

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held at 8.00 p.m. at The Memorial Hall 28th April 2005

Present : Ron Cornell, Bridget Wright, Pauline Brown, Kevin Francis and Stephen Williams. Roy Church in the chair. Clerk: Peter Dilloway.
Three members of the public: Mrs. Tye, Mr. & Mrs. Gribble

- (1) Apologies: None received.
- (2) Minutes of the meeting held 27/5/04 were agreed to be a true record and signed as such by the chairman.
- (3) Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- (4) Chairman's Report: The Chairman's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available to all present. A copy is appended hereto.
- (5) Financial Report:
The clerk did not give a formal report, but had circulated the unaudited figures for the council's perusal and made available to all present. As at the end of the last financial year the following bank balances were held to the credit of the Parish Council:

Contingency Fund	£1177.91
Current Account	£154.53
Business Premium Account	£1025.31
High Interest Business Account	£2257.77
Total	£4615.52

Income for the last financial year totalled £3721.55 and expenditure £3777.16.

- (6) Great Witchingham Fuel Allotment Charity:
The Chairman's and Treasurer's reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available to all present and are appended hereto.
- (7) Open Meeting.
 - (a) Questions from the public.
 - (i) Mr. Gribble mentioned that the state of the riverbank at the common made it almost impassable for walkers. Last summer was particularly bad with excessive growth. The Chairman explained that hitherto the bank could only be cut by strimming, which was time consuming and laborious. The intention in future is to use a small tractor or ride on mower. Heavy equipment has been used to clear access through whilst removing fallen trees from the river, however the ground is too soft at present for mowing equipment. The reason for the soft ground is that the river level is too high due to excessive silting of the riverbed. The Chairman has been actively pressing the Environment Agency to carry out dredging as a matter of priority and the indication is that the work cannot be carried out during this year. Once this work has been carried out, regular cutting of the riverbank will be made easy. For the present a fall in water level is relied upon to carry out the work safely
 - (ii) Plans concerning development at Hall Walk. Members were told that several parishioners had been approached regarding the use of part of their property for vehicle access to the Hall Walk site. There was concern over the effects of any development. The Chairman told those present, that at a meeting earlier in the evening with Broadland District Council and Broadland Housing Association, a proposal had been brought before the Parish Council. At this stage no firm plan had been presented and the drawings were purely indicative. The Council has been asked to consider the proposal and give a response in principle; thereafter a consultation would take place involving the village as a whole.
 - (b) Questions from Councillors.
 - (i) Roy Church said that he had spoken with both County and District Councils with respect to the playing field, the lease of which expires in April 2007. The condition of the field is considered poor. Presently the prime user is Gt. Witchingham School. The most obvious solution is that the parish does not renew the lease but allow the Local Education Authority to take it up on behalf of the school. Members discussed the options available and agreed that this was the correct way forward. The Clerk was instructed to write to all three parties to that end.
 - (ii) Ron Cornell said that the War Memorial was in poor condition and needed repointing and in some parts relettering. Stephen Williams said that he had recently joined the War Memorial Trust and felt that some grant aid may be available. Roy Church reminded members that the memorial is still vested in the Parochial Church Council and although they had intimated that they wished to transfer to the Council, nothing further had been heard. It was presumed that the future of St. Faith's Church would decide the outcome. The Clerk was instructed to write to the PCC and determine their wishes.
 - (iii) Kevin Francis had spoken with the Village Hall Committee Chairman. Presently there is no further information as to the future of the hall. The school is one of main users along with youth and children's groups. Members felt that a health & safety check and risk assessments should be carried out as a matter of priority. This will be conveyed to the Committee.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Date and time of next meeting: 27th April 2006 at 8.00pm

GREAT WITCHINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

AGENDA 27TH APRIL 2006

- 1) Apologies.
- 2) Minutes of the meeting held 28/4/05
- 3) Matters arising.
- 4) Chairman's report
- 5) Financial report
- 6) Gt. Withtingham Fuel Allotment Charity
 - a. Chairman's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
- 7) Any other business