**

**PRESENT:** Peter Heath (Chairman), Christine Myers (Clerk), Bridget Solly (Treasurer)  
9 members of the public, County Councillor Mrs Sue Rawlins

**APOLOGIES:** Ian Russell, Andy Cottam, Paul Rignall

**1. APPROVAL OF THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 TO BE SIGNED AS MINUTES**

That the notes be signed as minutes proposed by Stuart Curtis, seconded by Bob Waller.

**2. CHAIRMANS REPORT 2016/17 – Peter Heath**

‘The year has been a difficult one for the Parish Council with a great deal of additional work to the norm. In April we learnt that the Park development had gone to appeal and was decided by the Planning Inspectorate in favour of the developer. The Parish Council recognised that some development was inevitable but the scale proposed was far larger than the PC thought compatible with the existing village. We have been disappointed by the lack of the developer to engage with us to try to mitigate some of the impact. We hope to discuss the “reserved rights” with Jackson and Jackson in the near future.

The condition of village roads has been a concern and LCC Highways have been contacted to express that concern. Multiple pot holes in estate roads and the poor condition of Church Lane after the completion of works by Anglian Water have been raised with the authority. At the end of March members of the PC accompanied Mr Trevor Hines, the new Highways officer, around some of our roads to highlight the problems. Financial constraints will no doubt limit their ability to cover all work but the most urgent.

We have obtained grants of money to purchase new goal posts for the sports field and have now installed them on the pitch. With the commencement of work in Poachers Lane we hope that the transfer of this land to the Parish will take place soon.

Our Christmas tree event was a great success and enabled the Village Hall committee to expand the event helping to raise much needed funds for the hall.

We were disappointed that a problem with the installation of CCTV at the village hall has led us to have to take action to recover money from the installation contractor.

Our annual Sports day was a success in spite of the weather and one is being planned for this year.

**3. CLERKS REPORT – CHRISTINE MYERS**

‘A steady year for the Parish Council with, as the Chairman mentioned, the dominant item being the development in Sudbrooke Park.

A grant application was made for the purchase of new goal posts, following resident’s requests and during the last week these have been sited on the Scothern Lane Sports field.

Highway issues are ongoing with me constantly reporting pot holes. Following a site meeting with the newly appointed LCC Highways Officer and his acknowledgement of the poor surfaces of some of the roads and footpaths in the village it is hoped that these will be improved during the

next few months. The amount of work carried out will be dependent upon funding available as he explained to those at the meeting that high usage roads have to take priority. However I am quietly confident that we will see some improvement.....

The majority of members of the Parish Council and myself have undertaken First Aid training during the year, provided by local resident Dave Barratt of Safety First.

The recent provision of the defibrillator is also an asset for the village. Ten residents have so far requested training which will take place at the end of this April 2017.

Members, the Treasurer and myself continue to undertake training through the LALC training scheme as often as possible, as legislation and more work is passed to parish councils. Sudbrooke is fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteer councillors working for it.

The Parish Council commented on 35 planning applications during the last year.'

#### **4. TREASURERS REPORT – BRIDGET SOLLY**

'The Clerk managed to secure a grant for £760 to pay towards the new goalposts which were installed this past week on the football pitch and a grant of just over £600 for re-imburement of technology costs.

Monies this year have been spent as follows:-

£6,400 – grass cutting with the County Council paying a contribution of £2,275 (this is the final year that we will receive such a grant) meaning that the Parish Council have paid £4,125 over the course of the year.

£2,600 – Sudbrooke /News with advertising revenue generated £750.00.

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

The Council lived within its budgeted precept.

#### **5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – MRS SUE RAWLINS**

'The County Council year of 2016/2017 has continued to be a financially challenging one. Even with the financial discipline exerted by Lincolnshire County Council, public sector spending nationally continues to be restricted, posing real challenges for local government. Shire counties continue to be seriously underfunded compared to urban areas. This is exacerbated for those authorities, such as Lincolnshire, with adult social care functions, particularly as the population ages. The retention of local business rates in future years is welcome, subject to fair funding arrangements where rates are low.

The Council took advantage of the Government's four year grant funding offer to 2020. The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for 2017/2018 will fall by £22 million or 31%, to £48 million, a continuing trend when for 2020 the RSG will be £20 million. The Council has prudently

established a financial volatility reserve to smooth out some of these funding reductions and increasing costs pressures such as the National Living Wage.

