

ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Thursday 26 April 2012 at 7.45 pm at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall
MINUTES

Present: Robert Todd (Chairman), Peter Wright, Sarah Cook,
Mark Rolph, and Edgar Hoddy.

Also Present: Linda Gray (Clerk), Adrian Gunson, County Councillor, Derek Blake, District
Councillor and 32 Members of Public.

1. **Apologies** were received from Terry Kitt, Rev Knight and Janis Baugh,
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 March 2011**
The minutes previously circulated by the clerk, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Chairmans Report**
Report by Robert Todd, Chairman.
Thanks were extended to all Councillors who continued to support the Parish Council and to Linda Gray the Clerk who had accomplished her Cilca (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification this year and was now a qualified Parish Clerk. 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 appreciative.
Very much a year of business as usual. The highway rangers visits the Village on a regular basis and contacts the Parish Council to find out where any work is required.
Planning – In general the Parish is very well supported by South Norfolk and maintains a good relationship with the Planning Department.
Claxton House a recent planning application in Claxton that would affect Ashby St Mary though increased traffic. We negotiated with the planning department passing bays to be included on the planning application.
Community Infrastructure Levy – Consultation regarding the cost applied to development which was set at two levels, further out from Norwich the level of charge decreases caused some concern. If your village is situated on the boundary as Ashby St Mary and Thurton are the villages could be targeted by developers to build. Through the good relationship with Thurton Parish Council a public meeting was held and responses returned.
Local Development Framework the consultation for the site specific sites had been on going with the results only being published in March 2012.
Winter Warmer packs had been delivered to the village and although were not distributed this year as were received late winter would be delivered to those in need next winter.
Web Site thanks were extended to Mark Rolph who maintained the Parish Council Web site to a high standard.
4. **Bulk Buying Household Oil Community Scheme**
Presentation by Henry Mickeljohn from the Rural Community Council
The RCC was independent Charity who supported rural communities. The presentation was very informative regarding the Bulk Buying Scheme which already had 600 members. All the members remain independent but as a group get a discount if all order oil at one time 1st day of the month. The scheme researches the best price from the Oil Companies and there is no obligation to buy once you are part of the scheme. Although the scheme needs no organiser needed a co-ordinator was required to keep all the details of members and at times send out information. A £15.00 membership for the whole group would need to be paid annually and could either be shared between the members or paid by the Parish Council. Information and application forms were left with the Clerk and the matter will be included on the May agenda of the Parish Council.
5. **Police Report** - No report received

6. **Financial Report** - Report by Linda Gray
 The Parish Council had found it necessary to increase the precept to £2,200.00.
 Expenditure was largely statutory costs. There had been training costs for the Clerk to learn PAYE but no capital expenditure
 The bank balance for the year 10/11 had finished at £ 97.27 as at 31 March 2012
7. **Parish Council Web Site** - Report by Mark Rolph
www.washbystmary.org.uk was created in 2007 and celebrated its 5th birthday this year. The site receives regular updates throughout the year. It proves to be a simple means of accessing information from the Parish Council as well as a latest news and 5 day weather forecast.
8. **County Councillors Report** - Report from Adrian Gunson, County Councillor
Claxton House Dementia Unit extension posed highway problems in the village and passing bays were negotiated which will only be input if the planning application for the extension goes ahead.
Nursery in Thurton – the old school building in Thurton had been converted to a private day nursery. Again this had posed some parking and highway issues in the Village but this issue was ongoing and was being monitored.
Roads in Ashby St Mary - Green Lane and Back Lane Hellington had been resurfaced last year. The potholes would be repaired shortly and the missing Hall Road sign had been reported.
Thurton Primary School – had received a good Ofsted report and a design award for the buildings and recognition for the recently installed play area.
Hobart High School maintained good GCSE results and the school was progressing well under the new leadership of Mr Griffin. The Governing Body had been investigating Academy Status but no decision had been made as yet and the issue was ongoing.
Wherrymans Way footpath in our area from Norton Subcourse to Rockland required maintenance and the County Council had agreed to continue to cut the grass on a need basis rather than on a schedule as in previous years.
Bergh Apton Waste Recycling Site - The temporary planning application would run out in September 2012. An application for a permanent site would be ready for consultation shortly.
Local Development framework – Supported the Parish Councils decision to reject any further development in Ashby St Mary.
Norfolk County Council – No increase in Council Tax by the Council but the Police had made an increase of 3%. The Northern Distributor Road had received a grant of 85 million to start up grading the junction at the Broadland Business Park in Thorpe. A47 would receive no funding for any additional works this year. Norfolk Property Services to employ 100 apprentices in several different areas and should receive training and qualifications to get a job in the future.
9. **District Councillors Report** - Report from Derek Blake, District Councillor
 Economic development a concern with the recent news regarding Lotus Cars
Joint Core Strategy implemented in March 2011 was legally challenged with the result that Broadland Council required to make further consultation. The City Council and South Norfolk can continue with the initial schedule.
The South Norfolk Website had been updated and was now easier to use.
Council Tax had not been increase by South Norfolk Council..
WEE – Electrical recycling event had been very well supported.
Winter Warmer Packs – Available for next winter.
Planning – The Local Planning Committee now met twice month at Long Stratton but this would be reduced to one meeting a month shortly as the planning process criteria had changed resulting in fewer applications requiring further consultation.

Parish Plans are they still current? – Parish Plans remain an integral part of the planning consultation process. Some larger towns were opting for AAPs Area Action Plans which gave more scope for those towns to develop their own ideas.

10. Ashby and Thurton Playing Field Committee Report

Report by the chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

The committee has a membership of 12 with most regular user groups represented. The hall and playing field is used regularly by the school, pre-school and church youth groups along with other organisations on a private hire basis. The redevelopment of the play area and playing field remains foremost on the agenda, the committee were looking to submit an application to WREN for funding for this project. After a recent survey in the Village regarding the facilities and activities provided by the Village Hall and Playing Field the common view supported the committee's view that the hall required some refurbishment.

11. Reports by Village Organisations

Church Report - Report from Roy Roebuck

The Church, experiences good attendance from the village and surrounding villages for joint services and more services would be run by the Parish Team. A number of special events took place last year including fundraising especially the Ashby Arts Festival. The aim of the fundraising was to install a toilet in the Church

Thanks are extended to the PCC for all their help, support and fundraising throughout the year.

WI

A membership of 24 meeting on a monthly basis and continue to provide members with social events and outings as well as monthly meetings. Visits were taken to Strangers Hall, Loddon Panto and Caithness Crystal. Other activities include a recipe book, book of walks and a wealth of speakers, fund raising through a trading stall, the Peal of Belles, 10 pin bowling team and Annual Jumble Sale.

Tree Warden - Report by Edgar Hoddy

There were no issues to report regarding trees in the area. In recent years residents of the Village had helped to maintain the footpaths and it is hoped this will carry on. The footpaths would not be cut regularly by the District Council but they would deal with any obstructions if reported but this could result in the footpaths becoming very overgrown. Please report any issues or problems regarding trees and footpaths to Edgar Hoddy.

Thurton and Ashby Pre School

The Pre-school had had a very successful year both in terms of children attending and maintaining the sustainability. The committee of parents and staff all work very hard to raise funds through Jumble sales and the Christmas Bazaar and thanks was extended to the community for their continued support at these events. Links with Thurton Primary School had been strengthened this year with two joint events and for the transition process the Headteacher Mrs Pratt had visited the Preschool.

The Pre-school has a dedicated, well qualified team of staff, backed by supportive parents and committee members who continue to give families in the community every opportunity to engage with early years education.

12. Any Other Business

Parish Council Vacancy – Please contact the Parish Clerk

Local Plan Preferred site plan for housing - published on 26 March 2012.

Robert Todd, Chairman gave an overview of the Local Plan process. South Norfolk had requested sites to be identified for future development in Villages. The Parish Plan contains the published views of the residents of the village which specifies residents do not want any further development of the Ashby St Mary. The consultation for the sites offered opened in August 2012 and the Parish Council after a public meeting jointly with Thurton Parish Council agreed that Ashby was not suitable for any further development and Thurton Parish Council were open to encourage a site in Thurton. Both Parish Councils agreed to support two sites in Thurton for future development and independently responded to the consultation stating this agreement.

The results published on 26 March 2012 by South Norfolk identify a site on Mill Common, Ashby St Mary and state that sites offered in Thurton were inappropriate and unsustainable on Highways issues.

The Chairman had contacted the Local Plan department to find out the criteria on which the site in Mill Common had been selected but was not given any information.

The site in Mill Common was not close to the school, bus stop or pub. There is no shop or other facilities available in the village other than the Village Hall and Playing Field which were not close to this chosen site.

Derek Blake stated there would be a further consultation period for the site specific plan and that new sites that had not been included in the original consultation would be considered.

The results so far were from officer recommendations and an interpretation of the criteria.

Residents are strong in their response that this result does not in any way reflect anything put forward by both villages.

Residents raised several issues including

- The level of detail in the publication, the site was referred to as being located in Low Common when the map shows Mill Common.
- Thurton and Ashby were seen as one service village, could this connection be broken.
- Residents had voiced their opinions at the Public Meeting held earlier in the year which the Parish Council had sent to South Norfolk and these views and the Parish Plan had not in any way been considered.
- Highway issues in Mill Common.

The Parish Council would endeavour to keep residents informed of the developments of the issue by the Web site and Notice Boards in the village.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm