

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Bealings Parish held at Bealings Village Hall
on Monday, 14 March 2016 at 7.00pm**

Present: Mrs Toni Cornish, Dr Colin Hopkins, Ms Denise Head, Ms Jenny Shaw, Mr Douglas Hunter and Mrs Margaret Wilson (all Parish Councillors) Mr Colin Hedgley (District Councillor), and eight residents/members of the public

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Parish Council

Mrs Wilson, as Chairman of the Parish Council, took the chair and welcomed those present.

Apologies: Mr Barnaby Rufford (Parish Councillor) and the Reverend Celia Cook (Little Bealings Parochial Church Council). A report had been received from Reverend Cook.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 May 2015: The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes: None.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Parish Councillors. She thanked the Clerk and Mr Ball for their work, especially as Mr Ball was retiring from his role maintaining the footpaths, sand boxes and noticeboards in the village. The Council will continue to cut the footpaths and this work will be contracted to Tony Fear. The Chairman also thanked Mrs Cook who was standing down after many years as Footpath and Tree Warden, and the Council's webmaster, Mrs Jenny Shaw. She thanked District Councillor Colin Hedgley for his advice and support, and also County Councillor Peter Bellfield.

The Chairman reported that the last year had been a busy one, with nine Council meetings, including four specifically to deal with planning applications. The Council had commented on a wide variety of planning applications, including house extensions, a replacement dwelling and several for development at Sinks Pit.

An appeal into Anglian Water's rejection of the Council's application for connection of part of The Street to the mains sewer was being co-ordinated by a resident, Mrs Carr.

The County Council's agreement to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit for part of The Street had been obtained but works had been postponed due to the need to raise sufficient contingency funding. It was intended that this would be resolved during 2016 and further funding was being sought.

The Council had become a member of SAVID (a group promoting Safer Village Driving), and continued its membership of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Community Action Suffolk and the Suffolk Preservation Society.

Other Reports

Bealings Village Hall Trust Report:

Mrs Wilson, as Secretary of the Trust, reported that the Hall continued to be well supported by regular hirers and for one-off bookings, usually children's parties. Fund raising events during the year had also generated income. Community Payback teams had decorated the interior of the Hall and tidied the car park and playing field. Solar panels had been installed on the roof in December and were already generating energy.

Future projects included the sanding and re-varnishing of the main Hall floor during May. It was hoped to improve the car park surface and replace the single glazed windows and lights to improve energy efficiency.

The playing field was well used, including by non-residents, but the Sports Court had had less support than during the previous year. The wooden toddler maze had been replaced with two picnic benches, partly funded by the SCDC Play Space Fund.

The Village Hall Committee was grateful to the Parish Council for its continued contribution to the upkeep and maintenance of the Hall and Playing Field.

Angela Cobbold Hall Report:

Mrs Carr, as Bookings Secretary for the Angela Cobbold Hall, (officially, she advised, 'the Church Rooms') reported that many activities took place in the Hall, but it now faced an uncertain future. The collapse of a wall in November 2014 had resulted in its closure, but it had re-opened in Spring 2015, with income increasing from functions, storage space hire and use by local groups. It provided a venue for monthly Community Lunches, attended by between 14 and 20 people with the profits used for maintenance of the Hall. There had been a variety of uses from occasional bookings, including for Benefice Magazine meetings, the PCC (Parochial Church Council), the Plant Sale and by Great and Little Bealings Parish Councils. The car park was used by the mobile library. The PCC had now withdrawn support for the Hall, but some of the income had been replaced by the letting of storage space. The income was about £350 a month.

Mrs Carr considered the Hall to be an asset to the village and requested that the Parish Council pursue its recognition as a non-designated heritage asset with SCDC.

In response to a question from a resident, Mr Hopkins advised that the Hall belonged to the Church and was owned by the Diocese. The Hall was run by a Sub-Committee of the PCC. Subsidence problems meant that the Hall was now uninsurable and the cost of repair was deemed to be excessive. In consequence alternative uses for the Hall were being considered, further details of which were available from the PCC. The Chairman then read the report provided by Reverend Cook as follows:

Parochial Church Council Report:

It was unfortunate that the APM clashed with a Youth Group meeting and the Reverend Cook was therefore unable to attend, but, in respect of plans for the church building she was very happy to meet with residents to look at the plans for a Cafehub at the church. The plan required the Angela Cobbold Hall to be sold first, and then urgent tower and roof repairs done before plans for the hub could be put in place. The PCC architect was waiting on a pre-planning application to SCDC for a dwelling on the site. If this is successful the Hall will be sold with planning permission, but if not it will be sold as seen. The sale will be handled by the Diocesan agents and is expected to happen later in 2016.

An initial planning meeting had been held regarding the Caf hub and it was hoped to create a flexible space which will operate as a permanent caf  and smaller meeting place for the village, while still providing a place for worship and Christenings, weddings and funerals. The School was keen to use the space for a breakfast club and activities. There was potential to have intergenerational groups and a place for young people to meet safely in the evenings. There was also potential for the licensed sale of alcohol and the opportunity, should the village wish it, for post office facilities. Some villagers had expressed an interest in having a second hand children's clothes rail. The wish was for the church to become not only a spiritual but a social resource for residents and visitors and be a blessing not a burden to the village financially in the future. Anyone who wished to join the Cafehub group would be most welcome.

Any Other Business: A resident asked about the funding for the 20mph speed limit in The Street and the need to raise £9,000 to £14,000 to include a contingency fund was explained. The Parish Council had some funding allocated by its County and District Councillors and it was anticipated that extra provision would be made in the next financial year to enable the project to proceed. There was therefore hopefully now no need for residents or the School to raise money directly.

There were no other matters raised. The Chairman thanked those present for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.