

ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 24 April 2008 at 7.45 pm at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall
Report of Minutes

Chairman's Report by Robert Todd, Chairman.

Thanks were extended to all the Councillors, Adrian Gunson, County Councillor, Derek Blake, District Councillors and Linda Gray the Clerk. The key objectives of the Parish Council remain to support the Village and help local groups such as the Preschool.

The year had been very much work as usual, agenda's had included the building of the new school in Thurton, changes of the locality of the police and introduction of PCSO's, debate of Car Parking Charges in Loddon and the introduction of speed limits on A146.

The Parish Council continued financial control on spending and contributed to local groups. Addressing local planning applications and issues remained a high priority.

In the past 12 months, Homewatch received good communication links with both residents and the Police and the Website had been well used receiving some international hits.

Parish Plan had now been published for 2 years and had been agreed recently to re consult with the Parish in the future on the issues raised, to maintain the relevant representation of views of residents. The Parish Plan had remained a positive view of the Parish that could be used against local Councils regarding plans for further development.

Financial Report by Mark Rolph

The Parish Council had continued to maintain the precept at £2000 per annum which equated to £15.87 per household. The Council had not felt it necessary to increase this amount and would remain the same for the next year. Expenditure was largely statutory costs and various donations.

Parish Council Website Report by Mark Rolph

The website had been available for residents for a year and continued to be regularly updated to include information relating not only to the Parish Council but local groups and events. A gallery of photographs of the village included on the site would be helpful and therefore the Parish Council would request residents to forward historic photographs of Ashby.

Home Watch Report Carol Powel.

The Homewatch scheme was updated from Neighbourhood Watch in 2006 in line with requests from residents from the Parish Plan responses. Vigilance by residents is required as theft of heating oil had increased due to the high costs and Bogus callers from the RSPCA and Corgi had recently been reported.

Police Report by PCSO Kevin Nightingale.

The PCSO's work with Carol Powell on Homewatch and there had been no reported crimes in Ashby in the last year but 14 incidents had been reported on the non emergency telephone line. Kevin wanted to draw resident's attention to the regular meetings of the Safe Neighbourhood team SNAP where problems experienced in Villages can be discussed with a view to combating unsocial behaviour along with other highlighted problems.

County Councillors Report

Report from Adrian Gunson, County Councillor

Thurton School The building work is on schedule for the school to open in the Autumn Term. The recent good Ofsted report shows the strong leadership of the new Head.

Hobart High School GCSE results were good placing the school very high in the country and the best in Norfolk for value added results. The All Weather Surface and Sports Hall are experiencing regular use from both the school and outside clubs. Improvement plans for the swimming pool remain ongoing.

A146 The traffic island in Thurton, close to the school will be widened shortly the whole of the road between the 40mph signs in Thurton dip will be resurfaced this summer. Surface dressing to be applied between the Slad and Hellington. A 50mph speed limit was to be introduced shortly between the Dog Kennels, close to the Slad and just past Highway Nurseries. Problems with the Trowse bypass traffic lights where priority is given to the A47 had been identified. The Highway Agency had agreed to replace the traffic light controller

Car Parks in Loddon a proposal for charges to park at both the Church Plain and the Staithe car parks could be implemented soon with a possible 2 hour free parking slot.

Loddon Library will close for at least 3 weeks while refurbishment takes place.

Footpaths. The walk to Hardley Cross is not open due to the refurbishment of the river bank and Chedgrave Common footpath is also closed at present.

Reports by Village Organisations included

The Church and BYRUS

Ashby and Thurton Playing Field Committee Report

Thurton and Ashby Pre School

Thurton and Ashby WI

The meeting closed at 9.00pm