

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Bealings Parish held at the Angela Cobbold Memorial Hall on Monday, 8 March 2010 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Mrs F Evans, Mr K Beaumont, Mr P Carr, Miss D Williams and Mrs M Wilson (all Parish Councillors), Mr P Bellfield (County Councillor, for part of the meeting) and Mr I Jowers (District Councillor), PCSO Justin Moss, Ms J Spivey (Waste Management Officer, Suffolk Coastal Services) and thirteen parishioners/members of the public

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

Mrs Evans, as Chairman of the Parish Council, took the chair, welcomed those present and introduced the parish councillors, Ms Spivey and Ms Taylor. Ms Taylor was considering running a mobile shop in the area.

**Apologies:** These were received from Councillors Dr C Rowe and Mrs F Hopkins, and also from the Bowls Club, Badminton Club and Keep Fit Class. The Keep Fit Class had said it was thriving and the Village Hall facilities added to the enjoyment of the classes.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 9 March 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

None.

### **Wheeled Bin Refuse and Recycling Service:**

Ms Spivey explained that the wheeled bin service for the parish started next week, the parish being one of the last in the district to receive the new bins. The Council faced penalties if it did not meet national targets to increase recycling and decrease waste going to landfill. The wheeled bins had proved to be effective in doing this. Waste sent to landfill cost £46 per ton. She could deal with any queries regarding missing bins or what to recycling.

### **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman explained the purpose of the Annual Parish meeting and introduced Parish Councillors as follows: Mr P Carr (Vice Chairman and Save Our Rural Roads representative), Mr K Beaumont, Miss D Williams (Safer Neighbour Teams representative on policing matters) and Mrs Wilson. The Chairman and Mr Carr had attended Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) meetings and the Chairman also now represents the Suffolk Coastal area on the SALC Executive. The Chairman is the Council's representative on the Village Hall Management Committee. Mrs Hopkins is a member of the Bealings Road Safety Group. There have been no changes to the Council during the last year, Mrs Cook continuing as Footpath and Tree Warden, with Mr Ball undertaking maintenance work. Mrs Shaw is the Council's webmaster.

Planning Applications: All the applications received had been determined by SCDC in line with the Council's views.

Bealings Road Safety Group: This group has been set up to monitor and find solutions to traffic problems in the village. Membership comprises representatives from the Council, Bealings School, Friends of Bealings School (FOBS), the Village Hall, the Parochial Church Council and Grove Farm Residents' Association. Parents at Bealings School have received a Newsletter explaining about parking and traffic issues and the Council is grateful to Chris Dowrick of FOBS for its production.

Parish Plan: The JPPSG completed its work producing the Parish Plan and had been succeeded by an Action Monitoring Group (AMG). The AMG membership represents Gt and Lt Bealings and Playford and is prioritising and monitoring delivery of the issues raised by the Parish Plan surveys.

Walks Leaflet: This has been so successful a reprint had been necessary, funded by Cllr Bellfield from the SCC Locality Budget.

Welcome Leaflet: This is available to new residents and contains useful information about the villages and services.

Police: The Council has welcomed PCSO Justin Moss to its meetings. He can be contacted via the Safer Neighbourhood Team; details are on the Council's noticeboards.

LDF: The Council had responded to consultation on the new LDF – a new process for managing development and replacing the Local Plan policies.

Local Government Review: The Council had responded to the consultation and recommended no change in view of the recession and forthcoming general election. The Secretary of State had decided not to implement either of the options for Suffolk (either a Rural Suffolk and North Haven - the latter

comprising a Greater Ipswich, Felixstowe and 46 fringe villages including Lt Bealings - or a One Suffolk Council). The Councils in the county have been asked to produce a new unitary solution on which there is consensus instead.

Suffolk Association of Local Councils: The Council had continued to belong to SALC, a source of guidance on local governance and its representatives have attended area meetings.

### **Other Reports:**

#### **Parish Plan**

Mr Holmes, Chairman of the Action Monitoring Group (AMG) reported that the Parish Plan had been completed by April 2009 and presented to residents at Exhibitions and by a summary document in the Benefice Magazine. The Plan contained 32 Actions, which would usually be the responsibility of the Parish Council to implement. However, as the Plan was owned by three parishes the AMG had been set up to prioritise and co-ordinate implementation. AMG membership comprises six, with two representatives from each of Gt and Lt Bealings and Playford. Actions which had been progressed were Communication (with an email newsgroup set up, the Benefice Newsletter on-line and information about, for example, reporting highways problems, contained regularly in the Newsletter) School Parking (with the formation of the Bealings Road Safety Group), Footpath provision (with improvements between Bealings and Playford and other issues ongoing), Recycling (with the Bealings Village Hall considering a venue for glass recycling) and a meeting with SCC to discuss road junction and traffic issues. After investigation it had been decided that there was not support for new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes – the new email newsgroup and the police direct service replacing the dissemination of relevant information to residents. Regular updates on delivery of the Parish Plan Actions were published in the Benefice Magazine.

#### **County Councillor's Report**

Elections Mr Bellfield reported that 2009 had been a County Council election year and the Conservatives had gained 10 seats. The Liberal party was the main opposition party.

LGR After three years, since IBC had sought unitary status, and a very considerable amount of time and money spent by the seven councils in Suffolk, the Minister had found widespread support for unitary government, but no consensus on a particular proposal. A countywide convention had therefore been suggested but the general election made any progress uncertain.

Bad Weather: SCC had performed well on the whole, clearing and gritting priority roads. Salt supplies had been diverted to other areas by the government. There is also damage to many roads and many pot holes in need of repair. The gritting lorries had driven over 101,000 miles between 17 December and 11 January and the cost had been around £1,150,000.

Council Performance: SCC had received three stars and a 'performing well' rating in its first Comprehensive Area Assessment. Green flags for excellence were awarded in three areas and a short listing for awards achieved under 'the greenest county' and 'egovernment' categories.

Pension Fund: There is a pension deficit but press reports of substantial Council Tax rises to resolve it were incorrect. Only a minimal rise at most would be necessary.

2010/11 Council Tax Rise: This would be 2.45%, the lowest ever. The future looked very difficult with expenditure needing to be reduced by 20% - 30% in future years. SCC was looking to work with other public sector agencies to reduce the overall spend in the county.

#### **District Councillor's Report**

SCDC's share of the Council Tax for 2010/11 would rise by 2.99%, with a total SCDC budget of £5.7m. The five planning applications dealt with during the year had been determined in line with the Parish Council's recommendation. The LDF Core Strategy would be presented to Council for approval on 25 March. If approved it would form interim planning policy for Development Control Committees. The full LDF would not be adopted until after a Planning Inspectorate consideration.

#### **Police:**

PCSO Justin Moss reported that there had been 10 crimes in the parish during the last year: sexual assault, arson, criminal damage (2), theft (2) and dwelling burglary (4). All were between April and December 2009. All remained undetected. The number of crimes had fallen from previous years, both in the parish, the surrounding area and the Kesgrave and District SNT.

In response to questions PCSO Moss said that the main crime problem was theft from unlocked premises and vehicles. Valuable items such as SatNav should not be left on view. Use of the speed gun in The Street had not shown a significant problem. There was a focus on monthly community meetings, where new priorities were set. Current priorities were speeding on Playford Road and in Rushmere.

#### **Village Hall and John Belstead Playing Field Report:**

Mrs Shaw, Chairman of the VHMC, reported that the Village Hall continued to be in regular use, with income supplemented by entertainment events and parish council donations. Volunteers dealt with regular maintenance and improvements had taken place: new electrics and emergency lighting, new windows, storage for school scenery, a new noticeboard and VH sign and an Energy Audit. A new health and safety policy and hire conditions had been published and emergency and fire alarm testing implemented. The leaking roof would shortly be repaired.

On the Playing Field, a channel had been installed to address path erosion and a 7 aside goal and extra basketball goal installed. A water fountain and possibly a teen shelter would be next.

The car park was a major concern. The recently paved entrance had not survived the snow and holes had reappeared. The volume of traffic resulting from school parking was too high for the Village Hall to be able to sustain the level of surface maintenance needed. Funding was required from elsewhere. The parish plan had identified car park lighting as an issue and the marking out of the car park to avoid confrontation was being considered. A glass recycling point was also to be provided.

