

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Bealings Parish held at Bealings Village Hall
on Monday, 26 May 2015 at 7.00pm**

Present: Mrs T Cornish, Mr C Hopkins, Ms Denise Head, Ms Jenny Shaw, Mr D Hunter, and Mrs M Wilson (all Parish Councillors), Mrs F Rogers (Chairman), Mr P Bellfield (County Councillor), Mr C Hedgley (District Councillor), and three residents

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

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

Apologies: Mr B Rufford (Parish Councillor)

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 March 2014: 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 introduced the Parish Councillors and welcomed Mr Hopkins, Ms Head and Ms Shaw to their first meeting. She commented that this would be her last meeting, having been a Councillor since 1994. Her (and Clive Rowe's) decision to stand down had triggered the first election in the Council's history. She thanked all those who had stood for election and especially Derek Wilson and Clive Rowe for their work as Councillors. She thanked employees (the Clerk and Mr Ball (handyman)) and volunteers (Mrs Cook and Mrs Shaw (webmaster)) for their work for the Council and the parish over the last year. She also thanked District Councillor Tony Fryatt for his guidance and advice and, as a result of changes to the electoral wards of Suffolk Coastal, introduced one of three new District Councillors for the ward, Colin Hedgley.

Since the APM in March 2014, the Council had held 11 meetings and been consulted on 8 planning applications. The most controversial had been permission for a new headquarters for Trucks R Us at Sinks Pit.

It was disappointing that the Admiral's Head remained closed, an application for an 'enabling' development in Great Bealings having been withdrawn. It was also disappointing that Anglian Water had rejected an application for a public sewer for The Street and an appeal was being prepared. The Council had been successful in securing a 20mph speed limit for The Street, with funding likely to be secured from county and district councillor locality budgets in view of the significant support for it from residents.

The Council continued its membership of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and the Suffolk Preservation Society.

Other Reports

County Councillor's Report: Mr Bellfield said that, personally, it had been a year to forget, but his health was now improved. He apologised for not being able to attend meetings and deal with concerns while he was ill.

He reported that:

Council Tax remained frozen at the level it was in 2010/11. Efficiency savings had been made and more would be required.

Customer Services (including IT, HR and financial activities) had been brought in-house again and a new highways maintenance contract issued to Keir MG. The former had worked well, but the Keir MG contract had not. A high level meeting had now established a new schedule to deal with a back log of work.

A new highways fault reporting tool had been introduced which made it much easier for the public to report and track a fault.

The new waste plant at Great Blakenham had been commissioned on time and within budget and was producing energy from waste.

High speed broadband should be available to 95% of the county by the end of 2017 and 75,000 premises were connected due to the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme.

A young people's employment centre had opened in Ipswich and had had over 500 visitors in the first month.

The new School Improvement Strategy had seen every school rated red, amber or green, a part of the work to improve poor performing schools. Examination results had shown some improvement at all levels, but there was much more work to do.

His Locality and Minor Highways Improvements Grants had enabled various people and organisations to receive support during the year, and the underspent highways budget would be carried forward.

Councillor Bellfield said he would be pleased to assist any parishioner who contacted him concerning SCC services.

District Councillor's Report: Mr Hedgley thanked those who had elected him to the new Woodbridge ward, which had three district councillors and included Gt and Little Bealings. He would usually be the district councillor who came to Little Bealings Parish Council meetings. He was a parish councillor in Great Bealings and involved in the creation of SAVID (SAfer Village Driving) which would be formally launched in June. He circulated his report which included:

Suffolk Coastal Statistics: population: 124,600, dwellings: 58,600, 88,938 hectares of largely rural land, 76km of coastline and 5730 businesses.

The district council elections had delivered 37 Conservative Councillors plus 2 Liberal Democrat, 2 Independent and 1 Labour Councillor. This was a reduction from 55 to 47 councillors, as a result of the recent electoral review. The intention was to provide strong community leadership but a leaner council to reduce costs.

Council tax had been frozen for the last five years. Suffolk Coastal had been one of the first councils to share services, with Waveney District Council, and the combined workforce had been reduced by about 40%. This, and improved IT and other partnership working, had enabled savings.

The Enabling Communities Strategy had seen district councillor locality funding made available to a wide range of community-led projects.

The Council would be moving to new, smaller offices in Melton in 2016, to reduce running costs.

175 affordable houses had been completed since 2010/11, 58 during the last year. The Community Infrastructure Levy would soon replace 'S106 Agreements' and was a simpler system by which charges on new developments would be levied.

Neighbourhood plans were being developed across the district and the SCDC Local Plan sought to balance the need for new homes and businesses against the need to safeguard communities and the environment.

A further legal challenge had been made to the housing allocation at Adastral Park, Martlesham.

Recycling of waste had risen to 58%, thought to be in the top 20 councils nationally.

Suffolk Coastal district has the strongest economy in Suffolk, with 5730 businesses and a very low unemployment rate of 7%. A new Strategic Economic Plan had brought new investment into the county and further investment was anticipated. A bid for £400,000 Coastal Communities Funding had been successful.

Improved community services, linking libraries, tourist information and benefits advice, increased use of IT, coastal protection work and better broadband were all ongoing.

Bealings Village Hall Report: Mrs Wilson, as Secretary of the Village Hall Trust, reported that the Hall had had a successful year, with regular hirers, including for children's parties and use of the sports court. Fund raising events had also helped fund the upkeep of the hall and playing field. It was intended to replace the wooden toddler maze with picnic seating. The goal area had been reseeded and a new goal net would be purchased. The hall would be redecorated over the summer by the Community Payback Team. New stage curtains had been purchased with district councillor locality funding. The Trustees greatly appreciated the annual donations from the Parish Council to the upkeep of the hall and playing field.

Police: No police representative was available to attend, but a written report had been received. There had been 3 crimes reported in the parish in the last year, a decrease of 11 on the previous year. Police priorities were tackling anti social use of motor vehicles in Kesgrave and Martlesham, tackling anti social behaviour around Kesgrave and monitoring the speed of vehicles within the Kesgrave SNT area. Residents were urged to report any suspicious behaviour, in view of the theft of metals, oil and gas converters and burglaries in rural areas. Police surgeries would be held monthly in Bealings Village Hall for the public to discuss any concerns.

Any Other Business: A resident raised concern about recent burning and clearing of the site at the former Grove Farm buildings in The Street. There was concern that asbestos may be present. It was explained that planning permission existed for development of the site and SCDC had been asked to visit. They had reported that the burning was of acceptable waste. A licence would be required from the Health and Safety Executive if there was any asbestos present and it was to be removed.

There were no other matters raised. The Chairman thanked those present for attending. Mrs Wilson gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Rogers and Mr Rowe for their long service as parish councillors.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.