

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. at Gt. Witchingham School Thursday 28th March 2013

Present : Kevin Francis, Chris Cate, Sally Acloque, Stephen Williams, Jane Wisbey and Mark Pead in the chair.
Clerk: Peter Dilloway, James Joyce (County Councillor) and 7 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that he had received the resignation from the Parish Council of Chris Cate, who was standing down today to avoid a conflict of interest with the Hall Trust. He had also received yesterday, Peter Dilloway's resignation as Clerk to the Council. The latter would require discussion in the following Council meeting.

- (1). Apologies: David Beaumont (to arrive late), Jane Scarrott (NALC representative)
- (2). Minutes of the meeting held 22nd March 2012 were agreed to be a true record, proposed, seconded and duly signed by the chairman.
- (3). Matters Arising: None.
- (4). Chairman's Report: The Chairman apologised for not producing a report as he had only recently taken the role. He added that his short term of office had proved challenging and that there were challenges ahead but if we all worked together we would get through them.
- (5). Financial Report:
The financial report had been issued to all present at the meeting and a copy is appended hereto as at 27th March 2013 the following bank balances were held to the credit of the Parish Council:

Planning Consultancy Fund (PCF)	£ 4436.50
Current Account	£ 215.56
Business Premium Account	£ 2418.96
High Interest Business Account	£ 6190.59
Total	£13262.61

KF asked if the figures presented included the 'CHF fighting fund' which they did (PCF). The Council will need to decide at some point to offer to return donations if they are unused.

- (6). County Councillor's Report. (JJ) All Councillors are due for re-election in May. The Council has not covered itself in glory during this term and personalities have got in the way of 'doing the job'. The Kings Lynn incinerator has caused much controversy. A new set of Councillors is foreseen as a result. Central Government wants to give more power to Parish Councils and other bodies but as usual doesn't want to give money and expects voluntary work. JJ suggested that the parish should consider a 'Neighbourhood Plan' (NP). Under the new regime of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) a Parish Council can claim 10% or £1K for each new house. If a NP is in place 25% can be claimed. He added that this is a hot topic at Broadland. JJ confirmed that the NP is a revamped 'Parish Plan' used in the past. An Officer is to be appointed at Broadland to assist PC's with their plans.
- (7). Great Witchingham Fuel Allotment Charity:
 - (i). The Trustees Report had been issued to all present at the meeting and copies are appended hereto. At the time of producing the report, fishing income for 2012/13 was around £25K and a total of £29K is anticipated.
 - (ii). Chris Oakley has now been appointed as Fishery Manager to take on some of work which Roy Church carried out.
- (8). Great Witchingham Village Hall: Report of Trustees.
The Trustees report was read to all present by Heidi Cate on behalf of the Trustees. A copy is appended hereto.
- (9). Open Meeting.
 - (i). Village Hall/School funding
 - (a) Whilst supporting the village hall, it was asked why the school was not getting any money from the development. The Chair said that BDC had taken that decision. He and SW would meet with Heidi Cate and try to move the hall project forward without everyone falling out. If it is decided to take matters to Broadland, then the Council will do so.

- (b) JJ was asked about the whether NCC had challenged the refusal of School Place Funding (SPF). He did not know and would find out. Lovells have confirmed that this type of development normally attracts SPF through a Section 106 agreement. It was said that the impact of the extra housing development would have a huge impact on the school.
- (c) SW said that he thought that the PC should be a signatory to the S.106 and if not, the Council should establish why. JJ outlined the spectrum of use of S106 funds.
- (d) KF was disturbed by the possibility that moving funds from one need to another may render the entire project unworkable to the point where no one gets anything. He hoped that wouldn't happen.
- (e) It was suggested that the £70k would not stop the hall being built as the Trust still has £500K to build a hall which was more than Weston –Longville had.
- (f) Several people agreed that there was a moral obligation to fund the school from the development and that the school had no other funding sources available whilst the hall trust had many.
- (g) It was suggested that the Parish Council should approach Broadland to re-negotiate the S.106 agreement.
- (h) SA had read recently that £32M was available for school funding from NCC. JJ said that was money available but not necessarily here. He added that he couldn't understand why BDC made the decision they did.
- (i) SA also asked if it was correct that if money were taken from the hall for the school and a smaller hall had to be built, could it be done. The Trustees responded that a further planning application would be required and would put the project back two years. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would also have an additional impact upon funds.
- (j) SW said that the PC needs to know what part we play in the S.106 and the decision made. JJ will approach Officers at NCC.
- (k) The point was made that not too many years ago the school struggled to attract pupils and has had subsequent peaks and troughs.
- (l) The meeting was reminded that the school had acquired the old hall land at significantly less than market value and that saving represented a 'contribution'.
- (m) The Chairman asked JJ how to move forward as it appeared that the village need funds for both the hall and the school, the S.106 needs signing and CIL is looming fast.
- (n) The Trustees made the point that long term support for the hall is thin on the ground and the task relies upon a small number of people.
- (o) It was suggested that Lovell's are getting 19 building plots for just £500K which was thought under-priced. Some further negotiation could take place or cash sums could be sought.
- (p) The Trustees said that the S.106 could not be signed without all building funds in place. Heidi also said that whilst agreeing with what was being said, she felt that the obligation to provide funds for the school by other means should not fall on just the contractor. It was not their duty to solve local education problems that arise from a glut of children in any particular area. Whenever a child starts at one school, that child has left a vacancy at another. The problem is much greater than just from housing development alone.
- (q) The Chairman brought the subject to a close and proposed that the Council write to Simon Woodbridge (District Councillor) and request a meeting before the S.106 is signed to obtain an explanation for BDC's decision and explore avenues forward. The meeting voted unanimously to do this.
- (ii). Oil Collective Buying. One Parish is running a collective scheme for oil. Norfolk is promoting Switch & Save for gas and electricity, but no one locally has set up oil buying. The Council will look into it.

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

Date and time of next meeting: at the Great Witchingham School Thursday 27th March 2014 at 7.30pm

GREAT WITCHINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
To be held at the Great Witchingham School
Thursday 27th March 2014 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies.
- 2) Minutes of the meeting held 28th March 2013
- 3) Matters arising.
- 4) To receive such reports as are available:
 - a. Chairman's report
 - b. Statement of Accounts
 - c. County Councillor's Report
 - d. District Councillor's Report
 - e. Gt. Witchingham Fuel Allotment Charity – Report of Trustees
 - f. Great Witchingham Village Hall – Report of Trustees
- 5) Open meeting
- 6) Date & time of next meeting 26th March 2015 at 7.30pm at Gt. Witchingham Village Hall (hopefully!!).