

HINDERCLAY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 11th MAY 2017.

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

County Cllr J Fleming. 11 villagers

Apologies: Cllr Mr L. Aves

MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 12.05.2016

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

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Cllr Jessica Fleming – A year ago there was the prospect of Devolution and a Mayor now the local authorities have to contend with changes in funding. Waveney and Suffolk Coastal will merge in 2019 to form East Suffolk Council. Mid Suffolk and Babergh will move to Endeavour House later this year.

Highways - Roads are continually being resurfaced and work is being done with the road freight industry to reduce damage to roads by heavy goods vehicles.

There are now 7 operators dealing with Community Transport operating The Connecting Communities Programme which supports the Border Hoppa and Good Neighbour Schemes. Contact 01449 624271 for more details.

Network Rail – There are plans to close some footpaths, agricultural crossing and Bridleways.

Full Report Attached

District Cllr Jessica Fleming – There are going to be changes to the Mid Suffolk Planning Applications Website from 12th May 2017 for approx three weeks. This is due to a new platform being installed and all information will need to be uploaded and updated. In the meantime comments should be submitted by hand.

Housing - There has been a huge increase in planning applications for large housing developments due to the shortfall of housing in the County.

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, carpet bowls and yoga. The Harvest Supper in September sees the proceeds being shared between St Mary's PCC and the Village Hall.

Full report attached.

Fen Report – Read by Cllr J.Davie-Thornhill

There is new temporary lagoon which has been created until the leak on the old one has been repaired. This has caused some confusion with the ducks. The site is very popular with dog walkers but dog fouling has not become an issue. The volunteers and work parties have been working hard on the ponds and scrub clearance. Amphibians numbers are down but grass snakes, common lizards and slow worms are doing well. Other successes include the otters which have bred again this year and two pairs of barn owls are sitting on eggs.

Full report attached.

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

Rev David Messer is currently the Priest in Charge but it is hoped that the Bishop will make him Rector sometime next year. There is a minimum of two services a month, one being Holy Communion and the other a Morning Service. Curate Sharron was appointed last September to her own parish and will be greatly missed.

The Church is open every day between 9am and 4pm. We appreciate all those who open up, clean and provide flower arrangements.

The new toilet is now in the planning stages and will cost approx £10,000. We already have £6,000 towards the cost and are grateful to the Parish Council for the offer to help further with funding. The aim is to install sometime next year.

In the year 2016 we managed to pay all our expenses most of which was £5,390 towards the Parish Share and £1,252 for insurance.

Full report attached.

Tree Warden – No report submitted**Footpaths** – Shirley Bishop read by Mr M Bishop

Some of the Footpaths have been cut and in general they are in good condition. There are three broken signs which have been reported to Suffolk County Council.

Cowfen Lane is starting to see encroachment from the hedges again which has reduced the width in the middle part of the lane, and a tree is come down but is being propped up by another.

Full report Attached

Local School – Read by Cllr A Hainsworth

St Botolphs has a Ofsted report of 'Good' but are carrying out MockSted. These mock days are too address any problems that may arise. Class sizes are doing well but not over capacity.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Copy of Receipts & Payments circulated. No queries raised. £20 cash was given to the clerk from Hinderclay Airfield.

Full report attached.

CHAIRMANS REPORT – Some potholes in and around the village have been filled, the recreation ground has been improved and is used by residents. Planning applications continue to come in

and Czero addressed the village with ideas to develop Bells Lane Meadow. The Parish Council remains neutral and will vote on applications when they come in.

The precept was kept at £4,500.

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

PARISH MATTERS –

Dog fouling down Cowfen Lane has become a big problem.

Hinderclay Fen Trust has not met for a while. The Trust balance is £4,081.87

Cllr Langston asked Cllr Fleming about the increase in council tax for the village even though the precept has been kept the same.

The move of Council offices to Endeavour House was questioned as it is not in Mid Suffolk and will result in longer commutes and a loss in revenue for Needham market.

Speeding in the village was raised and Cllr Fleming suggested looking into vehicle activated signs which can be loaned from Suffolk County Council.

Action - Clerk to contact Highways regarding the loan of the speeding signs and the white lines needing remarking at the Giveaway on The Street.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th May 2018

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10pm