The Council has had difficulties with IT elements of the “Serco” contract, which it is working with the company to rectify.

The Council will look to consult residents on the issue of the two-tier system of local government verses alternative models vis-à-vis financial sustainability and service delivery.

In regard to education, rural schools are being encouraged to collaborate in order to thrive. Schools in the County are expected to receive more money per pupil from the Government, thereby closing the gap with other parts of the country.

The Council continues to promote the Better Care Fund in partnership with the public health sector.

Regarding infrastructure, the Lincoln East West Link and the Lincoln Eastern Bypass will hopefully ease congestion and boost growth. The Council aims to extend coverage of superfast broadband to 97% this year, following from the investment by BDUK and our local authorities. The Lincoln Castle Revealed project, the Magna Carter and poppies have encouraged a very large number of visitors to the area.’

## **6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT 2017 – STUART CURTIS**

During the current Civic Year I have served on the West Lindsey Planning and the Challenge and Improvement Committees. I also represent West Lindsey on the Central Lincolnshire Planning Committee responsible for preparing the new Local Plan for the next 25 years which is expected to be adopted at the end of this month. Under the CLLP Sudbrooke is designated as a medium size village allowing for a 10% growth to support its function and sustainability.

As mentioned by the Chairman we were devastated by the Planning Inspectorate's decision last June to grant on appeal residential development in Sudbrooke Park in preference to the retention of protected woodlands and wildlife habitats.

West Lindsey is currently carrying out a survey to test out the extent of the issue of broadband throughout the District to consider how to support residents in delivering the last 10-15% of coverage across the District. The survey will be completed by the end of this month.

The proposed Devolution with other Local Authorities within the County unfortunately failed due to lack of support by the County Council.

The Councillor Initiative Fund allows West Lindsey District Councillors to make awards of funding to support a wide range of Community projects and activities. During the last year grants have been awarded to the Toddler Group and the Carving Group.

Unlike neighbouring Local Authorities West Lindsey will continue not to charge for green bin collections. The re-cycling of garden waste has helped us to achieve a re-cycling rate of 54% for 2015/16

## **7. LOCAL ORGANISATION REPORTS**

**a) Sudbrooke Village Hall – Alan McCrone** - Chairman's Address 2016/2017 Sudbrooke Village Hall opened in 1986 and has become over the years a valuable asset to our Village and the wider community.

The hall is run and maintained by a management committee consisting of seven trustees. These are helped by several members appointed to represent various groups who regularly use the hall.

The management committee meets every six weeks over the year to ensure proper management of the halls business, to comply with our constitution and to see that audited accounts are submitted to the charity commission at the appropriate time.

During the past year the hall has been well used by the pre-school playgroup, toddlers club, ladies club, senior coffee club, whist club, gardening club, kick boxing, mah-jong, and the parish council. Our financial situation continues to be in good shape due to the hard work done by the fund raising committee with particular emphasis on the quiz nights run by Bob Waller. The increased lettings to both private and corporate users overseen by Stuart Curtis - the bar takings by far our biggest earner thanks to our licensee Paul Rignall and to the professional accountancy of our treasurer, Hugh Thomson.

Over the last year one of the areas identified as needing upgrading has been our Fire and Safety compliance. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr Julian Gunnell a retired senior officer in the London and Kent Fire Brigade and a fire risk assessment officer for Trenton Fire Ltd. Mr Gunnell has conducted a full Fire Risk Assessment Report on the village hall with recommendations so that we fully conform to the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety act of 2005. We have currently put in place approximately 80% of his recommendations work which is ongoing.

An inventory of the Village Hall property has recently been undertaken by committee members together with Mrs Margaret McCrone and Mr Ray Ayling to whom we express our thanks. Action on the results of this inventory will be taken at our next committee meeting.

General maintenance of the hall has been an ongoing commitment throughout the year including further led internal lighting, toilets, sewers and outside security lighting all needing attention. One area we are currently looking at is to increase our general storage capacity by extending our existing storage room to the rear of the building.

During the latter part of the year we have been fortunate to welcome Mr Eelco Bouwer to our management team as a trustee and we look forward to working with him on future projects.

I would also like to express my thanks to Gill Rignall for all her Stirling secretarial work for the hall and committee together with attempting to keep me on the straight and narrow.

