

# **Minutes of Bleasby's Annual Parish Meeting**

## **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from the following electors: A Woolder, K Ogilvie, L Ogilvie, C Sharpe, R Bennett, C Bennett, D Temperley, C Foster and E Salter. County Councillor R Jackson also sent his apologies.

### **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

The Meeting approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015.

### **3. To discuss any matters arising from those Minutes**

There were none.

### **4. Parish Council Report**

Cllr Cast reported that new councillors had joined after several former members had not stood for re-election. The Council also had a new Clerk. The Council had been able to declare the General Power of Competence by virtue of having all elected members and a qualified clerk.

He reported that the Council had changed banks and was now able to make payments by bank transfer.

The Council had published the relevant information in order to comply with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

A review of internal procedures had taken place and communication amongst councillors and with the Parish had been found to be of great importance. The Council had therefore decided to implement a new Parish Council Website with a separate Community Website.

A defibrillator had been purchased by the Council and installed in the former telephone box.

The Council had spent considerable time and effort researching the implications of the Jubilee Ponds ownership and separate fishing right owned by Bleasby carp Syndicate. He thanked those involved in the upkeep and management of Jubilee Ponds.

He thanked the members of the Bleasby Flood Action Group for their preparedness and vigilance over the winter months.

He stressed the importance of other village organisations such as St Mary's Church, the Village Hall Committee, Bleasby school, the Waggon and Horses Pub, the Book Club, skittles and darts teams, Bleasby News and Manor Farm Tea Shoppe.

He pointed out that there were displays around the room about the new Parish Plan and the proposed Aircrew Memorial.

## **5. Parish Council Accounts**

Cllr Andersen presented the preliminary and unaudited accounts for the 2015-2016 financial year. A member of the public queried why the meeting was being held at a time when the accounts had not been audited. Cllr Andersen explained that there was a legal requirement to hold the Annual Parish meeting at this time of year.

A member of the public commented that some of the figures in the 2015 column were incorrect 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.

## **6. Bleasby C of E School Governors' report**

Mr Ian Edwards, Chair of the Governor's, presented the report of Bleasby C of E School Governors. The school had been classed as "outstanding" in the last OFSTED report. The school currently had 152 children on the roll, 71% of whom lived in the catchment area. The school was doing very well in teaching and learning and on the sporting front.

He appealed for help from the community to assist with reading and after school clubs. Car parking continued to be a problem around the school.

A member of the public was asked if local children missed out on a place at the school due to the intake from out-of-catchment. Mr Cast said that this was not the case.

## **7. Village Hall Management Committee Report**

Mrs Cast gave a brief resume of the Village Hall's history. She pointed out that it was an independent hall and was not Parish Council property. The hall received its main income from lettings.

The Village Hall Management Committee was investing in a new heating system and the hall would receive a refurbishment. She stated that the finances were reasonably healthy and invited residents to attend the Annual General Meeting in early May.

## **8. Jubilee Ponds Management Committee Report**

Mrs France reported that the past year had been the worst for dealing with ponds issues. She deplored the lack of communication between the Parish Council and the Management Committee.

She stated that Parish Council members currently did not attend JP working party meetings and were therefore unaware of practical matters that quickly needed dealing with.

Three swans had appeared on the ponds but it was yet unknown if they would be resident.

Cllr Cast pointed out that the Parish Council had spent considerable time discussing Jubilee Ponds issues.

## **9. Flood Action Group Report**

The Flood Action Plan had been updated and there now were 25 flood volunteers. Sewage backflow had been a problem in heavy rain. Any occurrences should be reported to Severn Trent and the Flood Action Group so that the issue could be addressed effectively.

## **10. County Council Report (Cllr R Jackson)**

Cllr Jackson had sent his apologies.

## **11. District Council Report (Cllr R Blaney)**

Cllr Blaney reported that the district's council tax proportion had been increased by 1.94%, £1.2 million had been found in savings, a further £¼ million would need to be found each year.

New council offices were being built which would save £½ million in running costs each year.

He talked about current planning issues and the Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting in May.

## **12. Any Other Matters**

Mrs A Buckley mentioned the Lunch Club which meets at 12 noon on Thursdays. On Wednesdays, there is a board games and sewing group at 2 - 4pm at the Village Hall. Mrs R Andrew informed the meeting that the Parochial Church Council is a body which cares for the church and its services which also includes providing support where it is needed. It provides a welcome pack to people new to the village. A fund-raising newsletter would soon be distributed to help raise funds for maintaining the church building.

The Local History Society welcomed new faces to their meetings.

The Society was involved in the fund-raising steam train trip in support of the Aircrew Memorial which would take place on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

The Meeting closed at approximately 21.20.

Signed as a true record of that meeting:

Date: