

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Cawston held in the Village Hall, High Street, Cawston on Thursday 18 April 2013 the following were present:-

Mr P E Soanes - Chairman of the Parish Council
15 Local Government Electors of the Parish

In Attendance

Mr P Gallon (Norfolk Rural Communities Council)
Mr S Faraday-Drake (Broadland District Council)
PCSO Stephen Bridges
Mr LR Mills - Clerk of the Parish Council

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2012, 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 J Gilbert; Mr D Cook

3. NRCC VILLAGE AGENT

Mr P Gallon introduced himself and gave a short description of the role of the Village Agent. He then took questions from the floor.

4. PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

Mr S Faraday-Drake gave a description of his role as Emergency Planning Officer at Broadland District Council. He then explained what an Emergency Plan was and how it could benefit the Parish. He updated the meeting on the work so far achieved by Mr Gilbert and Mr Cook. He then took questions from the floor.

5. ANNUAL CHARITY REPORTS FOR 2012/2013

The Clerk of the Council gave the meeting reports and circulated copies of the accounts of the following trusts administered by the Council for 2012/2013.

Rodwell Trust Charity : Clifford Pye Charity : Bernard Deeley Trust

It was RESOLVED that the reports and statements be received and accepted (pp4-6)

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAWSTON HEATH TRUSTEES FOR 2012/2013

Mr D Nunn tabled the accounts (p7) and then presented his report:

This year has been a difficult year with the drought followed by the persistent rain, and this of course has had an effect on the natural world, so we have had the worst summer for our Silver Studded Blue butterflies since they were established on our Heath.

Another effect has been the water levels in the ponds going down to their lowest for a good number of years. I am glad to say that we did keep some water and hopefully the wildlife in place and now the ponds are back to normal.

We also had a change on the grazing regime, and swapped the sheep for some Welsh ponies, hoping to do a better job on the gorse and broom and keeping things in check generally. The other benefit is they do not appear to be worried so much by the dogs walking/running on the Heath. We did have some sheep killed the year before.

Because the ponies are going on the Reversion side of the heath longer this year, we are planning to put a kissing gate in the Botany Bay end car park and a new bridle gate further along the inside of the fence line near the gun club hut, to allow access to reversion while the animals are in residence. Another good thing to report is that the heather that had died back a few years ago summers to have recovered. We have not had a bad year for vandalism and bikes on the heath – probably due to the weather!

Norfolk Wildlife Trust are still managing the Heath for us and this year saw a change of personnel in the fact that John Milton was promoted and Steve Collin has taken over his old position, so is now our daily contact.

Let's hope this year is a little drier underfoot for the many walkers that use our Heath.

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2012/2013

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending. The Parish Council consists of eleven members of the public. It is a minor authority of local government and has responsibilities to maintain, replace, renew, and improve the facilities of the parish.

At Cawston the Parish Council's main expenditure areas are the churchyard at St Agnes Church, the cemetery at Aylsham Road, the Oakes Memorial Playing Field. It is also responsible for the majority of street lighting in the Parish, though Wherry Housing Association and Norfolk County Council control some. The money to pay for all this is raised by the Parish precept (which forms part of your Council Tax bill.) This has to be set annually, the total for 2013/2014 being set at £24,335. This was an increase on last year due to the fact that part of the churchyard wall needs to be replaced. The Council has prudently made provision over the years so we do not have to find the whole cost in one financial year. The work is due to start soon at a cost of £15,668, and the Clerk is actively trying to find grants to offset the cost.

The following are some the actions taken by the Parish Council since the last Annual Parish Meeting: gates have been installed at both entrances to the Oakes Field (funded by money provided by developers); a defibrillator has been installed at the Village Hall, funded by the generosity of the Cawston Heath Trust, the Oakes Memorial Trust and two private individuals. I would like to thank Cllr Madle for initiating this project. A grant of £2,000 was made to the village hall to help with new flooring; the widening of the pavement on the High Street opposite Booton Road will be undertaken soon. The Parish Council website has the minutes of each meeting and is updated regularly so you can keep abreast of what your council is working on for the community (cawston-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk) Shortly a quarterly newsletter will be published – this will initially be distributed to each household, though it is hoped that it will quickly prove popular in its email format.

I would again like to thank all the councillors for their commitment and dedication to the wellbeing of this parish. I would also like to thank Lloyd Mills, our Clerk; James Joyce, our District and County Councillor; and the members of the police force for attending as many meetings as possible. I would finally like to thank those members of the public for their attendance here tonight.

8. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

The annual report from the police was tabled by PCSO Bridges (p8)

He noted that the total number of reported crimes was down on last year. He also pointed out that one of the priorities agreed at the recent SNAP meeting was speeding in Cawston. He also informed the meeting that the recent proposals

regarding some lighting and an art project for the playing field will be funded and that more information should be available soon.

9. VILLAGE CHAMPION

The Chairman announced that the first Cawston Village Champion is Simon Court. He was awarded this for all his years of work as Group Scout Leader and his work with the Cawston Scouts generally.

10. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

A question was asked regarding the charities for which the Council acts as Trustee. It was agreed that they should be advertised more widely and people encouraged to apply for grants.

In response to a question about football goals on the Playing Field, the Clerk confirmed that he spoken with the Council's contractor and that he was hopeful they would be in position next week.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.30pm

Chairman of the Parish Council