



## **WALDRINGFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17 April 2012**

Present: 35 Residents, Parish Councillors Kay, Matheson, Archer, Videlo, Reid, Elliot, Winship, SCC & SCDC Cllr O'Brien

- 1 Apologies for absence received from PC Paul Smith, PCSO Andi Hillman, SCDC Cllr Falconer, Mr R Gold, Cllr S Gold, Mrs C Risdale, Mr R Crawley and Cllr B Rayner.
- 2 It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 April 2011. Proposed by Cllr Elliot, seconded by Mrs K Clarke and all agreed.
- 3 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 April 2011.
- 4 **The Chairman of the Parish Council, Ian Kay**, spoke to a visual power point presentation. His report included an introduction to the Parish Councillors and their responsibilities. Results of the 2011 Parish Council Election. Dates of future Parish Council Meetings were given and highlighted that they are open to the public, with an opportunity for residents to give information to the Council and ask questions. He went on to say that all information about the Council can be found by following the 'Parish Council' link on the web site at [www.waldringfield.gov.uk](http://www.waldringfield.gov.uk)

Planning applications included the pontoon, wind turbines at Foxburrow Farm and an extension to the Sailing Club Clubhouse. Many large public consultation exercises have been dealt with; LDF Core Strategy (again), Waldringfield Quarry, National Policy Framework, SCC cuts to services, East Anglia One offshore wind farm power cable route. Ian gave a comprehensive report on the LDF Core Strategy to date and the future process.

Village issues included improved access to the playing field and repairs to the fence, repairs to safety surfaces on playing field, a tree root barrier for the tennis court, refurbishment of the village sign in time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, renewal of road markings at Heath crossroads and the bend by Sheepdrift Farm, funding the verge planting organised by the village Wildlife Group, new bench in memory of Brian Marriott, old bench refurbished and installed near bus stop. A start has been made on the Parish Plan. Four newsletters are produced each year. Other issues include support for Royal Wedding Party on the Playing Field, Training for Councillors, Representation re Bus Services, Grants to Village organisations, information on oil purchasing schemes, action re Manor footpath, support for Scattered Orchard Project, visit to Felixstowe Port to see details of expansion plans, consideration re vehicle obstruction on Village Way, concerns re Fairway Committee constitution, stray dog, rewriting the emergency plan (work in progress).

The full report from the Chairman Ian Kay is published on the web site.

The Chairman said that this would be the last report from the current Parish Clerk Jean Potter, as she would be leaving the Parish Council later in the year. He thanked her for her work for the parish.

5. **The Responsible Finance Officer of the Parish Council, Jean Potter**, reported the balance of accounts as at 31 March 2012 stands at a total of £8,596.22 including earmarked reserves amounting to £5,550. The precept was increased to £10,800 in 2011/12. Some budget lines were overspent and some underspent, but the Parish Council has remained within budget overall.

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The precept for 2012/13 will remain the same at £10,800. The budget and expenditure will again be displayed on the Parish Council pages of the Parish web site and updated monthly.

- 6 **Suffolk County Council & Suffolk Coastal District Council Cllr Patricia O'Brien.** A new chief executive appointed in December. Radical changes taking place in all services because of cuts in budget. SCC is to use a new building from June with Suffolk Police. This will cut £500,000 a year from the budget. A new joint fire control centre was set up with Cambridgeshire in October. SCC has waived road closure fees for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. SCC must save £50m over the next two years. Police and Crime Commissioner will be elected in November 2012 and will be responsible for appointing the Chief Constable, funding and budget, the award of grants for community safety priorities. Cllr O'Brien reported on the many enjoyable activities during her year of office as Chairman of SCC.
- 7 **Parish Plan Chairman Janet Elliot** outlined the progress to date and listed some of outcomes and policies generated from the 2004 Parish Plan. Using Suffolk Acre to act as facilitators, in January this we invited everyone who lived and worked in the village to come and help 'shape the future of Waldringfield'. Everyone had the opportunity of highlighting whatever suggestions and concerns they had on their mind, and these were then prioritised by all attending. From discussion groups several embryonic action groups were formed. However it was disappointing that relatively few people under 40 years of age attended.
- 8 **Fit Village Representative Janet Elliot** reported the result of the questionnaires sent out resulted in the introduction of regular Pilates classes. Details given. Also Suffolk Sport has introduced a Village Rounders Tournament, and we are looking for a Waldringfield Team.
- 9 **Emergency Plan Co-ordinator Neil Winship** gave details of the plan to date outlining the perceived risks in Waldringfield. He has listed Waldringfield properties by house name and asked selected individuals to act as neighbourhood watchers to confirm each group of ten or so properties, noting their usual occupants and especially those who might be vulnerable. Residents have an opportunity to delete their names from the list if required, whilst others find it comforting and reassuring to know that neighbours are looking out for them.

