

ALPINGTON WITH YELVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting on Monday 26 March 2012 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Alington

MINUTES

Present : Jerry Davies (Vice Chairman), David Whitehead, Chris Black, John Lain, Kevin Gotts and Jeremy McNulty.

Also Present: Linda Gray (Clerk), Adrian Gunson, County Councillor Sue Thomson, District Councillor, Rik Martin, Rural Community Council and 12 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** Jack Taylor (Chairman), Rev Peter Knight, Teresa Osborne (Headteacher Alington Primary School), Kerrie Hamilton (Chair of Governors Alington Primary School), Marianne Roper (Cottontails Nursery), Doug Ratcliffe (Parish Charities) and PC Gary Hoadley.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2011** previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
- 4. Chairman's Report by Jack Taylor read by Jerry Davies**

Acknowledgements of thanks were extended to all the councillors for all their hard work behind the scenes and for the voluntary time and support given in the last year delivering leaflets, minor repairs and dealing with council paperwork and the time given to inspect and repair the areas of responsibility in the village such as the Play Area, Garrick Field and Pond.

Adrian Gunson, County Councillor, and Suzan Thompson, District Councillor for have also given unseen and much needed support attending meetings and providing a valuable link to the local councils. Thanks also went to Linda Gray the Clerk who works behind the scenes ensuring the smooth running of the council during the year.

Planning; Fourteen planning applications were received in 2011 and were mainly renovations of existing properties or extensions, however permission was given for 3 new dwellings at Boundary Farm Framingham Earl Road. The Parish Council continues to offer consideration and support regarding the planning application process including site visits and planning hearings. Protecting the interests of the majority of residents and trying to foresee any implications relating to future development from planning decisions were seen as vital importance.

Local Development Framework, the results of the site specific consultation had not been published but once known could provoke some comment.

Bergh Apton Waste site planning application consultation should be available imminently and we will look residents to support its continued existence.

Pond; a grant to clear the pond of dead wood and reinforce the bank around the memorial seat had been obtained. The work on this phase was now complete and hopefully will help to encourage wildlife and enhance the area significantly for residents.

Play Area and Village Hall Playing Field; replacement components of the swings in the play area will be fitted shortly. The decision to close the play area for public use from Monday to Thursday between 11.30am and 12.15pm when play-school is operating had been advertised and agreed in January. The Pre-schools Ofsted rules state they cannot use the play area if the public are allowed access during sessions.

Garrick Field; Remained well used by the football club and the community and thanks were extended to John Lain for keeping the field tidy and safe.

The precept was raised by 3% to cover some of the rising costs such as insurance and grass cutting, but in reality this relates to £1 per annum per household. Parking at the school and Dog Fouling remain issues that are not resolved and I would ask all dog owners to clear up the mess

and place doggy bags in bins and not in gardens, fields, hedgerows and footpaths.

Parish Council Meetings For the year ahead I would seek greater attendance of residents at Parish Council Meetings which are generally an open forum despite the agenda, and resolutions to the other problems highlighted.

5. Bulk Buying Household Oil Community Scheme – Presentation from Rik Martin of the Rural Community Council.

The RCC was an independent Charity to support rural communities.

The presentation was very informative regarding the Bulk Buying scheme which already had 600 members as well as 2 housing associations and care homes. All the members remain independent but get a discount if all order their oil at one time 1st day of the month. The scheme rings round to find the best price and there is no obligation to buy once you are part of the scheme. Although there was no organiser needed a co-ordinator was required to keep all the details of members and at times send out information. A £15.00 membership for the whole group would need to be paid annually and could either be shared between the members or paid by the Parish Council.

Information and application forms were left with the Clerk and the matter will be included on the May agenda of the Parish Council.

6. Police Report from PC Gary Hoadley read by the Clerk

PC Hoadley and PCSO Ben Chard would be meeting with the Headteacher of Alington Primary school to discuss the parking issue on Wheel Road and letters would be issued to parents educating them on the importance of safe parking.

Crime in the Village for 2011 had not increased and there had been a wide range of incidents including 1, Burglary, 2, Theft from motor vehicles, 5, violence against a person, 1, criminal damage, 1, fraud and 1, drug related crime.

There had been an increase in 'walk in' burglaries and a poster highlighting this type of crime would be put up in the Village shortly.

'Be a good neighbour'

If you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood call the police.

Norfolk is a safe place to live and the chances of being burgled still remain extremely low.

Contact the Police Non emergency number to report incidents 101.

7. Village Emergency Plan and Winter Warmer Packs

The Emergency Plan had now been implemented and would be administered by the Clerk.

Last year all households were asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their skills and equipment they had which would be useful to the Village in the event of an emergency.

