

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SADBROOKE
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SADBROOKE, ON THURSDAY 4TH APRIL 2013

PRESENT: Martin Dickie (Chairman), Mrs C Myers (Clerk), Mrs B Solly (Treasurer)
8 members of the public

APOLOGIES: I Russell, County Councillor Mrs Sue Rawlins

Notes of meeting held on 5th April 2012 - These were signed as a correct record.

1 Chairman's Report - Martin Dickie

Another year when the AGM report is upon us again and we have to look back on the events that have defined our year.

Has it been as exciting as the factual Parish Council written by JK Rowling, well I'm sorry to say I cannot compare as I hadn't got the will to carry on reading it, So what has happened here?

We unfortunately lost Bernard Bartram who resigned but leaves a legacy behind as he was instrumental in getting us the two Village maps sited at the millennium Stone and later on, the one at the shops.

We welcomed Bob Waller as the new Councillor.

We also saw the resignation of Eric Pitt who did so many of the smaller jobs for us around the village, but we welcomed Peter Malone who has taken on this important role.

We have been the victims of criminal damage, where persons unknown to us (but someone out there knows who) has caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to play equipment on the play areas. Fortunately we have Dave Etheridge now retired who has repaired the apparatus to the necessary ROSPA standard at cost price, saving the Parish Tax Payer money.

We are working with Richard Drabble who chairs the Footpath Committee and the new owners of the land in question. The necessary paperwork has been lodged with both the County Council and the Landowners. I am optimistic that the Landowners are keen to work with us to come to a satisfactory conclusion to all parties concerned.

We continue to work with the County /District Council and Landowners over the ownership of the football field, and continuing to find ways of getting some form of footpath between Sudbrooke and Nettleham via a106 agreement under future planning. They say patience is a virtue!

We now have the transfer of land completed by the millennium Stone / Beech Close and can look forward to getting the carved seats sited within the coming months.

The waters have been choppy at times but we have steered a steady but progressive course to what I hope you will agree is for the good of the future of the village

Personal thanks to Chris, (Clerk) Bridget (Treasurer) and the support of Peter as Vice Chair and the loyal hard working Councillors Paul, Ian, Rose, Lyn, Bob and Stuart (also District Councillor) plus Sue Rawlins (County Councillor).

2 Clerk's Report – Chris Myers

Another busy year for the Parish Council.

The Council has been fortunate in securing grants through the District Councillor Initiative Fund for the legal fees for the acquisition of the land at Beech Close and for replacement Christmas tree lights.

Further funds were obtained through the County Councillor Big Society Fund for the frames for the village maps.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Peter Malone our Playground Inspector who replaced Eric Pitt. I seldom see Peter but he checks the play equipment on a regular basis and if anything needs attention sends me an email or text and we have usually managed to sort things out quickly.

Roy Summerfield kindly keeps the website updated for the parish. If a village organisation wants anything putting on the site, it can be sent to Roy and he will sort it.

Nick Truscott continues to do a good job with Sudbrooke News which is very near self financing.

The Parish Council has commented on 14 planning applications during the last year.

3 Treasurers Report – Bridget Solly

The total balance in the bank accounts at 31st March 2012 was £42,675.52. This includes:-

- £25,000 in the 12 month investment bond given to the Parish Council by developers for maintenance of the play equipment.
- Monies set aside in the Northfield Park account and Fox Covert account for repairs and maintenance.
- Monies set aside in the sports field account, again for any maintenance on the sports grounds in the village.

This year has seen monies spent on the Christmas tree event, village sports day, production of Sudbrooke News, general administration and grass cutting.

The Clerk has also been successful in grant applications this year from both West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council totalling £2,623.88.

4 District Councillors Report – Stuart Curtis

During the last year I have continued to be Vice-Chairman of West Lindsey Planning Committee and also represented West Lindsey on the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee. This Committee is responsible for preparing the Local Plan for Central Lincolnshire and to provide 42000 new homes within the City of Lincoln, West Lindsey and North Kesteven by 2031.