### BREAK FOR TEA AND COFFEE

- 10 **Sailing Club – Rear Commodore David Copp** reported the Sailing Club had after much agonising decided to appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the pontoon on the beach. They are aware of the views of many village residents against it, but also have to balance the many club members who regard having a pontoon as a highly desirable asset. The club has spent a considerable amount of money reinforcing the sea wall under the cliff. They are very pleased with the extension to the Club changing rooms. A very successful Easter Regatta was held, and a very successful taster day for local schoolchildren from primary schools in four nearby villages.
- 11 **Fairway Committee representative Frances Matheson** reported a busy year with the issue of the pontoon and the position of trustees in relation to the Fairway Committee. The mooring count remains much the same as previous years at 218, and the numbering and licensing of dinghies is being strictly adhered to.
- 12 **Head Teacher and School Governors – Sarah Wood.** The school prides itself on being a small, family school where individual needs are met, and all involved in our school are listened to and respected. Behaviour remains a strength of our school. Our active school council involving the children meets weekly, discussing issues that are pertinent to the children. With the help of volunteers from the village, our grounds are maintained, and Betsy Reid has worked hard with the children to establish an Eco Team which meets on a fortnightly basis. The grounds and opportunities for outdoor learning are a strength of the school and these have been further improved by the introduction of Forest School lessons and activities. The school has developed a good reputation for being involved in the training of new teachers over the last few years.

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- 13 **Parent & Toddler Group – Sarah Wood** reported on their behalf. They meet every Thursday morning from 10.30am -12 noon and welcome children from birth to school entry and offer a wide variety of activities. A few outings are included each year. The session always concludes with singing which is very popular.
- 14 **School Association representative Sally Snook** gave details of this parent run organisation which runs functions to raise money to support the school. All monies raised goes towards funding activities for the benefit of pupils that would not otherwise be available from the school's budget. Activities supported during the last year include: Christmas Pantomime by the Barking Dog Theatre Company, School Trips, Additional educational resources for each classroom, upgrading the school library.
- 15 **Village Hall Trust – Colin Reid, Chairman** reported another busy year. As well as group bookings, the committee organises a range of events to provide social opportunities as well as to raise funds for the hall. We were shocked to experience the theft of a large area of lead covering the canopy at the rear of the building. In order not to risk a repeat of this the committee decided to remove all the remaining lead and cover the area with slates. Also improved exterior lighting now helps to warn off potential thieves. The committee has decided to use the opportunity of the parish plan consultation to ask residents how they would like to see the use of the hall develop.
- 16 **Church Field Trust – Christine Fisher-Kay, Chair of the Trustees** gave details of the activities which take place on the field. They have also been advised by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and FWAG in developing this valuable wildlife resource. Plants and hedges to encourage species of butterflies have been planted. Habitat piles for insects and a stag beetle pile have been built. There is still some dog nuisance. Dogs are to be kept on leads, and please take your dog mess in a plastic bag to a doggie bin or take it home. Loose running dogs disturb ground nesting birds such as skylarks.
- 17 **Tree Warden Christine Fisher Kay** highlighted the responsibilities of this voluntary post which is appointed by the Parish Council. An aspect of concern is the loss of large trees such as oaks and limes from the centre of the village and the replacement with small trees. Where possible we need to replace with larger trees. Under the cuts announced, SCDC have removed the funding for their hedge and tree planting schemes, although they will still advise if requested. The hedgerow survey was completed last summer.  
*Clerk's note: Although she didn't mention it Christine and the team of volunteers were highly commended for their thorough and detailed report.*
- 18 **Wildlife Group – Sally Redfern, Co-ordinator** reported the display of snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and wild flowers, planted by members in the grass verges of the village did well in spring and summer last year. The nine barn owl nest boxes installed around the village produced one successful brood in 2011: three barn owlets hatched but only two successfully fledged. They have recently embarked on a nest-box scheme for Spotted Flycatchers, another species in decline. Letters were sent objecting to the Suffolk Coastal revised LDF Appropriate Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal. The revisions, in our view, are not enough to mitigate anticipated negative effects on the River Deben Estuary and AONB. Letters were also sent in response to the proposal for the sailing club pontoon on the beach.
- 19 **Allotments & Leisure Gardeners Association – Betsy Reid** reported that this year they have taken on the co-ordination of the 'Golden Jubilee Scattered Orchard Project'. A varied programme of events with visiting speakers, annual Open Gardens, Produce Show are now fixtures in the Village calendar. More people have joined the waiting list for an Allotment, which is making us realise just how important finding a site is.
- 20 **Greener Waldringfield representative Betsy Reid** gave details of what is so far, a very small group experimenting with ways to encourage a greener village through community action. A lift-share group, which can be accessed through Waldringfielders, a communal

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bulk buying group for ethically sourced groceries, are just two of the ways. They are currently devising a Community Composting scheme with the aim of trying to reduce the brown bin collection to zero eventually.

- 21 **Scattered Orchard Project Co-ordinator Mariah Skellorn.** At the end of February 30 trees were planted at various sites in Waldringfield and Newbourne. There is a list of locations for more planting in the autumn and still seeking locations for further trees. A plaque and map of all the trees in the villages at each village hall. Many volunteers and groups have helped with donations, sponsorship and planting.
- 22 **Baptist Church represented by Pastor Steve Wyncoll** gave details of some of the many and varied activities. Friends & Neighbours lunches are popular, quiz evenings, November Bonfire BBQ. There is now a Prison Ministry Team that visits two units in Hollesley Prison on Sunday mornings. A member continues to visit ships which have docked at Ipswich and Felixstowe for the weekend and invites crew members to come to the Sunday Evening Service. Pastor Steve continues to conduct School Assemblies in several Primary Schools in the area. The church supports several overseas missions. He concluded with an invite to forthcoming special events.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that full reports of all the organisations are available on the Waldringfield Web Site.

A vote of thanks

**WRITTEN REPORTS AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING** attached to these minutes and on the web site are:

Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

Suffolk Coastal District Council Councillor Veronica Falconer

History Group

Neighbourhood Watch

Parochial Church Council

Tennis Court Trust

The Tree Council's Tree Survival in Drought

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