Finally I would like to give thanks to the committee and to the often unseen helpers and volunteers who freely give their time and effort to running this community asset.

**b) Ladies Club – Mrs Gill Rignall** – ‘The Ladies Club current has twelve members. It has meetings between February and December in the Village Hall with visiting speakers. Meetings are open to all residents, including gents!

**c) Sudbrooke Seniors – Alan McCrone** – The Sudbrooke Seniors carries on meeting successfully with new members joining. All Sudbrooke senior residents welcome.

**d) Sudbrooke Gardening Club – report sent to the meeting by Mr Mike Halliday** - We lost a few members this year and have recently managed to replace them.

The club has settled into a regular programme of activities.

We hold 9 meetings per year of which:-

The March and October meetings are held at the village hall where we engage a speaker. Last month we enjoyed a very interesting talk on plant propagation by Paul Maxey from Scothern Nurseries. Paul is a very experienced horticulturalist as well as an entertaining speaker. Non-members are invited to attend these meetings.

The April and September meetings are the club Spring and Autumn shows held at the village hall. All residents including children are invited to exhibit at the shows.

To encourage more children and adults to take an interest in gardening and hopefully have some confidence to enter some of their work into the shows we have 3 trophies and some prizes to award. It is important to say these trophies and prizes can be won by any exhibitor.

In July we visit a stately home or important garden and generally enjoy a full day out. This year we are visiting Renishaw Hall and gardens in Derbyshire.

The May and June meetings are hosted by members on a voluntary basis at their homes.

Our August AGM will be held at the village hall.

In December we have an evening meal out at a local pub or restaurant. On behalf of the whole parish we run the village ‘Best kept front garden’ competition or the ‘Best hanging basket’ competition. This year hanging baskets will be judged. We are grateful to Scothern Nurseries for providing prizes as well as judging the finalists.

Enquiries about joining the club should be made to a committee member.

**e) Sudbrooke Walking Group—Country Walks – Report sent to the meeting by Mr Mike Halliday** - The group has existed for about 10 years.

We have had a significant turnover of walkers this year caused by illness, injury or general wear and tear but we have managed to turn out a viable group each month.

We have a total potential membership in excess of 25 walkers but usually find a group size of 10 to 12 walkers is the ‘norm.’

We use Sudbrooke News and e mail to communicate with members and meet on the first Saturday of every month at the village hall at 9-30am. We aim to walk between 6 and 9 miles and try to return to Sudbrooke by 1-30pm but it can be later if we are doing a coastal walk or similar long distance from Sudbrooke. Members are given good notice of a likely late return.

We have done a few new walks this year as well as some old favourites and it is pleasing there have been no outright cancellations due to poor weather.

The group is run on informal lines with no membership subscriptions and members volunteer to lead walks. Everyone is welcome to join in these walks.

**f) Yoga – Samantha Jordan** - "What a fantastic year it has been running the Yoga classes at Sudbrooke Village Hall on Wednesday evenings. I've met 38 new people who have attended the class at one time or another and my 'regulars' have become good friends.

Taking time to 'let go' of all the stresses of the day & giving yourself a break from worry or any concerns has been invaluable to us all. Many people have fed back that after the class it's the best night sleep that they have all week, which is wonderful. Connecting with our bodies, mind, emotions & spirit to bring inner peace & a greater understanding of ourselves is so important isn't it? I hope to welcome you there one week."

**g) Sudbrooke Carvers 2016/2017 – Report sent to the meeting by Mrs Coral Evans** – 'The Sudbrooke carvers have had a good 12 months and worked hard to finish the tree trunk in the village car park. It now depicts the four seasons and the carvers are very pleased with their efforts. The Parish council is now talking to the highways department about possible sites for the trunk.

The carving group have applied for funding to have the word 'SUDBROOKE' made in metal scrollwork to mount between the two legs of the trunk.

The group continues to meet on a Monday morning for two hours at the group leaders' house on Wragby Road; they are currently working on personal projects. The group is currently 5 members with a possible two joining shortly. If there are any budding carvers out there then please do telephone Coral on 01522 750031 to find out more. We would be happy to pass on our skills to anyone who would like to learn how to carve.'

## **8. PARISHIONERS ITEMS**

A resident drew attention to the possible requirement for paediatric pads to be supplied for the new defibrillator. The Clerk would make enquiries.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm and light refreshments were served.