

BEIGHTON AND MOULTON ST. MARY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8th May 2012 at Beighton Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors Auriol Innes (Chairman of the Parish Council), Jenny Wright, Katie Hinde, Joe Wright, and Alex Fegan Read, PC Ian Kennedy, Brian Iles (County Councillor) and seventeen residents.

Apologies:

Parish councillor Val Mack, and John Pettman (District Councillor). Representatives from British Sugar.

Minutes:

The Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting, on 10th May 2011, were read, agreed to be correct and were signed by Auriol Innes as Chairman of the meeting.

Matters Arising:

1. Alex Fegan Read was recently co-opted on to the Parish Council. Unfortunately Joan Timewell has also had to resign as she has moved away from the village. The vacancy has been advertised and, if no election is requested, the Council will co-opt a new councillor at the July meeting.
2. Freethorpe First Responders sent a letter of thanks for the £60 donation and reported that one new volunteer had come forward following the talk at the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting.

Affordable Housing:

Kate De Vries from Broadland District Council gave a talk on affordable housing for local people and explained the "cascade" system for allocating housing to those people with a local connection. She also explained that Broadland District Council would give approval for housing as an exception on land outside the planning boundary if there is evidence of local support and local need. A report from December 2011 showed 18 people who had requested housing in the parish, with 8 having a local connection.

There is a possible site just outside the civil boundary of Beighton, in South Burlingham. Other sites put forward by local landowners have been considered and have proved to be unviable.

Mark Walker from Broadland Housing Association will attend the July meeting to explain the plans for the site.

Parish Council Chairman's Report:

There were no questions on the report.

Brian Iles (County Councillor):

Brian Iles gave a report on County Council matters; savings of £60m have been made over 2011-12. The council tax increase was kept at zero for 2011-12 and 2012-13. £58m of capital grants have been invested in Norfolk's economy. The Broadband bid was successful, with an investment of £15m, to be match-funded by the Government, which should lead to 99% coverage within Norfolk. A grant of £86.5m was secured for the Northern Distributor Road. No closures are planned for Norfolk libraries. 24% of looked after children achieved five or more A* to C grades at GCSE, up from 11% in 2010. The final part of A11 is to be dualled at last. The Government has given a grant of £8.6m as a reward for the freezing of council tax. This will be spent on getting more young people into work and apprenticeships, increasing the number of looked after children who are cared for within Norfolk, and investing extra resources in Norfolk's road network.

Questions to Brian Iles included:

1. The consideration of moving the ditches alongside the A47 to enable the road to be dualled. This is reliant on Government funding.
2. The proposal for an incinerator near to Kings Lynn. The process continues.
3. The lack of progress with sugar being transported on the river to Cantley. Brian Iles expressed his disappointment that the proposal for river traffic was not adopted.

Brian Iles was thanked for his report.

John Pettman (District Councillor) sent a report:

Work has begun on the Northern Distributor Road around Norwich. Broadland is the first council in Norfolk to take part in the national Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS), under which it will commit £1m from reserves to underwrite the mortgage deposit on homes in the district for 30 or 40 families.

John Pettman was thanked for his report.

Police Report:

PC Ian Kennedy gave a report of four recorded crimes over the year. Ian was thanked for his report and for his regular reports to the Parish Council meetings. He was asked to request regular checks on vehicle speeds through Beighton and problems with mud on the road near Coxhill Farm were also reported to him.

Ian was thanked for attending the meeting.

Parish Plan:

Alex Fegan Read gave a report on the Parish Plan progress. The responses to the questionnaire are being summarised and it is hoped the final report will be ready in the Summer.

Accounts:

The Clerk presented the Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2012. There were no questions on the Accounts.

Parishioners' Forum:

1. British Sugar sent a report: the recent campaign was a very safe campaign and the improvement in accident / incident statistics continued. The campaign was one of the longest Cantley have ever run, at 165 days. In general it was a very successful campaign because of the very good Sugar Beet crop. This was in stark contrast to the previous year which was very poor for both the factory and the farming community because of the weather-damaged crop. The Cantley factory is celebrating its one hundredth year of operation this summer. Significant investments in the factory infrastructure and equipment will be made during the offseason.
2. There was a request for a disabled ramp for the entrance to the village hall. The clerk will contact the village hall committee to ask if a ramp is available.
3. The Parish Council has offered to pay for a light on the outside of the village hall that stays on for 10 minutes as people leave the hall.
4. There was a complaint about the lack of maintenance of local footpaths. Brian Iles explained that Norfolk County Council is no longer paying for regular cuts of footpaths but will carry out maintenance where necessary.
5. There was a request for the speed limit to be extended along Southwood Road to include more of houses within the limit.

There being no further questions or business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman of the Parish Council.....

Dated: