

OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL , MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING,
HELD AT 7.30 P.M., ON THURSDAY 22nd MAY 2014,
AT THE CHURCH HALL, BLACKSMITHS WAY

PRESENT: Mr B Sabberton-Coe - Chairman
Councillors – Mrs J Williams, Mr G Tingle, Miss P Wilkin, Mr J Arnott, Mrs A Chandler, Mr B Palmer, Mr M Vincent and Mr B Leggett.

Mrs J Leggett – Norfolk County Councillor
Mr K Leggett – Broadland District Councillor
Mr S Dunn – Broadland District Councillor
PC K Lambert – Norfolk Constabulary
Chloe Smith MP
18 residents

APOLOGIES: Councillors – Mr B Honess, Mr D Thompson, Mr C Green and Ms W Atkinson.

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk reported that there was some information with regard to a Neighbourhood Plan and Bus Shelter Questionnaire at the rear of the hall and urged all those present to take a look at it.

1. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 23rd May 2013, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

The Chairman's report, which had been circulated in the spring edition of the Council's newsletter, was accepted. Mr B Sabberton-Coe stated that any questions regarding his report would be taken under public discussion.

3. ACCOUNTS OF THE YEAR ENDING 31.03.2014.

The un-audited accounts were accepted. Questions with regard to the surplus in 12/13 and deficit in 13/14. The Clerk explained that the Council had purchased the LED street lights out of its reserves. She also explained the New Homes Bonus, Catton Park budget and repayment of loan. She assured all those present that the accounts were readily available for inspection in her office and under the Freedom of Information Act any resident was allowed to see the accounts.

4. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ORGANISATIONS.

Written reports were received from the Old Catton Women's Institute and Norfolk Constabulary (copies of which are attached).

Mr B Leggett gave a report on the Village Hall. The AGM was held just before this meeting. The hall is well looked after and in good financial order. Since last year some new fencing has been installed, the car park has been resurfaced and a new floor has been laid in the hall.

The Friends of Catton Park gave a report. There is a lot of activity going on with a much bigger fun day being organised this year.

Mr B Palmer gave a report on the Horticultural Society. It has been a good year for the society with some excellent outings and well attended meetings.

Mr B Leggett gave a report on the Old Catton Society. The Society meets once a month. It recently purchased and installed an information board in Church Street which is proving to be an asset to the Village.

A report from Norfolk Constabulary showing crime figures from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 was distributed and a copy is attached to the official minutes. PC K Lambert stated that the down point for him during the year was the events that took place at the Remembrance Sunday parade. He also stated that there is a new PCSO for Old Catton who is settling in well within the Village.

There were a number of burglaries in recent months but the offenders have been caught and are now serving lengthy prison sentences.

Mr B Leggett asked for a vote of thanks to the Police for all their hard work and he hopes that the great working relationship between the Police and Parish Council continues to succeed.

Mrs Ann Chandler gave a report on the Allotments. There are over 100 allotment holders at present who pay £15 a year, with 26 people on the waiting list. She stated that she had contacted the contractor to cut back the overgrowing hedge on Spixworth Road and hoped that it would be done as soon as bird nesting season is over with.

Chloe Smith MP stated that it was lovely to see so many people at the meeting. She also stated that trips were being organised to visit the Houses of Parliament with 74 people visiting from Old Catton. Further trips will be organised at some point in the future.

County Councillor Mrs Judy Leggett stated that it had been an interesting year for Norfolk County Council with no single party in control. The year has mainly been dominated by the incinerator. The option to sell the site at King's Lynn to King's Lynn Borough Council was not as easy as it looked.

She reported that Children's Services is gradually improving but there is of course capacity to improve further.

There is a need to find savings when setting the new budget.

Broadland District Councillor Mr Ken Leggett stated that he attends most Parish Council meetings and thanked the Chairman for giving him the opportunity to speak.

He briefly touched on the subject of a Neighbourhood Plan and the Beyond Green application.

Broadland District Councillor Mr Stuart Dunn stated that the Council are trying to save money by encouraging residents to register online for e-billing.

The Chairman thanked all these people and organisations for the good work they did in the Village.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

A resident asked for further information regarding the recent spate of counterfeit currency. PC Lambert stated that he did not have that information to hand but would get back to the resident.

A lengthy discussion took place with regard to the future of Catton Park. Concerns were expressed by residents over the lack of availability of the Trusts accounts. It was explained that the accounts are available on the Charity Commission and Companies House website for all to see. It was agreed that this financial year's accounts will be made available on the Trust website.

It was explained that the Trust has received a grant of £99,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to look at the long term sustainability of the Park. A ten year plan will be produced to ensure that financial stability is sustainable in the long term. The Park needs to become user-friendly for both dog walkers and non-dog walkers. There also needs to be the ability to raise money from large scale events.

The issue with regards to dogs was discussed at great length as was the issue of parking when organising large scale events. It was noted that the Trust was taking the issues seriously and working hard to resolve them.

It was agreed by all that Catton Park was a great asset to the Parish. The Chairman asked all those present to vote on the Parish Council taking over Catton Park. This resulted in a majority vote.

A lengthy discussion also took place regarding the Beyond Green development. It was noted that outline planning permission had been granted for the whole scheme. The scheme is split into 6 stages. Each stage will need specific planning permission. Old Catton is stage 4 so it will be a number of years, possibly 2022, until building starts in the Parish. The Parish Council stated that it is looking at producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Old Catton before the Beyond Green development commences but needs the support and involvement from residents and businesses within the Parish. It was noted that a Neighbourhood Plan is recognised in planning law so Old Catton would have more power over what kind of development takes place within the Parish.

Councillor John Arnott stated that he is the Council's representative on the Airport Consultative Committee. He gave an update on the Airport and all developments that are to take place throughout the ensuing year.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Chairman, 2015