

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Bealings held at Bealings Village Hall on Monday 30th March 1987.

Present were seven members of the Council.

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

Group Captain Sledmere as the Parish's Member on Suffolk Coastal District Council

Four other Members of the Parish and P.C. Haskins.

Mr Theodosius, as Chairman of the Parish Council, took the Chair and welcomed those present.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th April 1986, were read, confirmed and signed. Matters Arising. Martlesham By-Pass. The Chairman stated that this item would be dealt with in his report.

Telephone Kiosk. Mr Theodosius reported that although the Kiosk had been removed from the Level Crossing area, a replacement kiosk had not yet been placed outside the Angela Cobbold Hall – although all agreements and permissions had been signed in October 1986. As there was now no Public Payphone in the Parish, and great inconvenience caused, it was unanimously agreed that the Council should pressurise British Telecom into providing a kiosk without delay. It was suggested that as there was no kiosk at the Level Crossing for use in an emergency, perhaps British Rail should provide one. British Rail had stated that it was not their policy to provide telephones at Automatic Crossings – those in difficulty were expected to use the nearest private telephone. The Bus Services had been de-regulated in October 1986 and appeared to be reasonably satisfactory. The Chairman asked Parishioners to inform the Council of any difficulties.

British Rail had stated that there was no danger of electric shock passing from the rails to a horse's hooves.

In his report, Mr Theodosius said that the Council had held 8 Meetings during the year in which a wide range of subjects had been covered. Following our request, some reports were received concerning the malfunction of the flashing lights at the Level Crossing. These had been passed to British Rail and it seems that confidence in the system was being restored.

The Martlesham By-Pass was now very much a fact of life and has caused the anticipated increase in traffic through the village. The Council had erected 'Slow' signs in an attempt to restrict the speed of some vehicles. It was understood that the bridge on the Martlesham Road should be completed in April and the contractors are ahead of schedule on the remainder.

Mr Theodosius said that the future of Little Bealings School had occupied the time and energy of a great many people. The Friends of Bealings School had grown in the Bealings School Support Committee considering of representatives of all interested local groups including the Parishes of Little Bealings, Great Bealings and Playford. The scope of the proposed closures throughout Suffolk and the realisation that more than local pressure was necessary, gave rise in turn to the formation of the Suffolk Small Schools Association. Although the Local Education Authority had decided to close the School at the end of July, a substantial appeal to the Secretary of State for Education had been prepared and submitted - and contained within this appeal is a submission from this Council which had been signed by every Councillor in the Parishes of Little Bealings, Great Bealings and Playford. Mr Theodosius wondered whether people were aware of the existence of the Parish Council – but we are here and always willing to help whenever we can, he said.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors for their support and the Clerk, Mrs Seager for her assistance.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously, that the report be adopted.

Any Other Business.

Group Captain Sledmere said that there appeared to be irregularities in the school closure procedure by the County Council and the legal position might be challenged. Mr Gummer, M.P. has promised to lobby the Minister for Education. Mr Theodosius said that financial assistance to the Suffolk Small Schools Association would be raised at the following Council Meeting and he wished to be put on record, the help and assistance that Mr Burn had given to the Parish Council.

Those present were reminded that Parish Council elections would be held on 7th May. Nomination papers were available and everyone was urged to vote should the election be contested.

Mr Theodosius closed the Meeting with thanks to all those who had attended.

J. C. Theodosius
Chairman
11th April 1988.