

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SUDBROOKE
HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST APRIL 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SUDBROOKE

PRESENT : Councillor Miss Rose Dobbs, (Chairman), Mrs C Myers (Clerk),
Mrs B Solly (Treasurer), County Councillor Mrs S Rawlins, 11 members of the public

1 NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2ND APRIL 2009

The notes were signed as a correct record.

2 CHAIRMANS REPORT

It is always very gratifying to have the Annual Parish Meeting particularly as it brings together those within the community, the local organisations, the district and county council, the police, and the members of the parish council, who work so hard throughout the year to make the village a better place, and I look forward to hearing their reports later.

It is always very pleasing to see residents attend our meetings of the parish council held on the first Thursday in every month.

It is pleasing that representatives of Lincolnshire Police come along to tell us of the concerns they have had with matters which have arisen within the village, and for their advice on dealing with other matters.

We are grateful to District Councillor Stuart Curtis, who is a member of the Parish Council, for his support, help and assistance in ensuring that Sudbrooke receives the best possible representation, and our new County Councillor Sue Rawlins for her support at County Council level. We will hear from them too later.

The Parish Councillors themselves, who do their job voluntarily, work extraordinarily hard on many aspects within the village – either as members of the Village Hall Management Committee or the Parish Plan Group. Our members keep an eye closely on matters concerning the highway and the environment which in a village like Sudbrooke is of utmost importance. The voluntary litter pick by residents has been very successful and has been running for some years now; trees have been replaced in Northfield Park and other places; and fresh flower bulbs planted around the village which are much admired. Mr Eric Pitt has been extremely helpful in overseeing matters relating to the playground and help with the repairs to for example the village seats notice boards.

The village has not yet been successful in the Best Kept Village Competition but we continue to enter and are grateful to the village for their efforts in keeping their gardens and highways at their very best. This year has seen our own competition for the Best Kept Garden which was very exciting and will continue.

We are grateful to the Editor of the Sudbrooke News, Nick Truscott, for the work he does in promoting this magazine and in encouraging parishioners to contribute items and letters as they think fit. We set aside a sum of money to continue to run the magazine and hope it provides useful information.

The Christmas Tree event which attracts many parishioners to the carol singing, mulled wine and mince pies and the switching of the lights, and the children's Christmas party in the village hall, continues as a very successful event. The tree always looks stunning set on the land near the millennium stone.

Money has been set aside for the lighting of the millennium stone, one of our special projects, and the painting of the heritage gates to the entrance to Main Drive, for which we received a major grant some years ago for their refurbishment. Many thanks go to the wood-carving group; the success of their work can be seen in the posts around the millennium stone and they are working on further projects for the enhancement of the village. The capping of the posts has been carried out thanks to Paul Rignall and a small plaque denotes the work of the group.

We do tend to suffer from a degree of vandalism within the village and around the village hall, but with the help of the local police and the diligence of parishioners, we are hopeful this will be reduced as it becomes very costly and such bills an irritation. The Parish Council was able to precept some money towards extra security lighting to help the Village Hall Committee in their endeavours.

Sudbrooke and Scothern Parish Councils have been approached by residents to provide some allotments and both Parish Councils are investigating the possibility of obtaining an area of land which could be shared jointly by both Sudbrooke and Scothern residents.

The proposed cycleway/footpath between Sudbrooke and Nettleham will not be proceeding in the foreseeable future because of the cost involved and the width of the road involved.

It was sad news to hear of the passing of Katherine and Gordon Freestone and Roger Hiscox who took a real interest in the Parish Council and village activities, and our sympathy goes to their families.

3 CLERKS REPORT

Another busy year for an active Parish Council.

I was pleased that the grant application for the re-surfacing of the play equipment on the Village Hall site I submitted on behalf of the Parish Council was successful. The grass is now growing through the new plastic matting and the area looking good. This should last for many years.

Both mine and the Treasurers position becomes more involved and challenging each year but I am pleased to say that I enjoy the work immensely and have a good working relationship with members.

Bridget and I continue to work together to ensure that the administration and finances of the Parish Council continue to be run in a professional manner .

4 TREASURERS REPORT

The main areas of spend during the past year have been grass cutting, removal of trees and Sudbrooke News.

The bank balances as of 1st April 2010 are:

Current account - £500.00

Instant Account - £7329.40

14 day account - £14,858.79

Sports field Account - £2,697.49

12 month Bond - £25,000.00

Northfield Park Account - £4,388.02

Fox Covert Account - £2,131.24

Total: £56,904.94

This includes the Precept for the financial year 2010/11.

