

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Lingwood Village Hall, Station Road,  
Lingwood on Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 at 7.00pm.

**Welcome** – Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Giles Mack welcomed 6 members of the Council, 29 parishioners, County Councillor Brian Iles, District Councillor David Ward, PC Ian Kennedy, Area engagement officer PC Vicky Bailey and Clerk Sonya Dickinson.

**Apologies** were received from Councillor Cathy Pye, Colin Goff – Scouting group and Sally from CAN.

**Minutes of the last APM** - Had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

**Matters arising** – None.

**Report by the Vice Chairman** – Giles read his report. In summary, Giles was concerned that there are only 8 out of a possible 12 Councillors, with 4 casual vacancies. Thanks were given to the volunteers of the Parish.

– Please see attached report.

**Adoption of Chairman's report** – proposed by Mr Richard Morton and seconded by Mr Ian White.

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

**Police:** - Due to the loss of the PCSO's there had to be a restructure, there are 2 Officers at Acle SNT. The Parish report said there are 38 reported crimes in Lingwood for the year, of those 15 are domestic related. South Burlingham had 3 and North Burlingham 6 but 3 were for the A47. Christmas time we were hit by a few burglaries, as were surrounding Parishes. If you see any suspicious vehicles please report it.

Everything reported has to be recorded these days so the crime rate hasn't gone up, just more on record.

**Engagement officer:** - Duties include looking after Cadets and specials, speed watch, neighbourhood watch and she covers the whole of Broadland. She works with 9 beat officers across Broadland.

**Public:** Out at night there are cars parked on unlit roads. A. There is no law against it but they should park in the direction of traffic.

**Public:** Could you contact Traffic Division ref speeding on Station Road 10 – 11am, particularly to get over the crossings before the gates close? A. Have you a local Speed-watch? **Public:** No would be frightened of repercussions if report people. **Police:** You don't stop them; just take speed and registration number. Most people caught speeding are local to the area. There are strips across the Road that can record speed and volume of traffic to see how bad the problem is, it works out the average speed and time of day.

**Public:** Is parking on pavements illegal? **Police:** Not if access past is still possible with pushchairs or wheelchairs. The County Council is in charge of parking now, you can report it to the Police if it is regular, you need to supply the registration but the Police prefer to speak to the person rather than giving a ticket. **Public:** Bin time is the critical time as some of the path is already taken up by the car and the rest by the bin.

**Police:** 101 is the non emergency number but you can e-mail also if non urgent. 999 for emergencies.

**Public:** Some roads too narrow for 2 cars so they mount the pavement. **Police:** There's no easy answer as some may park on the path to give a clear road to passing vehicles or others may mount the path to pass a car parked completely on the road. If interested in starting a Community Speed Watch, approach the Parish Council and they can start the ball rolling but you do need backing and volunteers for it.

County Councillor Brian Iles read out his Report – Summary attached.

Chris Gates – Burlingham Cottage Gardeners have had another good year, the open gardens and apple day raised a good amount and we gave £900 to 6 local organisations. We got actively involved with the A47 consultations. Currently we are working with County Farms and the

Woodland management team to build a 'Henge' in Burlingham woods, there will be 30 posts (provided by County Farms) for local groups to paint and Valspar are donating the paint. This year's open gardens will be 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**BADCOG:** - Blofield and district conservation group was established in 1984 and looks after sites of nature in the area. There are 14 sites at present including fen and wet meadows, churchyard conservation areas, ponds and Buckenham woods, we also carry out tree and hedgerow planting and mow some of the local footpaths. We have had 26 work parties this year.

We are looking for more volunteers.

**Brownies:** - Brownies are for 7-10 year olds, we meet at the Methodist Chapel on Wednesdays at 6.30 – 8pm. We aim to have fun and develop confidence. We have fun working towards skill badges at home and at Brownies. There are only 8 Brownies at the moment so we are looking for more to join the group.

**Village Hall:** - Ben read his report. Summary; We employ 14 local people, the Hug a Mug is a huge success. The Gym started this year as well as the Lingwood Park Run which had @ 100 runners on Saturday morning. We have a petanque team and are working with Sport England for a grant to extend the area. The challenges; we need to increase the popularity of the car boot on a Friday morning and extend the storage area. Finances are also a challenge owing to the success of the hall, people don't see it as a charity anymore but local support is still needed. If there is only a slight decrease of 10% income it would mean a cut in staff. There are over 50 volunteers which are the life blood of the hall so many thanks to them. More volunteers are very welcome. We are lucky to have a facility like this.

**Tree Warden- Ernest Hoyos:** - The Parish Tree Wardens are independent now from Broadland District Council. Our area is well endowed with Woodland; Burlingham Woods were planted from 1993 onwards, the Millennium Green, avenue of Lime trees was planted in 2012, there is a Community Orchard and Peters' Wood. The Village Hall has 4 acres extra land which may have fruit trees planted on at a later date.

**Good Neighbour Scheme** – Sally from CAN was unable to be with us this evening to speak about this item.

**To consider the future of the Reading Room** – Currently vacant and falling into disrepair, there is zero parking and from the Community aspect, is redundant due to the fantastic new facility of the Village Hall. Selling it may be the only option unless anyone has any good ideas. The Trustees advertised for ideas in the Parish News, no one came forward with any. The proceeds of a sale would go towards the Community.

**Public:** It would be a shame to see it knocked down, it would be better if it was converted. A. It will fall down if nothing is done with it.

**Public:** Has the Parish Council got a duty to keep the Reading Room? A. The only duty is to the Charities Commission. The neighbour may sell some of their garden which will enhance the site.

**Public:** Can the revenue made from the sale be ring-fenced and used towards the Nursery building to try and get a Doctors Surgery interested? A. Any money would be ring-fenced and be used for the benefit of the Community but the Charities Commission would have to agree to the use of the money.

No more responses would indicate a sale would be ok.

**To invite contributions or Questions from the floor** (suggested topics; dog fouling and railway crossings) – There have been rumours about the new crossing gates being a half barrier, this is not the case, they will be in two halves each side. The gates will be closed for less time than now and the yodelling sound will be for a short time.

The dog fouling is worse in the winter due to the dark nights. The new signs are up regarding the prosecution for not picking up after your dog in any public place.

**Closing Remarks** – Giles thanked all for attending, the Village Hall for use of the Hall and Chris from Burlingham Cottage Gardeners for funding the teas and coffees.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.