

**BRETtenham ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH APRIL 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL
COMMENCING 7.30 PM**

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Mr C Clarke, Vice-Chairman Mr D Golding, Clerk/RFO M Birkinshaw, Councillor and Planning Committee Chairman Mr P Brinkley, Councillor and Footpath Liaison Officer Miss B Cronk, Councillors Mrs L Collings (part), Miss E Adie and Mr P Truin, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Mrs A Tavener, Internal Auditor Mr R Bere, County Councillor Mr J Pembroke, District Councillor Mr D Keane, Centre Academy of East Anglia, Head of School Mrs K Salthouse (part) and Principal Centre Academy School Dr D Rollo (part), Deputy Headmaster Old Buckenham Hall School Mr C Schanschieff and thirteen members of the public as attendance list filed with Minutes

1 Welcome

The Chairman warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Parish Council members to those present at the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Safer Neighbourhood Team, Tree Officer Dr W Wakeman, BVA Treasurer Mr M Smith and Mrs L Collings

3 Minutes of the 2011 APM previously circulated to the Parish Council were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters Arising – none

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman delivered a comprehensive report on affairs which had been dealt with by the Parish Council since his election in May 2011. These included Planning Applications, analysing the RoSPA annual safety report on the playing field and dealing with any risks identified, a review of the Parish Council insurance, presenting commemorative coins to children on the occasion of the Royal Wedding, collaborating with the BVA to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June this year and arranging for children of the village to be presented with a commemorative gift, pushing forward, under the leadership of Mr & Mrs Dye, to improve broadband in the village without BT, setting the Precept figure for 2012/13, requesting highway repairs when necessary and regular speed checks by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Thanks were extended to Cllr Pembroke and Cllr Keane for their help during the year, Ms Cronk for her considerable work as FLO, Mr Carter for editing and publishing the village magazine, Mrs Brinkley for running the village website, Mrs Tavener for co-ordinating the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and to the Clerk for her hard work during the year, to OBH for their interest in the village and for permitting villagers to use certain of their facilities, to CAEA for their interest and involvement with the village and maintaining the flowerbeds on the village green, to the farmers Mr Truin, Mr Haig Thomas, Mrs Buckmaster and Strutt and Parker for keeping the footpaths open and accessible and to the PCC and BVA for working closely with the Parish Council. Full report filed with Minutes.

- 6 Accounts for Year Ended 31 March 2012** – The Clerk/RFO delivered her report and supplied those present with a copy of the accounts and accounts summary for the year, together with a supporting Statement. There were increases and decreases in both payments and receipts but the Community and Savings Accounts remained in credit by £4195.27 at the end of the financial year with all expenses settled. It was proposed and seconded that the accounts should be accepted and they were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO. See Minute File for ‘Supporting Notes for Financial Report 2011/12’ together with full copy of Annual Accounts.

The Clerk thanked the Chairman for his hard work since being elected as Chairman in May 2011, Mr Bere for his competence and expertise in his role as Internal Auditor and Mr Carter for his continued dedicated work with the village magazine and for setting out the chairs and tables for all PC meetings, councillors for their help and co-operation with PC matters on behalf of the village and Ms Adie for organising the coffee for the interval in the APM meeting

Full report filed with the Annual Accounts 2011-2012 in the APM Minutes File.

7 Short Report/Question Time

7.1 Mr Jeremy Pembroke, Suffolk County Councillor

Mr Pembroke said that he very much enjoyed coming to PC meetings in Brettenham and wished to thank the Council for making him so welcome. He said that this was his last year as a County Councillor after 11 years but that he had been nominated to be Chairman in his last year. He will continue to come to meetings during this time and then he will have to say goodbye.

