

Minutes of Bleasby's Annual Parish Meeting

10th May 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: 20 Members of the public, District Councillor Blaney

Chair's welcome

The chair welcomed those present and thanked them for attending the meeting.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: D Temperley, R Andrews, G Gent, C Foster, M Coombs, A Buckley, Cllr Blaney, Cllr Saddington

2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2017 (attached)

The meeting approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2nd May 2017.

3. To discuss any matters arising from those Minutes

There were none.

4. Parish Council Report

Cllr Cast stressed the importance of the Parish Plan as a basis for Parish Council decisions. The Parish Plan has already got people together and is looking towards the future. Some groups had already emerged from it:

- The Countryside and Footpaths Group
- A Neighbourhood Watch Group
- Events Group

He reported that thanks to the foresight of previous parish councils 12 years ago the Parish Council has now been able to acquire a processional title over the land at Hazleford known as Ferry End.

He spoke of the monthly Friendship Coffee Morning at the Village Hall creating a spirit of community.

The speed reminder stickers have been distributed throughout the village.

The chair thanked all those who had contributed to the village over the past 12 months in some way and in particular the members of the Jubilee Ponds Management Committee, who had recently resigned, for their combined service to the community in excess of 100 years.

Summarising the activities of various groups within the village he reminded those present that there was still a vacancy on the Parish Council.

Future Objectives:

Implementation of the Parish Plan

Continued development of Community Spirit

Focus on Succession Planning

Raising the future parish precept following consultation.

The full written report is appended.

A member of the public stated that there was still a major problem with communication. He found that the entry to the Best Kept Village Competition had not been communicated properly, a village notice board had not been replaced for nine months after being removed for repairs and that he could never find the information he was looking for on the website.

The Chair replied that the Parish Plan Steering Group was aware of the shortcomings of communication in the village.

Another member of the public talked about the appearance of Gypsy Lane and the parking of cars outside the pub rather than in the pub car park. She was particularly thinking of the dedication event 1 September. The Chair said the Council was taking the opportunity to talk to the landlord in an effort to improve matters.

5. Parish Council Accounts for 2016/17 with draft and unaudited accounts 2017/18

Cllr Andersen talked through the accounts information as supplied in Bleasby News and the updated version supplied on the day. He talked about the Budget 2018-19 and the Council's intention to stick to the approved budget.

He stressed the Council's view that it should be as transparent as possible.

A member of the public commented that Bleasby News was not meant to be a profit-making enterprise.

A member of the public queried why the total spend in the accounts published in Bleasby news showed approximately £22,000 yet the Council's bank accounts had shown considerably more spent in November and January. He reckoned that there must be a mistake somewhere. He also queried the legality of the Transparency Fund application.

Cllr Andersen explained that the figures provided in the most recent Bleasby News format accounts distributed on the day were the ones to be supplied to the External Auditor. The Clerk explained that the sum in the BN accounts were not including VAT whilst most expenditure through the bank accounts was inclusive of VAT and the Parish Council was able to recover some of the VAT paid. The Transparency Fund was available to councils with an expenditure of less than £25,000 over three years. He also queried why only a list of expenditure above £100 had been published on the website.

A member of the public stated that she would very much like to see a precept increase.

A member of the public queried the Council's reclaiming of VAT on the memorial.

Cllr Andersen explained that parish councils may reclaim VAT on their non-business activity and since the Council had purchased, paid for and taken ownership of the memorial were entitled to reclaim the VAT. Another member of the public stated that the Council should be brave and increase the precept.

6. Parish Plan Steering Group (PPSG) Report

It was reported that the PPSG currently had 20 members with a core of 12. The questionnaire had asked 85 questions about life in Bleasby. Out of the 305 questionnaires distributed, 185 had been returned plus all the comments. There had been a lot of data. The data – without comments is available on the website. The publication of the draft action plan is imminent. This will be a live document that will regularly be updated.

She mentioned the Events, Neighbourhood Watch and Footpaths Group which had already emerged from the plan, with more working groups on areas such as communication, transport and highways, property, welfare and emergency strategy planned. These groups would require sustainable support from the community.

7. Bleasby C of E School Governors' report

A report on Bleasby School was given by the chair of governors. He thanked all staff, teaching and non-teaching for their hard work and professionalism during a difficult period for the school. He also thanked the Friends of Bleasby School, the parents and governors for their support for the school.

Full report appended.

8. St Mary's Parochial Church Council report

A report by St Mary's Parochial Church Council was read out which highlighted the church's role, activities and activities within the village.

The full report is appended.

9. County Council Report (Cllr S Saddington)

Cllr Saddington had sent her apologies.

10. District Council Report (Cllr R Blaney)

Cllr Blaney had sent his apologies.

11. Reports from representatives of parish organisations and events

a. Flood Action Group and defibrillator report

The chairman of the Flood Action Group reported that in the previous month the village had come within 5cm of the alert level on the river Trent.

A new flood equipment store had been purchased by the parish council and was now installed in the Waggon and Horses car park.

Insurance was still a concern for villagers. The government's Flood RE scheme seemed to have little or no impact.

Bleasby's combined foul water and drainage system continued to create problems. Wipes and bulky waste should not be flushed, and fat should not be poured down the sink.

She welcomed a new flood warden who had completed his training.

Full report appended.

b. Women's Institute

The Chairman of the Bleasby WI reported that they had celebrated their 96th anniversary. She reported on the varied activities of the group over the year. She stated that new members were always welcome.

The group had undertaken various fundraising activities throughout the year supporting local charities. They had also been involved in the Friendship Coffee Mornings at the Village Hall.

Full report appended.

c. Village Hall Management Committee

Bleasby Village Hall Committee (VHMC) had met on numerous occasions in the previous year and decided on some formal legal matters. The Chair stressed that although the Parish Council is the custodian trustee, the Village Hall Management Committee runs the hall and keeps separate accounts.

She reported on numerous events and activities the VHMC had been involved in over the past 12 months and would be involved in in the coming year. She thanked all those who had helped, supported and used the Village Hall over the past year.

Full report appended.

d. Aircrew Memorial

It was reported that since the previous Annual Parish Council meeting a lot had happened with regards to the Aircrews memorial and that it was now installed in the Glebe Field. The relocation of the memorial required changes to the original plans and incurred additional costs. He spoke about plans for the official dedication event on 1st September 2018 and a book on the memorial that he had published. He spoke of the efforts of local volunteers working together to make the village look its best for the event where a number of guests have been invited, including the local MP, the Chairman of the County Council Sue Saddington and District Councillor Blaney. He asked residents for their support and understanding for hosting the event and the disruption that it is likely to cause.

12. Any Other Matters

There were none.

Appendix

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