

ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held on Thursday 23 April 2009 at 7.45 pm at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall
Report of Meeting

Chairman's Report by Robert Todd, Chairman.

Thanks were extended to all the Councillors who continue to support the Parish Council and to the clerk Linda Gray. County and District Councillors Adrian Gunson and Derek Blake also continue to support the village very well and try to attend each meeting, for which the Parish Council is very appreciative.

The year had been very much work as usual, agenda's had included addressing local planning applications and issues which remain a high priority to the Parish Council. A couple of instances of local knowledge had helped the planners at South Norfolk with their decisions. The Parish Council continued financial control on spending and contributed to local groups.

In the past 12 months, Homewatch received good communication links with both residents and the Police and the Website and notice boards had maintained contact with the community. PCSO Nightingale had attended several meetings to update councillors on action taken relating to local issues.

Financial Report by Linda Gray, Clerk

The Parish Council had continued to maintain the precept at £2000 per annum.

Expenditure was largely statutory costs and along with various donations including a prize for the family fun day and an award for the annual prize giving at the school. Maintenance costs included some work on the notice boards.

The bank balance for the year 08/09 had finished at £ 1,206.97 as at 31 March 2009 reflecting a decrease in revenue of £661.31 although this figure is lower than previous years it does form a contingency fund for unforeseen financial circumstances.

Parish Council Website Report by Mark Rolph

Since it was introduced over two years ago the council had ensured the website had been regularly updated. During the year a review of the Parish Councils 2005 Parish Plan had been added which referred to the progress made by the Council to its original action list.

Home Watch Report by Carol Powell.

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 and unscrupulous traders calling at homes are on the increase. Anyone wanting to be included in the scheme needs to contact the Clerk with their details.

No Cold Calling Zones A no cold calling Zone is a designated area where the community declare they no longer wish to accept traders calling at their homes without an appointment and are a deterrent to unscrupulous traders. No cold Calling Zones are the declared wish of the residents living there, and are supported actively by Norfolk County Council Trading Standards. The Parish Council will be looking into supporting a designated area shortly. If you have any questions contact the Clerk.

Police Report by PCSO Kevin Nightingale.

Report by PCSO Kevin Nightingale read by the clerk

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.

PCSO Nightingale 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 had experienced a excellent first year.

Hobart High School; The School had another good year, GCSE results had remained excellent along with the second outstanding OFSTED report. The All Weather Surface and Sports Hall were in regular use from both the school and outside clubs. Improvement plans for the swimming pool remain ongoing.

A146 The footway on the Bus Stop side of the A146 would be widened shortly and posts installed on the footway between Ashby Road junction and Vale Road.

A 50mph speed limit was introduced, close to Highway Nurseries.

Trowse bypass traffic lights were identified by the Highways agency for replacing

A request for a roundabout for Loddon bypass at the George Lane junction remained ongoing.

Bus Service; the First Bus Company had made improvements to the timetable and put newer Double Decker buses on the route.

Car Parks in Loddon; the charging system was working well. A request for a long stay car park for the centre of Loddon, was being investigated.

South Norfolk Action Panel (SNAP) Meetings had continued to raise local issues. Residents were invited to attend meeting to discuss with the Police the issues in local neighbourhoods and the action to be taken.

Report from Derek Blake, District Councillor

Planning – Local knowledge for planning applications is paramount.

Organisational changes at South Norfolk Council had affected most departments.

Applications for Benefits had increased due to the rise in unemployment and a lack of affordable of housing.

Local Government reorganisation was ongoing and the request for a Status Quo required consideration.

Housing Issues - The Joint Core Strategy could affect both Loddon and Ashby. A proposed development of 200 new houses in Loddon will not be considered until the present economic climate improves.

An Affordable Housing development in either Ashby or Thurton could be considered if a need was identified.

Sites for Gypsy and Traveller sites or wind turbines had not been identified locally.

East Area Planning Meeting had been moved to Long Stratton

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 9.30pm