

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Bealings held at Bealings Village Hall on Monday 15th April 1985.

Present were seven members of the Council.

Mr Bestow as the Parish's Member on Suffolk County Council

Mr. Sledmere as the Parish's Member on Suffolk Coastal District Council

Six other Members of the Parish.

1. Mr Theodosius, as Chairman of the Parish Council, took the Chair and welcomed those present.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 1984, were read, confirmed and signed.
3. In his report, Mr Theodosius stated that in the year, nine meetings had been held covering a wide range of subjects including sixteen assorted planning applications and such matters as tree planting, footpaths, potholes, bus services, dead elms, County Structure Plans, Sizewell 2 the Anglian Water Authority, the Annual Precept – still 1p as last year – methane gas, the Martlesham by-pass and the light controlled railway crossing.
He understood that the latest situation about Methane Gas was that, basically, it was under control, but this Council had asked to be kept informed of future developments. The Public Enquiry on the Martlesham By-Pass had been attended throughout by members of the Parish Council and although we expressed our support for any modifications that would alleviate the intrusion of the By-Pass on the Parish, no specific objections had been made from within the Parish to the original plan proposed by the Department of Transport. Mr Theodosius said that in his last report, he advised those present of the concern expressed locally about the alterations to the railway level crossing. The subsequent serious accident, involving the wife of a fellow councillor, had shocked us all and understandably created considerable suspicion about the reliability of the system. In reply to a notice in the Parish Leaflet requesting users' views, a number of anxieties were expressed. These opinions were passed to British Rail. Mr Theodosius thanked his fellow Councillors for their attention to matters in the Parish and the Clerk Mrs Seager. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously, that the report be adopted.
In reply to a question about Methane Gas, Mr Bestow said that it was a very worrying situation for the residents and likely to continue for 10-15 years. But he assured those present that the site was monitored daily.
The Chairman then introduced Mr Manning, Project Co-Ordinator, British Rail, Eastern Region. He explained and commented on the anxieties expressed by Parishioners and stated that the system was standard throughout the British Isles. The flashing lights were placed so that they were clearly visible – and the bulbs were replaced before their allotted life span was complete. Should they fail for any reason – power failure, storm, the train driver would slow down, stop, see that the crossing was clear and proceed very slowly. The failure would be reported immediately and dealt with.
The warning sound was for pedestrians only and – in reply to a question from the floor, Mr Manning said that if it was felt that further advance warning signs were needed on the South side, that matter would have to be taken up with the County Council.
Mr Theodosius thanked Mr Manning for his explanations and closed the Meeting with thanks to all those who had attended.

J. C. Theodosius.
14/4/86.