Winter Warmer Pack – 15 Packs had been delivered and stored for next year. Each pack contains blanket, hot water bottle, Thermos flask, bed socks, room thermometer, woolly hat chair-based exercises and fingerless gloves. The packs were designed for the elderly and individuals or families who are in receipt on an income related benefit or have a long term illness.

8. Financial Report by Linda Gray, Parish Clerk

The bank balance had finished at £5604.63, showing an increase in funds of £521.38. The precept had remained at £6,492.30. Bank interest, still remained low. Section 137 donations were donations from the Parish Council on behalf of the community to non profit making organisations that could potentially benefit the whole community and included the Air Ambulance and Loddon on Call. No Capital Expenditure had been made this year and although the pond figure was nil the invoice to pay the contractor would now be processed in the new financial year.

9. Garrick Field Report by John Lain

Regular safety checks are conducted of the field and the results discussed at the Parish Council Meetings. The field had now been scarified and a dead overhanging tree branch had been reported to the householder and asked to remove the branch on Health and Safety issues. Litter is collected

on a regular basis to keep the field tidy and the Japanese knotweed was receiving ongoing treatment. The annual inspection report had not highlighted any new areas for attention.

10. Play Area Report by Kevin Gotts

The Play Area received regular safety checks the results of which were discussed at the Parish Council Meetings. Once the replacement sections of the swings had been installed the surface below them would then be filled with earth and sown with grass seed. This would be completed nearer to the Autumn as the swings would need to be out of action until the grass seed had taken. The rocker dolphin had a new seat and there was good progress with repairs and general maintenance. The annual play area inspection had not highlighted any new areas for attention.

11. Pond Report by Jerry Davies

The pond also received regular safety checks the results of which were discussed at the Parish Council Meetings. Now the work was complete it was hoped for more rain to fill the pond completely. Next year the pond bank close to Church Road would need attention and more work to reinforce the bank would be required.

12. County Councillors Report by Adrian Gunson

Roads in the Village – Cherrywood had received some work to patch the road and would be completely surface dressed in the summer. Gilbert Close footpath had been resurfaced. In 2013/14 schedule Gilbert Road and Framingham Earl Road would be resurfaced. Church Road from the pond to the school would be surface dressed. The footway from Wheel Road to St Mary's Close footpath needed to be resurfaced.

Bus Service – Anglian no longer held the contract for the bus service to the village and it would be handed to Ambassador Coaches shortly. The timetable would not change during the week but a reduced service would be provided on a Saturday.

Local Development Framework – supported the Parish Council and residents views regarding no more development in the Village due to limited facilities available. The preferred sites from the Local Development Plan would be announced shortly and would require further discussion.

Berg Apton Waste Site – Historically the site had been maintained on temporary planning permission but the County Council had submitted a planning access statement and were seeking permanent planning permission for the site. The Parish Council supported the application for permanent status and after the application had been validated by the Planning Department it was expected for a consultation document to be received by all neighbouring villages.

Broadband – The County Council were seeking to upgrade the Broadband Service to Norfolk by 2015. At present 60,000 homes in Norfolk only have very slow or no access to Broadband. Residents need to vote to support this action on the Norfolk County Council web site.

Highways – The Dualling of the All at Barton Mills would be started by the end of the year.

NDR – The grant approved and planning application submitted but work may not start until 2015.

Trowse Traffic Lights – had been adjusted and traffic flow had been improved.

13. District Councillor Report by Suzan Thomson

Recycling – Councils results are good at 46% recycling rate

Brown Bins – For garden waste are available at £42.00 pa or £39.00 if paid by direct debit.

Local Development Plan – Joint Core Strategy which will designate areas for housing and business for the next 15 years. The JCS was challenged and as a result Broadland Council will conduct further consultation but South Norfolk and Norwich Councils can carry on with their plans to announce the Site Specific areas of land soon.

Neighbourhood Boards – had been changed and will now work differently. The next meeting will be advertised shortly when issues relating to neighbourhoods are discussed.

Neighbourhood fund will continue and applications should be directed to Armana Handley.

Benefits – suggestion for local councils to administer payments of benefits for housing and Council Tax.

14. Reports from Local Groups

Village Hall Committee – Report by Alan Clark

The Fundraising events organised by the Committee had been very well attended and raised a lot of needed funds. A new boiler and radiators were installed but a few teething problems would soon be resolved. Grants applications to complete the work had been key to the renovations and to date £10,000 had been raised. During the winter the roof had begun to leak and the plans to fit a suspended ceiling had been put on hold until the roof was fixed. A quiz night organised for next month had received a lot of response from residents and the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee was scheduled for 15 April 2012.

