

HINDERCLAY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 10th MAY 2018.

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

County Cllr J Fleming, District Cllr D Osborne. 12 villagers

Apologies: Cllrs Mr L. Aves, Mr R. Langston and Mr A. Hainsworth

MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 11.05.2017

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

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Cllr Jessica Fleming – Districts and Borough's are still taking steps towards joining together and the County Council is working with its partners to streamline functions and finances.

The Council has many large projects on the go including the Orwell River Crossings, The Lowestoft River Crossing and upgrades to the A140.

Home to School Transport – the consultation has now closed. The proposed changes would limit free transport to the nearest geographical school not catchment. The results of the consultation will be decided on this summer.

Planning - the County Council is involved in large projects such as Sizewell C, Eye Airfield Gas Fired Power Plant, Offshore Windfarms as well as local neighbourhood plans and planning applications.

Budget – The County Council are now a Business Rates Retention Pilot county with 100% retention being phased in over the next 2 years. The County Council has needed to raise council tax this year to help pay for needed services.

Full Report Attached

Cllr Fleming heard comments made about the poor bus service in the village; she explained that local services have been reduced due to lack of public use.

District Cllr Derek Osborne – Commented on the amount of planning applications that are in at the moment and how many for Rickinghall and Botesdale have been approved with more ongoing.

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, coffee mornings and yoga. The Harvest Supper in September and race night in November were very successful. Other income comes from the Little Ernie draw and recycling banks.

The poplar trees have been pollarded. Unfortunately the committee have noticed the irons on the pillars are cracking and a major repair job will be required when funds have been raised.

Full report attached.

Fen Report – Read by Cllr J.Davie-Thornhill

Due to annual cutting regimes the fen continues to thrive, heather is expanding and nettles reduced. Scrub and brambled are controlled but not completely removed as they are good for many bird species. Much of the vegetation control is undertaken by volunteers.

Water voles and barn owls have done well on the fen in the last year and there have been no signs of mink for many years. The lagoons seem to be operating well with little smell.

Denis Petersen has now left Gressingham and will be missed as he was very helpful in resolving Parish issues. LOHP membership is around 200 and manages 70 hectares and work continues to improve water quality on the Little Ouse.

Full report attached.

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

After the resignation of Rev. David Messer many people have been pulling together to take services including lay preachers, retired priests and readers. Cathy Bladen will be taking up the post in September 2018.

The cost of the compostable toilet has risen to £18,000 current funds are about £8,000, so more fund raising to go. Financially the church is sound and was able to pay all its expenses. Donations, fundraising and legacies have contributed to the finances.

Full report attached.

Tree Warden – No report submitted**Footpaths** – Shirley Bishop read by Cllr J Davie - Thornhill

Overhanging vegetation has restricted footpaths throughout the year and many land owners have been asked to maintain minimum widths. Missing posts have often been replaced after being reported.

Full report attached

Local School – Read by Cllr A Hainsworth

St. Botolph's School continues to make good progress as was confirmed in a good Ofsted report in November 2017. The schools future challenges are the number of children with social, emotional, educational and behavioural difficulties but supporting such children has been a strength of the school.

Full report attached

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

Full report attached.

CHAIRMANS REPORT – The Chair reported that the year has seen many planning applications some which have had lots of local feeling. Potholes continue to plague mainly due to the extreme bad weather the village and surrounding roads, some reported on the website have been filled but many have been attended to. The recreation ground, the coronation green and footpaths continue to be maintained by villagers. The defibrillator is soon to be installed and will be a welcome addition to the parish.

The precept was kept at £4,500.

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

PARISH MATTERS – The community bus is a volunteer run service but requires funding, the clerk says that she has received no correspondence from the organiser regarding a request.

Action – Clerk to contact the community bus organiser.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th May 2019