

Ashby St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Thursday 22 April 2010 at 7.45 pm at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall

Report of Minutes

Chairman's Report - Report by Robert Todd, Chairman.

Thanks were extended to all the councillors for the time and support given in the last year and Linda Gray the Clerk. Thanks were also extended to Adrian Gunson, County Councillor and Derek Blake, District Councillor, who attend most meetings and who provide a valuable link to the local Councils.

Planning Planning issues on the boundary of Thurton and Ashby St Mary had seen a collaboration between the Parish Councils.

A146 Road Safety for pedestrians remained a high priority and with the help of Adrian Gunson, County Councillor a number of safety features were completed including the installation of oak posts between Ashby Road and Vale Road and footpath widening at the Bus Stop close to George and Dragon.

Speeding continues to be an issue and had resulted in a speed survey being carried out on Ashby Road and Mill Road. The results were not considered enough of a problem by the Police to take any further action, but they had been requested by the Parish Council to make regular visits to the Village to assess speed.

Road Signage A survey undertaken had resulted in many road names and finger posts being replaced around the Village.

Financial Report - Report by Linda Gray

The Parish Council had continued to maintain the precept at £2000 per annum and 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 donations. There had been no capital expenditure and the Clerk had been paid on a monthly basis from January 2010.

The bank balance for the year 09/10 had finished at £310.29 as at 31 March 2010 reflecting a decrease in revenue of £896.68.

Parish Council Website - Report by Mark Rolph

The Web Site address was advertised on all the Parish Council Notice boards in the Village and the website continued to be updated on a regular basis. Further information now available included Rainfall in Ashby, a gallery of pictures, along with a walk that could be printed off. Local contact information and links to local groups made the website a major form of communication in the community.

Home Watch - Report by Carol Powell

The Homewatch scheme had been under review and Norfolk Constabulary had requested each member re-registers to the scheme. The new system would link details and reports to the Safer Neighbourhood teams in the area. Carol had undertaken to re-register everybody in the Ashby St Mary Homewatch scheme and reports would be communicated shortly through the new state of the art communication system at Norfolk Police.

Police Report - Report sent in by PCSO Kevin Nightingale.

Crime figures for 2009 to 2010. 2 other crimes. 2 criminal damage. 1 theft of motor vehicle. 2 violence. 1 drugs and 1 sex offence. Crime figures doubling in the past 12 months was disappointing but changes in the areas covered by the Norwich response officers would give support to the Loddon Police. Officers passing on the A146 had been requested to give more attention in Ashby St Mary and Thurton.

County Councillors Report - Report from Adrian Gunson

Bus Service - Problems in the service over the last 12 months were identified and the Management were undertaking measures to resolve any issues. The acquired newer Double Deckers on the route had experienced some engineering problems which had been resolved. A146 Pedestrian Improvements - Oak post now installed from Ashby Road to Vale Road and the footpath close to the Bus Shelter close to the George and Dragon had been improved.

HGV Restriction Survey - A request from Parishioners to survey Ashby Road, Mill Road for HGV usage. The survey was undertaken to gauge if an HGV restriction was required on this road. The survey results prove the road experienced normal usage of HGV's for farms and businesses in the area and no further action would be taken.

Bergh Apton Recycling Centre - The hours of opening had been reduced. The opening days were now Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday as these were considered the busiest times. This course of action had been agreed to save money and therefore not to increase Council Taxes. The Planning Permission for this site would run out in 2012 when it could be closed.

Hobart High School - Received very good GCSE results. The Swimming Pool refurbishment would start later in the year. The All Weather Pitch and Sports Hall continued to be well used by the School and local Community.

Loddon Housing Development - A consultation event had taken place recently for a Housing Development to be put on George Lane. Loddon residents were concerned about the increase in population by a 1/4 to Loddon. To date no planning application had been submitted.

Trowse traffic lights - Work to update the traffic lights was complete, the previous timing issues in peak times were resolved but further timing issues at off peak times required review.

Northern Distributor Road - A grant for £20 million had been granted for the junction on the A47 at the Broadland Business Park, 1800 houses and doubling of the Park and Ride at Postwick. Local residents were concerned and had requested a public enquiry.

Bad Winter and Pot Holes - Due to this winter's bad weather there were unusually high numbers of potholes on local roads. The amount of potholes that still require work remained high, dangerous potholes would be dealt with first and the rest would be completed on a work schedule of the area.

District Councillor's Report Derek Blake - not present

Reports by Village Organisations

Ashby unit Thurton Playing Field Committee / St Mary's Church / BYRUS / Thurton and Ashby Prc School Pre-School / WI / Tree and Footpath Warden

Parishioner Questions

Pot Holes

In response to questions from residents Adrian Gunson discussed the effects the bad winter had had on the road surfaces and in particular potholes.

Geocaching

Treasure hunting using GPS systems on phones. They should be kept to Public Footpaths and public areas but problems can happen when these rules are not followed.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm