

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday April 1st..2019

The meeting opened with Brian Blythe chairman of the parish council, presiding. Nine councillors and twelve other electors were present.

1. The minutes of the 2018 meeting were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
2. There were no matters arising
3. Mr.Brian Blythe gave a report on the work of the Fuel Allotment trustees and said that 128 beneficiaries in the parish had received £15 each in December and the balance carried forward was £1,952.04
4. Mr.Jim Graves gave a report from the Pits Trustees stating that income had been £235.31 from rent and interest and balances stood at £2651.58. A grant of £834.28 had been made to the Parochial Church Council for the churchyard lighting project..
5. Chris Brown gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall committee. Finances were in a sound position and hall bookings were nearly full to capacity. The new play equipment funded by the Parish Council was proving very popular and was very well used. CCTV was fully operational and under the control of the HVHMC. The decision to leave the floodlights on each evening during the winter months had proved very successful. A TV had been installed in the committee room to enable hirers to include visual presentations.
6. The Clerk then gave a brief outline of the Parish Council accounts itemising the main items of income and expenditure. Balances being carried forward in the draft accounts were £147,122 which included £20,000 Community Infrastructure levy which had been allocated to the new Scout HQ development project and £20,470 for the street lighting upgrade.
7. The Chairman's annual report outlined the activities of the Council and he said that the full text of his report would be in the next Horsford News and also be available on the Parish Council website. He thanked those members who were retiring after long service
8. Members of the public reported a number of footpath and hedging problems. They were also very concerned at the plans by DW Homes to increase the number of houses on Kingfisher Meadow.
9. The meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

HORSFORD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMANS REPORT APRIL 2019

Roads and traffic have been a major concern to the council this year, the full opening of the NDR has proved a mixed blessing to Horsford. Since it's opening, traffic has increased by 30% through the village, which has resulted in long tailbacks on the Holt Rd at peak times. We are awaiting the results of surveys of the NDR effect. This not been helped by other roadworks including the construction of the Green Lane roundabout.

The council were very opposed to the offset design of this roundabout and with the help of our county councillor and Broadland planners a central design was drawn up, Arrangements were made for the necessary land to be made available, but David Wilson Homes would not proceed with this and the original plan was built.

This has caused safety concerns and highways have drawn up a plan for some changes but they have not happened yet.

At the other end of the village the council have decided to adopt the roundabout and quotations have been sought for a design which will enhance the approach to the village. Work on this will happen over the summer.

A referendum held in July 2018 approved the Neighbourhood Plan and this will be used in deciding the council views on planning applications. Recommendations from the plan will be the basis for future projects

The business action plan working group has been working on these projects for the council approval. The first was to provide all primary school children with high viz jackets to wear on the walk to school which should help safety and hopefully encourage walking to school. With the increased use of the play facility on the recreation ground the VHMC requested help with new CCTV which the council approved and it is now in use. Other projects in the pipeline include toilets on the rec, and assistance in forming a youth group similar to one operating in Sprowston. These projects can be financed from the CIL money received from developers.

The council were keen to raise the profile of the council and a series of surgeries were held for one to one involvement of parishioners but there has been little support. Following on from this a new web site had been launched which will be more user friendly.

The street lighting which is maintained by the Parish Council is ageing and we will be looking to update to LED. A quote for this work have been approved. Mill lane has been fitted with LED lights which dim from Midnight until 5am to conserve power as part of trial before full conversion.

Other grants given by the council have to support foot way lighting at the churchyard, extra grit bins and dog bins have been installed.

I would like to thank councillor Katherine Clark for attending the airport liaison meetings to the non council members of the BAP committee and to Councillor Malcolm Makins for organizing Horsford Tidy day and in particular the scouts and other parishioners who turned out help.

Finally thanks to my fellow councillors and Jim Graves our clerk for all their support.

This is the last meeting of this council. A new council will be formed after the election on May 2nd.

I would like to thank those councillors who have decided not stand, for the time they have given to benefit the Parish.

This is my last Chairman's Report. After 36 years on the Council I have decided to retire

Brian Blythe - Chairman Horsford Parish Council