The main sustainable growth urban extensions of Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford will account for 30 to 40 per cent of new homes and the remaining 60 to 70 per cent will be built in smaller towns like Caistor and Market Rasen and rural settlements. One of the largest urban extensions will be the North-Eastern Quadrant where over 2000 new dwellings, a school, offices and shops will be built between Carlton Boulevard and Greetwell Road once the Lincoln Eastern By-Pass has been completed.

Development in rural areas will take into account aspirations of local parishes under any existing Neighbourhood and Parish Plans.

Under the District Councillor Initiative Fund I have, during the last year, sanctioned grants to Sudbrooke Village Hall Committee, Scothern Cricket Club, Sudbrooke and Scothern Scouts Association and both Sudbrooke and Scothern Parish Councils for capital projects.

There is to be a re-launch of the CAV fund now to be known as the Community Chest and the level of grants will increase from £250 to £500. In addition up to £1000 will be awarded for the development or implementation of a community led Parish Plan project.

West Lindsey kerbside collection of black, blue and green bins has been voted the most efficient in the country out of over 300 councils. Every week collection teams empty up to 60,000 bins across an area of 447 square miles. West Lindsey residents recycle more than half a tonne of waste materials per household each year.

Finally your Council Tax for the next financial year has been increased by 1.5% to protect statutory services.

5 Local Organisations Reports

a) Gardening Club – Mike Halliday

Membership is steady at around 24 members.

Spring and Autumn shows in 2012 were held in the village hall and attracted entries from non-member adults and children which was encouraging.

We had very interesting speakers at our March and October meetings held in the village hall. In July we had a splendid day out at Doddington Hall and gardens, such a treasure on our own doorstep.

Other meetings were held at members' homes - an opportunity to see their gardens.

The Club Chairman, George Preece, along with members judged the village 'best kept garden' competition sponsored by Scothern Nurseries.

In view of the lack of exhibits because of the cold weather, the Spring Show is cancelled this year.

b) Sudbrooke Walking Group – Mike Halliday

There are about 20 regular walkers in the group.

Walks take place on the first Saturday of each month starting from the village hall at 9-30am. Walks are usually between 6 and 8 miles in distance. We aim is to return to Sudbrooke by 1-30pm.

Walks in the Lincolnshire Wolds or farther afield mean a later return to Sudbrooke but notice of this is given in advance of the walk.

The group operates on an informal basis. Walkers share the responsibility for leading the walks. Everyone is welcome to join in this free and healthy activity.

c) Village Hall – George Bingham

Sudbrooke Village Hall continues to provide a first class venue for the use of residents of Sudbrooke and the surrounding area. This year we have had a full complement of Trustees and Representative Members who have met regularly to manage every aspect of running and maintaining this superb facility.

Thanks are due to all the people who have voluntarily contributed time and effort, in whatever capacity, for the benefit of the Village Hall and its users.

During 2012 we have seen several instances of the hall having been booked for various activities which have subsequently folded due to lack of support. It has been a year in which bookings and receipts fell dramatically. This trend began in 2011 and accelerated in 2012 so that the hall became loss-making approximately 12 months ago and has remained so for the rest of 2012. In response to this, in September 2012, the Committee held a thorough review of hiring fees and felt obliged to raise them. I would like to thank all the village groups for their forbearance in accepting a fifty per cent increase in their hiring fees.

So, financially 2012 has been a bad year. The severe drop in net income during 2012 is a cause for concern and is clearly unsustainable in the long term. I find it too early to deduce a trend for 2013. However, I am confident that the Committee will continue to monitor our financial position and strive to operate within budget.

Probably the most notable event of 2012 was the full refurbishment of the kitchen. This was completed in July and has been well received. We now have an excellent kitchen facility, of commercial standard, which will undoubtedly appeal to users. This major investment was self funded and we were fortunate to receive a £250 CAV grant towards the cost of redecoration. Sudbrooke Pre-school also very kindly donated £242 towards the project, for which we are very grateful.

The strong community spirit which created this hall has once again carried us through a difficult year and will, I am sure, continue to support it in the future.

The Village Hall has a link on the Parish Council website.

6 Parishioners Items – There were none.

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm and light refreshments were served.