

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Cawston held in the Bowls Club, Norwich Road, Cawston on Thursday 21 April 2016 the following were present:-

Mr B Schuil - Chairman of the Parish Council
Seven Local Government Electors of the Parish

In Attendance
Mr G Peck (District Councillor)
Mr LR Mills - Clerk of the Parish Council

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 April 2015, having been circulated to all residents present, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Sinclair, Mr S Wilkinson, and PCSO S Bridges

3. DISTRICT COUCILLOR'S REPORT

Service improvement and efficiency

At Broadland we have been working hard to improve our services whilst cutting costs. As Vice Chairman of the Service Improvement and Efficiency committee (SIEC) I and my colleagues have been working, together with the Broadland Council employees, to identify savings whilst not cutting services. The success we have had so far can be seen in your Council Tax bills, where you will notice that the Broadland District Council portion has not increased (whereas Norfolk County Council and the Police precept have!)

Broadband and Mobile Phone Signals.

As part of a Broadland District Council initiative to get improved broadband and mobile phone coverage to all parts of Broadland, shortly after my election in May, I carried out a survey of Broadband strength and Mobile phone signals in the Eynesford Ward. I included both business and private users in Cawston in the survey. The data is being used to set priorities for improving Broadband coverage in Broadland. The District Council is working with the Government and the providers to improve the service to all areas.

Cawston is better placed than most areas in the Eynesford ward but if any residents are suffering a very poor broadband connection please contact me and I will work with them to see what can be done.

Cawston Care Home.

As requested by the PC I raised the issue of Cawston Care Home with Broadland District Council Planning Department. You are probably more aware of the history than I am. The home was built in Paul Engelhard Way as part of a 106 agreement when the new houses were built at the land to the rear of the winery. The Area Planning Manager confirmed that the District Council are also very anxious to see the home open, not least because part of the 106 agreement means that 7 units/homes within the development have to be affordable and reserved for Cawston residents.

Unfortunately, Broadland District Council is unable to force a private developer to open or complete a building. I have been trying to get answers out of the Developer but they are ignoring my requests.

In the last few weeks I contacted BBC Radio Norfolk and they are investigating the case. You may well have heard an interview last Monday on the Nick Conrad Show with your PC Chairman!

Waste Collection.

I have received feedback from residents about the service provided for waste collection. Residents overwhelmingly believe they are getting a good service. However, if any resident has any issues with their waste collection let me know.

4. ANNUAL CHARITY REPORTS FOR 2014/2015

The Clerk of the Council gave the meeting reports of the accounts of the following trusts administered by the Council for 2015/2016

Rodwell Trust Charity : Clifford Pye Charity : Bernard Deeley Trust

The major problem encountered this year was the closing of the current accounts by Barclays Bank. He has tried to reopen them but it is proving difficult. The Parish Council as trustees will discuss the matter at its next meeting.

The Clerk reported the following figures:

Clifford Pye Charity: Current account £103.14. During 2015/16 £118.72 was received and as at 31 March 2016 the Saver Account balance was £1141.65

Rodwell Trust Charity: Current account £100.00. During 2015/16 £92.96 was received and as at 31 March 2016 the Saver Account balance was £1783.62

Bernard Deeley Trust: Current account £100.00. During 2015/16 £0.53 was received and as at 31 March 2016 the Saver Account balance was £1040.13

As soon as the Current Accounts have been resolved the Clerk will submit full accounts to the Parish Council.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAWSTON HEATH TRUSTEES FOR 2015/2016

Mr D Nunn tabled the accounts and then presented his report:

This year has been another busy year for the Trustees as we have had several meetings on the Heath to look at how the clearance work is going and trying to chase Norfolk Wildlife Trust into getting on quicker with the work and keeping access safe for the public.

We have seen the remaining area of trees felled, the stumps ground down and the surface soil removed, unfortunately this work coincided with our very wet winter/spring.

So the Trustees wish to apologise for the muddy mess that has been left on the heath, we are now at the stage of waiting for some dry weather so we can clear up and reinstate the roadways, paths and slightly enlarge the car park (Holt Road end) also make it secure from any unauthorised vehicles getting onto the heath.

Also this summer will see a rabbit proof fence erected between our reversion and Mr Medlar's arable field next door, but there should not be any disruption for the users of the heath.