The Annual Open Meeting would be on 18 May and Bealypics on 24 July.

### **Parochial Church Council Report:**

Mrs Tate, one of seven elders in the Benefice, reported that the Church continued to be looked after by the Church Wardens, Geoff and Paddy Bills, with volunteer cleaners and flower arrangers. Damp in the west wall had been addressed and a raised area near the organ removed to allow easier access to coffee and biscuits after services. There was concern that the footpath surface needed attention and funding would be required.

There had been 1097 worshippers in 2009, with large congregations at Christmas, Easter and Harvest, but overall attendance was declining. Two workshops had been held and several social fund raising events: Pancake Supper, Plant Sale and Harvest Lunch. Tiddlywinks is less active, but still meets as a drop in centre once a month.

The refurbished Angela Cobbold Hall has become an important feature in parish life under Vicki Carr's stewardship, as well as providing the Benefice Office. It was used for many local and private bookings and for church events: Summer Cream Teas, Lent and Advent lunches (with funds raised split with Tools with a Mission and Seeds for Africa charities), Just Local Stalls and Winter Table Top Sales and a Saturday Morning Cafe. Work had repaired tree damage to a corner of the kitchen and roof repairs were complete. £4,500 was needed to pay for the roof works. Thanks were due to Vicki Carr for making the Hall such a community asset.

### **Women's Institute Report:**

Mrs Cook, Secretary of Bealings WI, reported that the WI had monthly meetings and also had a walking and pub group, quizzes at the Red Lion, two reading groups and played boules. There had been a summer garden lunch and charity work had included restoring garden tools and knitting squares for blankets over soup lunches. There were local coach trips. The Federation Spring Meeting would be held at Trinity Park. Anti-litter and car sharing were important campaigns.

### **The Benefice Magazine Report:**

Mr Porter reported that this was the second year the Magazine had been distributed free to all households in the Benefice, supported by advertising charges and parish council donations. Despite the recession a good level of income had been sustained, with a shortfall of only £137 from 2008. The Magazine was viable, although there were two outstanding debtors from 2009. Payments had already been received for some 2010 advertising.

The Magazine is now available on-line, enabling those who have moved away to stay in contact. The email newservice provided extra information, thanks to Phil Holmes efforts. Thanks were also due to Geoff Bills and Tim Llewellyn for their efficient and reliable production of the Magazine as Editor and Designer respectively. Thanks were also due to those who distributed the Magazine.

### **Annual Plant Sale:**

Mr Porter reported that the proceeds of the sale were divided between Gt and Lt Bealings parish churches. It had become a popular village event bringing people together and also brought visitors to the village. It had a reputation for quality, good value plants which it needed volunteers to maintain. For the second year the event had been held at the Village Hall, with entry by programme and the loan of barriers by Howard Construction helping to control entry more successfully. A pre-expense profit of £2,300 had been made, with a sold-out cake stall and a raffle organised by Vicki Carr. The unavoidable absence of two major plant producers had been the cause of the reduced profit. Challenges included car-parking arrangements, managing early arrivals and having enough helpers to see to the many tasks. SWT collected any unsold plants. Plants and helpers were needed for this year's sale with a planning meeting on 15 March. Entry this year would be by programme again and lunch at the Admiral's Head would be

promoted. Thanks were due to all who helped last year; not only was the event successful in raising funds it also generated excellent community spirit in the two villages.

**Wolsey Miniaturists' Club Report:**

Mr Carr reported that the Club met monthly in the Village Hall and enjoyed spending time making miniature items. Membership was 17, with a fee of £20 per year to include materials. Items made were displayed at the Copdock Fair. New members were welcome and a social event took place in the summer and at Christmas.

**Sonia Taylor**

Ms Taylor said that she hoped to run a mobile grocery business and would park for one hour a week at the Admiral's Head car park. She would stock fruit, vegetables, bread and dairy products at first and would also deliver to households. Mr Porter agreed that details of her service and route could be included in the Benefice Magazine, along with her contact details for enquiries.

**Any Other Business:** No matters were raised.

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.05pm.