

Minutes of Bleasby's Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: 33 Members of the public, District Councillor Blaney

1. To receive apologies for absence
Apologies for absence had been received from A + E Salter, A Buckley, C Foster, A Goodwin, M Coombs
2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2016

The following amendments were agreed by a majority of those present and entitled to vote:

Item 5. To add to the final sentence "...and it was realised that the figures for 2014 had been produced by mistake. A query was also raised by a member of the public as to how best the £20,000 balance could be invested."

Item 8. To insert "currently" between "did not" and "attend".

And add

"...and were therefore unaware of practical matters that quickly needed dealing with." to the penultimate paragraph.

Subject to the above additions the meeting approved the minutes

3. To discuss any matters arising from those Minutes
A member of the public suggested that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting be published earlier in the year and published in draft form on the website.

4. Parish Council Report

Chair Peter Cast reported that more work would be necessary by the Parish Council to engage with members of the public. He reported that the Council had changed the order of agenda items in order to make meetings more engaging to the public.

The Council's assets had been maintained and improved over the previous twelve months and it was hoped the acquisition of Ferry End at Hazelford would be completed by the end of the summer.

Talking about village services he stressed the importance of continued usage of the medi-link bus service to guarantee its future.

Speeding was still a major problem with no easy solutions. The Council would be producing speed limit wheelie bin stickers in the near future.

The sewage system continues to be a problem and the Council continue to liaise with Severn Trent over a thorough assessment and subsequent improvement of the system.

He reported on a number of incidents in the village which had been managed because residents had worked and looked out for one another. The full report is appended.

District Councillor Blaney gave his report at this stage with the agreement of the meeting. See item 13 below.

5. Parish Council Accounts

Cllr Andersen presented the Parish Council Accounts for the previous year. He explained that the Council would not be able to pay off all the outstanding loan for the purchase of the Glebe Field, paying off all or part of it would incur a penalty, the annual saving for each individual household would be minimal and the Council could then be forced to take out a fresh loan for any projects emanating from the Parish Plan. A member of the public enquired what the interest rate was. The figure was not available at the meeting.

6. Parish Plan Report

It was reported that the Parish Plan Questionnaire was almost completed. It would be distributed to all Bleasby households. The plan should encourage the community to come together and tackle community tasks. The full report is appended.

7. Jubilee Ponds Management Group Report

It was reported that dealings between the JP management Committee and working parties had much improved, yet a couple of communication issues still needed resolving.

A load of gravel had been delivered earlier in the year which was being used for maintenance of paths.

Working Parties would welcome a few more helpers.

There are currently two resident swans.

The old ash tree had died and needed to be felled for safety reasons.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the acquisition of Jubilee Ponds.

Grateful thanks were given to the members of the Pond Committee, work parties and fishermen for giving up their time and workforce maintaining the ponds. The full report is appended.

8. Flood Action Group Report

In June 2016 following two days of very heavy rain gardens flooded on Station Road. Shortly afterwards a mains burst opposite Maonr Close. January 2017 saw a burst mains on Main Street. Villagers were reminded that floodwaters are dangerous and likely to contain raw sewage.

Any blockages of the dykes should be reported to the flood team.

Thanks were given to the flood wardens.

The full report is appended.

9. Aircrew Memorial Project report

The Aircrew Memorial Project was well under way. A substantial grant had been secured from the NCC Supporting Local Communities Funds. However, this required the project to be completed with the memorial installed by the end of the current financial year 31/03/2018.

The eventual position of the memorial was currently under review. It was thought that the Glebe Field might be a more suitable situation the road side at High Cross.

Comments were invited how the “unveiling” of the memorial could be organised.

10. Bleasby C of E School Governors' report

Bleasby School had 157 pupils with 71% living within the catchment area. The school has a good attendance and academic record, its students have achieved sporting success and their learning has been enriched by art and history projects. In recent weeks the school had suffered some staff shortages due to ill health of key staff but this problem was being addressed. Like most state schools the school was facing budget cuts of £15,000 in the coming financial year with rising roll numbers. Proposed measures to mitigate the impact had so far been unsuccessful. Bleasby School Friends' Association had raised money a lot to support the school.

11. Reports from representatives of parish organisations

- a. Village Hall Management Committee
The Village Hall has undergone a major programme of refurbishment and redecoration over past 12 months.
The full report is appended.
 - b. Parochial Church Council
“The health of the church as a body of people (...) is improving.” The church regards itself as an integral part of village life open and welcoming to all. The report stressed the need of all Bleasby organisations to work together for the benefit of its residents. The full report is appended.
 - c. Women’s Institute
The Bleasby Womens’ Institute celebrates the 95th anniversary of its first meeting. The group is still very active and involved in the community in many different ways. The full report is appended.
 - d. Any other
Not applicable
12. County Council Report (Cllr R Jackson)
Cllr Jackson did not attend.
13. District Council Report (Cllr R Blaney)
Cllr R Blaney gave some examples of things the district council do: fly tipping his squad, social housing, benefits etc. The council had been instrumental in securing Sunday railway services.
The new council building in Newark would save £1½ million in running costs each year.
Over the past 12 months he had been involved in the challenges posed by the automation of the railway crossings in the area. The barriers would remain closed for longer than before for safety reasons.
He reported that the council determined 29 planning and 11 tree work applications for Bleasby. One of these had been the Prior Approval application for a telecommunications mast. He acknowledged and apologised that mistakes had been made with regards to the time scale of the decision making. However, it was unlikely that any other decision would have been arrived at after the statutory consultation period had concluded.

Whilst the district council did not have the power to re-open the consultation, it would pursue Vodafone/O2, Harlequin/Aquiva to review the chosen site and engage more fully with the local community.

14. Any Other Matters

A member of the public reported that there were potholes on Station Road.

A member of the public reported that the planned wheelie bin stickers could easily get damaged by the uploading mechanism of the bin lorries.

A member of the public referred to the poor state of the area around the level crossing.

A member of the public referred to incomplete double white lining at the level crossing.

A member of the public referred to a stile in need of repair by the Old Hall and the need for clarification of road priorities at Gibsmere crossroads.

A member of the public offered his property as a possible site for the erection of the proposed telecommunication mast.

A member of the public queried the financial arrangements for the funding of the lengthsman.

Appendix

1. Agenda
2. Chair's report
3. Finance Report
4. Jubilee Ponds Report
5. Flood Action Group Report
6. School Governors' Report
7. Village Hall Management Committee Report
8. St. Mary's Church Report
9. Women's Institute Report