

# **MINUTES OF COLLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2013 IN THE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE COLLINGHAM**

**Present:** Chris Allen; Stuart Dove; Derek Evans; Celia Moody; Mick Dowell; Gary Norcott; Terry Ozbourne; Marcia Parkin; Rosie Scott (Chair); (Parish Councillors) N&SDC Mel Shaw, Jane Guest, Clerk and 36 parishioners

**1.Apologies:** Marion Collins; Valentine Marshall; Dorothy Snowdin; Liz Addington; Steven Donagain; Lee Marshall; Mike Goodwin; Brenda Williams; Val Wright and Notts CC Vincent Dobson

**2.To receive and accept the minutes of the Parish Meeting of 8 March 2012 and reports arising from the minutes:** the minutes having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Celia Moody, seconded by Terry Ozbourne. Vote unanimously in favour of accepting the minutes.**Reports:** there were no reports arising from the minutes.

**3.Chair's report on parish event:** as attached

**4. Financial report for previous year and auditor's report:** the attached report was read by the clerk and along with the documents circulated to those present.

**5. Open Forum for parishioners and representatives of village organisations to discuss future plans:**

**John Leigh Chair of Collingham and District Village Care** spoke about the plans for a 'Men in Sheds' project for Collingham, see separate notes.

**Karen Tarburton from Rural Communities Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN)** spoke about the work of RCA N and encouraged those present to contact her for help with funding and the setting up of new voluntary groups. Karen has helped John Leigh to set up the Men in Sheds group.

**RSPB – Michael Copleston** from the RSPB spoke about the Langford Lowfields Reserve and the other reserve at Beckingham that he manages. There are 40 volunteers involved and a warden and assistant warden. The Langford Lowfields site covers 175 hectares. It is an old Tarmac site and the RSPB are working in partnership with Tarmac. It is a wetland reed habitat, which is one of the biggest in the country with peripheral habitat. Birds have made their way to the site and now there are over 20 species along with butterflies and dragonflies. There are booming bittern there now and the project has been a huge conservation success. 100,000 reed seedlings are grown each year and planted by volunteers. Michael showed before and after photographs. The area is rich in history and a roman well found on the site is to be reconstructed. One photo showed the site as a working quarry around 1995. The RSPB are 20 years into the project but there are many years ahead and new parts of the site are being opened up as times goes on. The RSPB offers guided walks around the site on some Sundays (when the quarry is not working); posters are put up on the noticeboards around the village advertising these.

**Newark Lions – Jean Solder President of Newark Lions** see separate report.

**Collingham Tennis Club – Mike Ditchburn** told how the last 2 years at the Tennis Club have been fantastic but this year is going to be even better. Membership has risen from 37 to 133. Grants have

been received for a fourth court (£31800) and a new grant application has been made to improve lighting. This has been made with support from the Lawn Tennis Association. How has this happened? The club looked at what they did not have, which was ladies and children as members. They obtained a grant from Newark & Sherwood Sports Council to pay for a coach to train teenagers who now teach children at the club. Previously there was only 1 child who was a member, now there are over 20.

Gentle Tennis sessions have started for ladies who may not have played for a while. Previously there was only 1 lady member, now there are 20.

The Tennis Club has also arranged table tennis sessions in the Youth and Community Centre and touch tennis in the Memorial Hall.

Targets this year include increasing the number of female members in the 14 to 25 age group and membership of those aged 6+.

Fees have reduced drastically and the Tennis Club is applying to an inclusion fund to help those with several children to pay for.

There was a request to please come along, everyone will be made welcome and you will enjoy it!

**Andrew Hindmarsh from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust** spoke about the £1.7 million Trent Vale Project in the valley between Newark and Gainsborough. The project has been completed and this week a report by an independent assessor was published. The legacy of the project and report is public access. Bikes can travel along cycle paths from Newark through to Winthorpe and Collingham but then the trail stops. The plan now is to connect Collingham with South Clifton via the Fledborough viaduct. Public support is needed for funding. Sustrans have expressed an interest. Negotiations regarding the diversion of a footpath necessary to make the link work look promising. Mr Hindmarsh requested a correct name sign for Carlton Ferry Lane and a road sign for Northcroft Lane, the Clerk will look into this.

**Chris Allen from Youth and Community Centre** spoke and a copy of his report is attached.

Rosie Scott asked for support for the crew at Collingham Fire Station who have helped the village enormously over the last year. They are doing a sponsored bike ride from Collingham to Skegness on Saturday 18 May and are looking for sponsorship. On behalf of Brenda Williams, Mrs Scott spoke about the possible new Day Centre in Collingham and advised of a Volunteer Information Day the following week. Mr Hindmarsh mentioned that volunteer drivers will also be needed for the Day Centre, probably on Fridays. Village Care is working to capacity and is getting busier. Mrs Scott also mentioned the Patchwork Group as requested by Liz Addington (who made a wonderful Jubilee Quilt) who now meet weekly in the Mayfield Room and would be delighted to see new members.

Mrs Scott advised that the Parish Council's asset register is now available, copies are at the meeting tonight and full details can be found on the village website or by contacting the Clerk. All documents are also available in large print.

Mr Ozbourne stood to congratulate Mrs Scott on all her hard work over the last year and what she had achieved within the village during her time as Chair of the Parish Council. The last year has not been an easy one and Mrs Scott has worked tirelessly to ensure the Parish Council is working as it should. A round of applause followed.

**6. Close of Annual Parish Meeting:** Rosie Scott thanked everyone attending the interesting and informative Annual Parish Meeting and wished to thank everyone, of all ages and in particular her fellow Parish Councillors for their hard work and support in the life of the Parish.

47 members of the Parish present, no member of the press present.