

## **HINDERCLAY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016.**

Present: Cllr J Davie-Thornhill & Mrs J Jones (Clerk)

County Cllr J Fleming. 10 villagers

Apologies: Cllr Mr L. Aves and Cllr R. Langston

### MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 14.05.2015

The minutes were circulated and approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

### COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

**County Cllr Jessica Fleming** – The County council has seen cuts from Central Government which has resulted in cuts and changes to community transport, budgets and contracts. Resulting in increased efficiency. The County Council is in preparation for Sizewell C development whether or not it goes ahead the County has to put infrastructure in place and deal with wider greener issues.

Rural schools have seen a drop in pupil numbers and the County has set up a school academy trust in the light of the government making all primary schools academies. Although this is on hold.

Railways – Network rail would like to close as many crossings as possible due to the faster trains. The County council has a duty to provide access so alternate routes need to be set up including rural and agriculture crossings.

**Police** – No report submitted. Website was checked but no crimes reported.

### ANNUAL REPORTS

**Village Hall**- read out by P Aves.

The Village Hall is used regularly by many different groups including the Greenfingers gardening club and coffee mornings. There have been many improvements to the hall over the past year, the windows have been replaced with double glazing and there are new floor tiles. Some of the funding for repairs has come from Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Councillor, Jessica Fleming.

**Full report attached.**

Mr Aves has been asked by the Parish Council to consider providing refreshments before every Parish Council meeting. Mr Aves agreed to bring this suggestion up with the VH committee.

**Fen Report** – Read by Cllr J.Davie-Thornhill

The Fen is becoming more popular with walkers, ramblers and children making dens. The vegetation is constantly being improved. Gorse and brambles are controlled by volunteers and scrub encroachment in the reedbed is managed.

Willow warblers are decreasing in England including on the fen but other species that are thriving are chiffchaffs and tawny owls.

There has been a small amount of pollution on the fen from Gressingham Foods due to a leak from their lagoon, but they have worked hard to resolve the matter and prevent it from happening again.

More land has been acquired which will improve habitat diversity and volunteers are working with local schools on environmental education.

**Full report attached.**

**Parochial Church Council Report** – Read by Cllr J Davie - Thornhill.

The PCC has agreed to become part of the Stanton Benefice and as such are one of eight parishes joining, Stanton, Barningham, Coney Weston, Hepworth, Hopton, Market Weston and Thelnetham. Two services are provided each month.

The Church greatly appreciates the parishioners who open and close the church, clean, flower arrange and maintain the church yard.

The PCC are keen to install a toilet and are fund raising to achieve this. Fund raising events include the summer fete, bingo and harvest supper.

The Parish Council and clubs are able to include items in the new Benefice Magazine but there is a cost to subscribe to it.

**Full report attached.**

**Tree Warden** – No report submitted

**Footpaths** – Shirley Bishop

There are no PROW issues to report. A fingerpost has been replaced off Bells Hill after being reported and Cowfen Lane has been cut back. Ladies Bridge will be closed for 6 months for repair work.

**Local School** – Read by Cllr A Hainsworth

The school continues to make progress in all areas. There has been a focus on grammar and punctuation, behaviour and proactive learning.

Staff continue their professional development through training and increasing the role of middle leaders. Parental involvement is encouraged through many school events as are local community groups who lead regular assemblies.

The Governing body has two vacancies although it is hoped these will be filled soon and the Governors have been considering the possibility of the school becoming an academy.

**Full report attached.**

FINANCIAL REPORT - Copy of Receipts & Payments circulated. No queries raised.

**Full report attached.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Planning applications have been received and voted on, potholes in and around the village have been reported and some attended to but flooding still seems to be an issue. Cowfen Lane and various hedges have been cut back. The precept was kept at £4,500.

Many thanks to Brian Spooner, Jane Jones and residents who have helped with village matters.

PARISH MATTERS – Nothing reported.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11<sup>th</sup> May 2016

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.55pm