

Minutes of ANNUAL Parish Meeting of Little Bealings Parish Council held at Bealings Village Hall on Monday 12th April 1999 at 7.30 p.m.

Six members of Council present, plus Sfk. County Cllr -. Mr S Bestow, P.C. J. Kirby & 1 parishioner.

Apologies – Miss D. Williams

Mr J. Ward - as Chairman of Council - took Chair & welcomed those present.

MINUTES of Annual meeting held on 6th April, 1998, were read, confirmed & signed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr Ward reported a fairly slack year for Planning applications, only five had been considered, 1 outstanding & all but 1 of remainder decided in accordance with Council's recommendations. The application to develop Bentwaters airfield into a commercial airport was recommended for refusal or a decision following a Public Inquiry.

Continuation of operations at SINKS PIT had been approved. This included moving stockpiles of aggregates from rear of properties in Playford Rd. to a position further south, also an earth bund to be constructed between working areas and a proposed wildlife reserve to the north to reduce sound disturbance. The position continues to be monitored.

Earlier in the year, a suggestion was put forward to re-open the Railway Station. Council supported this although after enquiry, such as scheme seemed likely to flounder because of the cost involved in reinstating the platforms and the limited additional passenger traffic expected.

A proposal by Sfk. CC. to place a white line in The Street to mark a width of 600mm giving a lane for parents to walk children to school, was generally opposed by residents living in the vicinity. Sfk. CC. agreed to drop the idea & instead erected signs at either end of stretch of road involved.

In October, new bus timetables were posted up, although one or two times are already out of date.

The general increase in traffic levels on local roads causes much concern, in particular vehicles ignoring 30MPH restrictions. As a result, a meeting was arranged with representatives of 3 neighbouring parishes and officers from Sfk. CC. Environment & Transport Dept. Results of recent traffic surveys were discussed & possible remedies to encourage speed limits to be observed were investigated. A further traffic survey was carried out in March and it is anticipated a Forum type of meeting, involving a larger number of parishes, will be held in May.

Two more grit & sand bins were acquired during the year, 1 outside the Church & 1 on north side of level crossing.

To mark the Millennium, the Parish Council has agreed to form a joint Committee with Parochial Church Council to raise funds to be used for repairs to the fabric of ALL SAINTS church. Several meetings have taken place, an appeal has been sent to all households within parish, and a programme of fund-raising events arranged.

Council had adopted a form of Financial Standing Orders, as recommended by SALC.

This has been last year of Parish Paths Partnership in present form, but it is hoped it may continue with funding from other sources. Council had decided to purchase a petrol strimmer to enable footpaths & verges to be trimmed as & when necessary.

Further trees were planted on playing field during year.

£500 was added to the special account to provide a capital sum for Village Hall. This fund now stands at £1,000, the aim is to gradually build up a fund to meet any major expenses.

During the year, Councillors had attended local meetings and A.G.M. of S.A.L.C., Parish Forums organised by S.C.D.C. and Police Forums organised by Sfk. Constabulary. Council is also represented on Village Hall Management Committee.

In conclusion, Chairman thanked fellow Councillors for their hard work and support during past year, with a special vote of thanks to Clerk for her dedication and untiring efforts.

Mr. E. McCoy proposed adoption of report, seconded by Mrs. F. Rogers.

TRAFFIC LEVELS

Comments from local residents, included:-

Rumble strips would be too noisy for The Street and most were against coloured road surface.

There should be no more signs, there are too many now, although it had been suggested a 30 MPH flashing sign be installed.

Extension of 30 MPH speed limit in Holly Lane and more Police presence and more speed checks were thought desirable.

It was decided to raise these points at next Police Forum plus the question of whether P.C. Kirby – local constable – could be allowed to operate speed check equipment.

Was it possible to restrict types of vehicles, ie width & height, or stop lorries using narrow roads.

Clerk to contact Sfk. CC to enquire whether it is possible to legally request restrictions on C.325 and C.328.

MEETING closed with Chairman thanking all those who had attended.

J.R. Ward