The annual audit was completed successfully and to the satisfaction of the External Auditors.

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Mrs Sue Rawlins

County Councillor Mrs Sue Rawlins explained to the meeting her work as a District Councillor and her role in assisting the Finance Director of West Lindsey District Council.

6 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Stuart Curtis

During the last year I have continued to be Vice-Chairman of the West Lindsey Planning Committee. I also represent West Lindsey on the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee along with other Councillors from North Kesteven, Lincoln City and Lincolnshire County Council. The purpose of this Committee is to prepare the Local Development Framework Plan for Central Lincolnshire which was to provide 40,600 dwellings by 2026 to include 25,170 within the Lincoln Policy area. The majority of development will be within the north eastern quadrant between Wragby Road and Greetwell Road following the completion of the Lincoln Eastern Bypass which is due to commence in 2013.

West Lindsey District Council has set the level of Council tax increase for the forthcoming year below ½ of 1% at the rate of 0.48%. This is likely to be the lowest level of Council Tax increase in the County and among the lowest increases in the country.

The Council is further underlying its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint by making an investment of £200,000 in order to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 25% by 2014.

Flooding is now one of the major environmental challenges and the District Council is to invest £165,000 in flood defence schemes in West Lindsey.

The new Market Rasen swimming pool has been given the go-ahead with full cross party support which will serve the whole district.

7 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTS

Gardening Club – The following report had been sent to the meeting by Mike Halliday:-

In the year to 31st March 2010 we held 9 meetings, 4 of the meetings were held in the village hall. The Spring and Autumn shows were open to all residents of Sudbrooke and we were pleased to see a number of non gardening club members had put in exhibits, some of which won prizes.

We had very interesting speakers at our March and October meetings and again made these available to all residents

In July we had a trip to Belton House and gardens. The weather was beautiful and we had a tour of the newly opened basement area of the house.

Other meetings were held at members' houses. We have 23 active members and would welcome a few new members.

If anyone is interested please contact myself.

Parish Plan – The following report had been sent to the meeting by Mike Halliday:-

There were 4 meetings of the group in the year including a joint meeting with the full Parish Council that usefully clarified roles and responsibilities. It is 3 years since the Parish Plan and action plan were launched. All of the actions have been reviewed and most of them resolved one way or the other. Full details of all group meetings are published in Sudbrooke News together with monthly progress reports.

Disappointing to report that it has not been possible to accelerate the introduction of a footpath/cycleway in Sudbrooke Lane due to irreconcilable differences between the County Council and Sustrans, the main funding body. The requirement remains on the County Council's list of required works but there is no early prospect of the work being done.

The Parish Plan Group will consider the need to revisit some actions in the action plan at their next meeting on 6th July, 2010.

Wood Carving – Mrs Helen Link

Helen Link stated that the completed posts sited around the millennium stone had received many favourable comments from residents.

Since October 2009, the carving group had been working on 5 single stump seats. Good progress was being made by the group who showed great enthusiasm.

Ladies Club – Mrs Gill Rignall

Gill Rignall reported that the Ladies Club currently had 18 – 20 members but unfortunately the numbers were declining. The Ladies Club meets monthly to listen to a Speaker or to have a social evening with friends. Stamps and coins are collected by the club for a local charity.

Village Hall – Miss Rose Dobbs

Another very successful year has passed and many thanks are due to the dedicated members of our Committee.

New chairs for the lounge area have been purchased and it is hoped a complete refurbishment of the kitchen will take place in the fairly near future to conform to the highest specifications. Gill and Paul once again at New Year staged a very successful event which for the second year running has gone down extremely well – it is local, it is walkable, the food was excellent, complimented by a disco which went down well. Many volunteers helped either behind the bar, collecting glasses, dishes and clearing up and it says so much for the goodwill of our community.

The Village Hall Financial Records have been examined and audited for the period to 31 December and the auditor found from the checks performed that the records were accurate and maintained to a satisfactory standard.

In 2009 the income was £20,422 compared with £13,484 in 2008. This was very gratifying to the Committee and was due to an increased income from lettings and bar income. In 2009 the expenditure was £18,871 compared to £9,833 in 2008. This was due to increased cleaning costs because of a change in the cleaning provider, increased bar costs due to large increased usage of the bar, and an increase in the repairs and maintenance because of major electrical work to the exterior and interior lighting and the distribution board changes.

In all, everything is going well and is satisfactory and I thank all members of the Committee, Representatives or Trustees, for the part they play in making the Village Hall the success it is today.

8 PARISHIONERS ITEMS

There were no parishioners items.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm and was followed by refreshments.