Mr Pembroke delivered a comprehensive report on the year which had continued to be challenging with tough decisions to be made but with the same opportunities remaining. The top challenge had been the budget and a £50M budget gap has to be faced over the next two years. Changes in the running of library services and education and the Fire and Rescue Service being combined with Cambridgeshire were detailed in Cllr Pembroke’s report as well as plans to find a new provider for the remaining council-run care homes. Suffolk has been selected to be one of the first counties to benefit from comprehensive, high-speed broadband. The county council’s investment of £10M is being matched by the government. A full copy of Mr Pembroke’s report is filed with the Minutes.

- 7.2 Mr Desmond Keane, Babergh District Councillor** – Mr Keane’s comprehensive report provided details under the following categories Financial, Housing, Homelessness, Choice Based Lettings, Decent Homes Standard, a greener and cleaner Babergh and a safer and healthier Babergh and was pleased to highlight that there had been no increase in council tax for the year 2011-2012. Full copy of report filed with Minutes.

7.3 Babergh Safer Neighbourhood Team

Report submitted for the period 1st April 2011 to 1st April 2012 which showed that 7 crimes had been recorded which affected the parish of Brettenham, compared to 4 recorded the previous year. The crimes recorded included 4 of theft compared to 2 the previous year, 2 of criminal damage compared to none the previous year and 1 miscellaneous crime compared to 0 the previous year. The theft of catalytic converters is on the increase across the county.

8 Mrs Lindsey Collings on behalf of St Mary's Church

Mrs Tavener delivered the report on behalf of Mrs Collings. Following the retirement of Rev Liz Law on health grounds Rev Carol was ordained in June 2011 taking communion, weddings and funerals following this. Mr Desch took matins with Marie Bull playing the organ and Lindsey Collings took home communion to the sick. Thanks were given to many people for their valued help and support in various ways. Services continue in the usual pattern with Family Communion becoming very successful with regular attendance similar to previous years and high numbers at family services and festivals. A full report is filed with the Minutes of the meeting.

9 Mrs Kim Salthouse, Head of School and Dr Duncan Rollo, Principal CA Schools

Mrs Salthouse said that the pre-prep group had grown very quickly and a portacabin had been installed in September 2011. The outside had been completely redecorated in bright colours. Children require very regular snacks. A child who was just signing at their previous school has come on really well. Smaller classes are felt to be more beneficial. Dr Rollo reported that Mr Schanschieff, Deputy Head of OBH, had offered the use of their tennis courts to CAEA. Two residents asked if they could come along to the coffee mornings which are held at CAEA for staff and parents and Dr Rollo agreed to this. He said that he believed the school was part of the village.

10 Mr Chris Schanschieff, Deputy Headmaster, Old Buckenham Hall School

Mr Schanschieff said that it was hard maintaining numbers for private education in the current economic climate but they were continuing to grow, with boarding as popular as ever with pupils. There are 90 boarders with 65 staying for the weekend. This year is the 150th anniversary of the school, with 54 of those years at the current location. There will be celebrations in the Park in June. There have been excellent successes both academically and on the sports field. Trips to Europe, Jersey and the States have been undertaken. Spanish and drama have been added to the curriculum and the Independent curriculum, which prepares children for the changing world and the world of work, has been introduced. OBH wishes to increase its links with the community and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like projects worked on by senior pupils at the school. £9500 had been raised for Sport Relief from all pupils running a mile. The school were saddened to hear of the death of Mr Donald Sewell who was headmaster there for more than 30 years. Mr Schanschieff said that he looked forward to continuing to welcome members of the community to OBH and to the numerous events over the coming year. Full report filed with the Minutes.

11 Brettenham Village Association

The Chairman, Mr Peter Truin, said that it had been another successful year for the BVA with the installation of a new awning on the Village Hall, a new fence in the car park and several minor improvements to the Hall, with the Village Inn and various events and classes held throughout the year at the Hall remaining as popular as ever.

It has been a very good year financially, ending with approx £4k to the good with a turnover of £27k. The bar made a net contribution of £3.5k and the Fireworks in the Park contributed £1400. Village lettings came to £2600 and Bigger Ernie netted approx £900. Donations for the new awning amounted to £2500. Major expenses have been the running costs of the hall, the new awning and the fence. It is hoped to purchase a better water softener for the bar soon. Mr Truin looked forward to another successful year with further improvements being made to the hall and its facilities. Chairman's and Treasurer's reports filed with Minutes.

12 Broadband for Brettenham, Mr and Mrs M Dye

Mr Dye reported that the negotiations for a wireless solution for Brettenham had not been productive as a phenomenal amount of money would be required. The Church tower could be a receiving point but this would have to be approved by the PCC. Mr Dye felt it might be possible for Brettenham to get faster broadband by Jun (12.5MB download).

13 Parish Footpath Liaison Officer, Ms Beverley Cronk

Ms Cronk reported that this year had shown an increase in problems and complaints regarding the footpath network in Brettenham. Complaints included an increase in dog fouling on the footpaths and horses being put in one of the fields on FP1 which caused problems with walkers with dogs and/or children. A big campaign is to be initiated to tackle the problem of fouling of footpaths. Ms Cronk has negotiated a diversion of FP1 with SCC and the landowners and the Order will be advertised soon. 18 years and several costly Public Inquiries later, Ms Cronk has personally fought for, and negotiated, a diversion for FP8 with SCC and the landowners and the Order will be advertised soon. Ms Cronk proposed that the diversion be called Orchard Way in memory of Gary Orchard who died suddenly exactly one year ago and who was blighted by the problem since its inception. Full report filed with Minutes.

14 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Mrs Annie Tavener

Mrs Tavener gave details of several incidences of thefts and vandalism and reports of night time prowlers during the past year. The new non-emergency number 101 came into effect this year and appears to be successful. Suspicious vehicles or prowlers still need to be reported by calling 999. Full report filed with Minutes.

15 SOSAG Representative, Mr Chris Clarke

Mr Clarke stated that airline traffic at Stansted had declined significantly since 2008 with annual passenger traffic at about half capacity at the moment. A new runway is unlikely to go ahead. The Government are aiming to sell their portion of NATS (49%).

16 Tree Officer, Dr Wendy Wakeman

Dr Wakeman reported that there hadn't been a lot of activity with regard to trees in the last year but she was delighted to see many new trees being planted. The tree planted in memory of Mr Hatherall continues to flourish. Dr Wakeman wishes to remove a rogue walnut tree near the Church. The Tree Warden network at Babergh has suffered from the absence of Peter Berry, following his death, but Dr Wakeman has linked in with the tree wardens at Colchester to keep in touch with tree experts. Full report filed with Minutes.

17 Open Discussion

Ms Cronk was prompted by Dr Wakeman's comment about replacing felled trees and asked if a new tree could be planted on the playing field for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to replace the one which was removed by the electricity board. It was suggested that the electricity board might pay for a new tree since they cut down the original tree.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting with special thanks conveyed to those who had given a report on behalf of their organisation or association. The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

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Distribution:

Chairman, Mr Chris Clarke*

Vice-Chairman, Mr David Golding*

Councillors:

Mrs Lindsey Collings*

Miss Beverley Cronk*

Miss Emily Adie*

Mr Paul Brinkley*

Mr Peter Truin*

County Councillor

Mr J Pembroke*

District Councillor

Mr D Keane*

Suffolk Constabulary

PCSO Jamie Fudge/PC 704 Ruth Horton*

Centre Academy of East Anglia

Dr Duncan Rollo/Mrs Kim Salthouse*

Old Buckenham Hall School

Mr John Brett/Mr Chris Schanschief*

Brettenham Village Association

Mr Peter Truin*

Mr Mark Smith*

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Mrs Annie Tavener*

Tree Officer

Dr Wendy Wakeman*

Village Website Co-ordinator

Mrs Tracey Brinkley*

** sent via email*

Village website