So when all this is done we hope things will return to normal with NWT just trying to keep on top of the scrub invasion either with ponies or by cutting. We hope to see the bare areas green up with new young heather sprouting up again in the next two to three years and the wildlife return to inhabit the heath again.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2015/2016

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. Cawston Parish Council is made up of 11 members of the public from the Parish. At this moment in time we have 1 vacancy for a Councillor, so if any member of the public that are present here tonight that wish to

become a member of this Council, or know of someone who might be interested please contact Mr. Lloyd Mills our Clerk to this Council.

The Parish Council is at the bottom rung of local Government, but in spite of this we have responsibilities to maintain, replace and improve the facilities in this Parish. Our main expenditures are St. Agnes Churchyard, The Cemetery, The Oakes Play Field and 27 of the street lights in Cawston.

The monies to pay for this is raised by the Parish Precept which is paid by us all as part of our annual Council Tax Bill. We as a Council have to set this early in the New Year ready for the April Council Tax Bill and for the coming year 2016 / 2017 I am pleased to say that it will remain at the same level as last year which was £30,000.

There are a few things that have happened over the past year in Cawston that I would like to high-light and are as follows:

A couple of years ago this Council decided to replace our not fit for purpose street lights and up-grade them to LED type lights as and when we could afford them up to a maximum of 2 per year. We had replaced 2 after 18 months and realised that there would not be many of us still about if we carried on at that rate of replacement, so we applied to The Sheringham Shoal Community Fund which is co-ordinated by The Norfolk Community Foundation for a grant of £5,400.00 to-wards the total cost of £6,900.00 to replace the remaining 25 lights in one go. This grant was awarded and all lights in this Village that are maintained by us were replaced to LED in February of this year. This Council funded the shortfall in the grant of the total cost as by doing so will benefit over future years of lower electricity costs, less maintenance costs as well as doing our small bit to help in reducing climate change.

One year ago a group of our Councillors decided to set up a monthly Luncheon Club which is held in the Village Hall, this has grown month on month and has turned out to be very successful. My thanks to all Councillors and helpers who have contributed to this successful venture.

We as a Council decided last Autumn to plant Daffodils around the Playing Field to help cheer us up come the spring, these were duly planted late Autumn and have indeed looked good this spring. Thanks to all who donated bulbs and also those who spent a Sunday morning setting them in the ground.

By the time I am speaking this to you we should have a new Nest Swing installed on the Playing Field to replace the one that was condemned in last years Safety inspection.

As well as looking at our Parish Council website to follow up on how we are working for the Community, I am now reliably informed that you can follow and like us on Face Book and maybe even Twitter, but that Technology is beyond me.

I would like to thank on your behalf all Councillors for their work over this past year, Mr. Lloyd Mills our Clerk, Mr. Greg Peck and Mr. James Joyce our District Councillor and County Councillor respectively , PCSO Stephen Bridges and other members of the Police Force for attending as many meetings as possible and finally thanks to those members of the public that have attended tonight's meeting.

6. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

The annual report from the police was tabled by the Clerk

There had been 127 reported crimes over the past year. 82 of these were committed at Cawston Park Hospital. Whilst the Police we thanked for all their work the meeting asked that the number of detected crimes be reported. There was also disquiet that no officer from the Police managed to attend the meeting.

7. LUNCH CLUB

Stephanie Spencer reported that at the beginning of 2015 a need was identified for members of our community to meet others and that the various groups in the parish to come together and work as one unit. After an initial meeting, attended by members of the church, WI, Brownies and other interested parties the Lunch Club was born..

With the generous financial support of Broadland District Council and local charitable trusts the funds required for equipment were met and the first lunch was held in April 2015. Since then we have met on a monthly basis, taking a break in August. At each lunch a selection of soups, sandwiches, desserts, tea and coffee are served. Our local deli 'All Things Nice' donate a soup choice each month.

It has always been our aim that nobody should be prohibited from attending and hence there is no fixed cost but donations are taken towards the cost of each lunch. We estimate that around 500 lunches have been served with an average of 45 people attending each month.

9. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

There was discussion regarding dogs loose on the Playing Field and the problem of dog mess generally.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.35pm

Chairman of the Parish Council