

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at the Methodist Schoolroom, Chapel Road, Lingwood on

TUESDAY 21st APRIL 2015 at 7.30pm

1. Welcome and apologies.

Chairman of The Parish Council, Ben Bethell welcomed 7 members of the Council, Mike Bredbere, Tony Gould, Giles Mack, Richard Morton, Marina Tubby, Ros Simpson and Ian White, 9 parishioners, and District Councillor David Ward.

Apologies were received from Krisy Little, Sonya Dickinson, Cliff Fountain, Norfolk Councillor Brian Iles, Brenda Jones and Mr & Mrs Deasley.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that a Parish Meeting can be called at any time by any person, and that it is an opportunity to give voice on any issues, and to give reports on clubs etc. The meetings are normally chaired by the Parish Council Chairman.

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting were read, accepted and signed as a true record.

3. Any matters arising from those minutes.

The 2016 APM is likely to be held in the new village hall, and this was seen as an opportunity to encourage more people to attend.

Ernest Hoyos has replaced 4 Lime trees on Millennium Green that had not survived. The replacement trees were supplied free of charge. Ian white's sponsored tree which had possibly been mowed, had not yet been replaced, but would be. A Pear tree which had also perished would be replaced next season.

4. Chairman's report.

Ben Bethel read his Chairman's report which is attached.

Ben added that we had achieved much in the last 12 months and should be pleased. Marina Tubby thanked Ben for all his hard work.

Maureen Bredbere was thanked for her work with the Millennium Green flower bed. Maureen said that watering is a problem, with not quite enough hose, or heavy watering cans and so on. Ben indicated that a solution would be found.

5. Adoption of Chairman's report.

Ian White proposed adoption of the Chairman's report, and Marina seconded the proposal, which was accepted nem. con.

6. Reports from County and District Councillors, Local Clubs & Organisations.

County Councillor Brian Iles report in absentia was read by Ben and is attached.

The meeting noted that we have enjoyed a great deal of assistance from Brian, citing the telegraph pole issue, and the removal of the proposed £2 charge for using Strumpshaw tip. It was noted that this last might make the tip vulnerable to closure.

Tony Gould proposed that we send a letter of thanks to Brian for the work he has done on our behalf, and that we look forward to his continuing representation.

District Councillor David Ward thanked the parish for the opportunity of representation over the last four years and hoped to continue for the next four. He has enjoyed being on many panels and committees, and has been able to sort out several problems, including the sewers in Chapel Road.

One of the biggest issues was the level crossing accident last October. Network Rail (Richard Schofield) indicated that driver and signalling were at fault – had the signalling been in order, the driver would have had time to stop. There was no indication of any sanctions imposed on driver or signalman. We were lucky not to have seen any injuries where the potential for such was very serious. David noted the plans to have electronic gates in place within 4-5 years.

Whilst talking with our parishioners, David has identified a need for some bus shelters, particularly for the elderly and infirm, for our infrequent bus services. The meeting noted a difficulty with footpath widths to accommodate the shelters, but there is potential near Homelea, which has a particular need based on residents. Other locations suggested were the King's Head, the Village Hall with a new bus layby, the new Persimmon site with a widened footpath.

Homelea was favoured as a start as it may be easiest to do with achievable wayleave, and it was better to have only one initially than none at all. Some concern was voiced that the shelters might encourage the congregation of noisy youths. It was also noted that bus shelters are the Parish Council's responsibility, and that they cost £3-4,000. Ben indicated that the bus shelter issue should go back on the Parish Council meeting Agenda.

Finally, David Ward informed us that the general election count would take place on the 8th May, and the District and Parish on the 9th May.

The Norfolk Police crime summary for Lingwood and Burlingham was read out, and a copy is attached. Figures show that we are in a generally safe area, but assaults, mostly domestic, stand out. David Ward pointed out that domestic violence was being divided into 3 categories by police. There has been increasing domestic abuse, but overall the figures are not bad.

7. Any questions from the floor.

Maureen Bredbere thought that there was a drop off in attendance by the Police at our Parish Council and Parish meetings. Our PCSO has indicated he will try and attend where our meetings coincide with his shifts.

Ben thought that there may be a manpower issue, and that low crime areas merit less police presence. David Ward suggested we attend SNAP meetings, but Ben pointed out that there was little enthusiasm as we have no major issues currently, recognising our safe environment.

Richard Gates and Simon Stevens raised a need for a dog bin near the Burlingham Green entrance to Millennium Wood. Some reprehensible dog owners have managed to bag the poop, but then throw the lot into the hedge. Ben asked that this be placed on the Parish Council Agenda for discussion.

Dennis Carter noted that the long requested work on the Cemetery lych gate had commenced and thanked the Council.

Ben noted the problems of finding a cost-effective handyman for odd jobs needed around the village, and he may have found a willing person recently retired from BT. The meeting noted the good efforts by Brighton Builders, but they are very busy, and are builders, not handymen.

8. Closing remarks.

Ben reminded the meeting that there would be a short VE Day beacon lighting ceremony at 9:32 on Friday the 8th of May, and this would be advertised by poster and website. There is a process and wording to be followed. The beacon will be lit by the scouts. There will not be a Marquee or refreshments.

Finally Anne was thanked for her tea and coffee supply at our meetings.

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