Yelverton Parochial Church Council – Mrs Bloomfield Church Warden.

The PCC meets 6 times a year unless there are any extraordinary meetings. A new lawn mower was purchased last year and funds also went to nine charities including the Hembury Family in Hull whose work takes on the homeless, drug addicts etc. There are various committees whose work helps to run the PCC and include building, worship and fundraising. The Worship Committee plan the Parish Team Services with Rev'd Knights approval on content. The Buildings Committee had been fundraising for a few years for the installation of a toilet in the church and are now in a position to start work. The highlight of the year remains to be the donation through the 100 club from the Friends of St Mary's donated £750.00 towards carpeting for the middle aisle to the altar and to refurbish the wrought iron porch gates.

Club Cascade – A report by Mrs Minns

Meets Tuesdays monthly for the over 55s and continues to be supported by 30-32 members, meetings and outings had been excellent with a full programme organised for next year. Fundraising had been very successful and funds were given both to the Village Hall and Church.

History Society – Report by Chris Black

The bi-monthly meetings had been very varied and included Medieval Churches in Norwich, War Memorials, the secret history of a Norwich Street-Westwick Street. The informal mardle in the Wheel of Fortune pub had not been very well supported even after the whole village had been leafleted. Recently a talk about Norfolk Water Towers including the local one was very entertaining. The next meeting would be by Simon Scarrow. The summer outing was to visit the North Walsham and Dilham Canal.

Carpet Bowls – John Lain

The club had now been going for 5 months and had received very good attendance to the extent the session was extended from 2 hours to 3 hours. This session time was expected to be reduced for the summer period and changed back again for next winter. There are 30 members who come from as far as Wymondham and a friendly tournament with Surlingham would soon be organised.

Reports read by the Clerk

Parish Charities– Report sent by Doug Ratcliffe

The Alington and Yelverton Parish Charities combine four original local Charities which were initially set up to provide coal to needy and elderly residents of the two parishes. The charities were combined in 1970 and now known as the Alington Fuel Allotment. The principle income for the Charity is the annual rent from 3 small areas of farmland totalling 14 acres. The trustees met as usual before Christmas and agreed 21 gifts of £45 to parishioners of the two villages.

TWIGS - Report sent by Tricia Gunson

The Womens Independent Group (TWIG) had been holding their monthly meetings in the Village Hall for some time. There were 11 meetings in the last year along with several social events and membership had increased to 30. There are small groups that meet regularly for walks, pub lunches, crafts and play scrabble. The meetings are open to all and are happy to welcome visitors including men, meetings start at 7.30 pm, details of meetings are advertised around the village.

Alpington Primary School- Report sent by Mrs T Osbourne, Head Teacher.

The school has had another good year and continues to achieve very good results. Good links had been established with Cottontails. The hall required re-roofing which would take place at Easter. Continue to have strong links with Framingham Earl and Hobart High Schools and the Norwich School and events are organised to make transition into year 7 smooth. The school had worked hard to develop a curriculum for pupils which is broad and enriching.

Cottontails Pre-School – Report sent by Marianne Roper

This would be the 40th year of the pre-school in the village and celebrations were being organised. The attendance at the pre-school was at an all time high and they needed to ask the Village Hall for more sessions in the week. Most of the children who attend do not live in the Village but have gone on to attend the primary school. Strong links with the primary school had been developed especially to help with the transition for the children from pre-school to school. A Woodland Trust pack called the Diamond Jubilee Hedgerow Pack had been awarded to the pre-school to be delivered in November 2012, ideas and help with planting would be appreciated.

15. Parishioners Questions

Parking at the School – The all day parking on Wheel Road close to the school is an ongoing problems to residents and parents collecting and dropping children at the school. The Parish Council had contacted the police but they were unable to attend the meeting. Both the District Councillor and County Councillor's present reported they had also contacted the Police and the school to try to resolve this problem. It was suggested that residents ring the Police when the area got congested to report the problems.

Speeding in the Village – Mary Fewster had written a report the Clerk read to the meeting. There is concern regarding the speeds of some motorists in the village and a call for a speed activated gun or sign was requested. Adrian Gunson would investigate how to obtain the use of the speed gun and a temporary speed activated sign for the Village. Mary Fewster would be invited to the May meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the matter further.

Pond – due the water level being low and at the advice of the Ecologist at Norfolk County Council the wood that had been placed in the pond for ecological and wildlife haven reasons had been causing problems with the duck landing on the pond resulting in some injuring their legs. Due to health and safety it was not possible to remove any on the debris while there is water in the pond. When the water level rises the obstructions will not be a problem.

16. Next Meeting the Parish Council

Annual General Meeting to be held Monday 14 May 2012

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm