

# ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on  
Thursday 24 April 2014 at 7.45 pm at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall

## MINUTES

**Present:** Robert Todd (Chairman), Mark Rolph, Terry Kitt and Edgar Hoddy.

**Also Present:** Linda Gray (Clerk), Adrian Gunson, County Councillor, Derek Blake, District Councillor and 9 Members of Public.

1. **Apologies** were received and accepted from Peter Wright and Sarah Cook. Also apologies were received from Rev Peter Knight, Sandra Rennie, Daniel Littlechild and Eve Redden.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 May 2013**  
A report of the minutes had been circulated by the clerk and were duly approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Chairman's Report**  
Report by Robert Todd, Chairman.  
Thanks were extended to all the Councillors who continue to support the Parish Council and to Linda Gray who supported the Parish Council as the 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. Thanks were also extended to Mark Rolph for his Webmaster role regarding the Website and Neighbourhood Security Service which is kept up to date for residents. The main theme of the meeting this year was to thank the residents of Ashby St Mary who had individually and collectively supported Community Projects namely the repainting of the Village Sign organised by Terry Kitt and refurbishment of the main notice board undertaken by Mr Taylor and the collective support of the Community for the Local Development Framework.  
There had been a small amount of Planning applications which South Norfolk consulted the Parish Council for their comments. The Precept had been slightly increased and the Finances remained minimal. The decision to pull out of the Norfolk Rural Community Council oil buying scheme was taken when the Ashby St Mary Oil Syndicate lead by Mark Rolph was organised and proved popular. Wirespire had been installed at the church and was offering a very good increased Broadband service.
4. **Financial Report**  
Report by Linda Gray  
The Precept had been slightly increased to £2,600.00 per annum and expenditure remained largely statutory costs. There were no capital expenditure or training costs to report. South Norfolk had introduced a Tax Support Grant and the Parish Council had received £41.00. The Donations from residents to help with the cost of repainting the village sign totalled £288.00 and with the cost of repainting totalling £190.00. The Parish Council has been able to set up a Village Sign Maintenance fund for further maintenance to be undertaken on the sign. The bank balance for the year 13/14 had finished at £ 538.44 as at 31 March 2014.
5. **Local Development Framework – An Update**  
Last year South Norfolk Council published in the Site Specific document for the Local Development framework a site for housing development in Ashby St Mary which was not supported by the residents. The Parish Council highlighted the development proposal was not in accordance with the Parish Plan of the Village . Thanks to the combined efforts of the District Councillor, Derek Blake and residents the site has now been removed from the Local Development Framework and will no longer be developed.
6. **Parish Council Website**  
Report by Mark Rolph  
The website was kept up to date on a regular basis; it included lots of information for residents including Parish Council minutes and agendas. The quick response code was now included on all agendas on Notice boards and residents with smart phones could use the code to direct them to the website. Some film clips of the Ashby St Mary Cricket team had been included as a trial and had been a great success. Robert Todd congratulated Mark Rolph on the quality of the Website and confirmed the Parish Council were very proud of the site.
7. **Neighbourhood Security/Ashby Update Service**  
Report by Mark Rolph  
This item was now included on every Parish Council agenda. The police sent weekly crime reports

tailored to an area such as Loddon in which Ashby was included. This meant the information included in the reports related to residents at a better level. Mark Rolph had set up a data base of residents email addresses that the Police Crime reports could be sent. This was a free service and any resident could join the service to receive the information.

**8. Police Report**

Report produced by PCSO Kevin Nightingale and read by Linda Gray  
Crime figures 6 calls had been received regarding incidents by the neighbourhood team but no reported crimes in the past 12 months. The current priorities remained ASB in Ditchingham and shed and marine thefts. Projects outside the normal police duties included, meeting residents at the mobile library and 8 hours a week were dedicated to engage students at Hobart High School as an early intervention tool to raise awareness in certain areas and to promoted good behaviour.

**9. Ashby's Bulk Buying Oil Scheme.**

Report by Mark Rolph  
After the AF Affinity scheme had been set up by the Parish Council under the Norfolk Rural Community Council a syndicate personal to the residents of Ashby St Mary was trialled and proved very successful. The syndicate had moved away from the NRCC scheme and continue to offer a very good deal to the residents of Ashby St Mary. The syndicate now had 25 members who have all made between 2 to 3 orders each. The orders combined have resulted in deliveries of between 5,000 and 10,000 litres being delivered. The price in the time the syndicate had been going had fluctuated between 3.2p a litre to 7p a litre and offered potential savings of between £32.00 and £70.00 per 1000 litres. Any resident of Ashby St Mary can join and the next order is expected to be made in May or June.

**10. County Councillors Report**

Report from Adrian Gunson, County Councillor  
Vehicle Activated Speed sign in Thurton had been installed  
Double Yellow lines were installed opposite the Tiffin Nursery School  
Bus Service – The X2 Service had newer buses and offered a better service in recent months  
Pot Holes – Several had been repaired. The Street had experienced verge damage by heavy Lorries.  
Resurfacing - Hall Road and Cooks Road would be resurfaced later in the year.  
Hobart High School maintained consistently high exam results  
Loddon Doctors Surgery – Yellow lines had been installed opposite the junction.  
Chet River – Bank repairs on the south bank were near in completion.  
Trowse Bypass – a 50mph speed limit had been requested.  
A146 after recent accidents the safety aspects of the road had been reviewed. Compared to National figures the road was not found to have a high accident rate.  
A11 – The dualing at Eleveden was near in completion and the Thickthorn roundabout had been resurfaced.  
Northern Distributor Road – Work had started on the Broadland business park junction and a public enquiry for the proposal and recommendations would be undertaken shortly.

**11. District Councillors Report**

Report from Derek Blake, District Councillor  
Loddon Housing development –The roundabout would be started once 80-90 houses were built  
Market Towns initiative – Downgrade signs for villages to stop heavy lorries but Sat Navs can make this irrelevant. District Council has asked for requests for signs but the budget would only provide brown signs.  
General overview of District Council activities – A series of reorganisations and staff levels reduced. The role of the District Council was dominated by Planning and Environmental issues. 7th year of Council tax freeze.  
Placemaking guide – As part of the LDF to include special planning developments. A review of the housing supply and affordable housing.  
Community Gym – Joint venture with North Norfolk DC mobile gym. South Norfolk had now provided funds for the purchase of equipment for the Eastern Rivers Gym and held in the Jubilee Hall, Loddon.  
Loddon – Toilet Facilities- the District Council would upgrade all facilities  
Planning – only 6% of applications were now going to the planning committee.  
Solar Farm development at Alington – the application was ongoing.

**12. Ashby and Thurton Playing Field Committee Report**

Report by the chairman of the Village Hall Committee. 10 regular user groups and now secured

regular football sessions. All the 100 club tickets had been sold. The Play Area project would have to change significantly due to funds not being secured with WREN. Several Committee members were leaving and replacements were required.

### **13. Reports by Village Organisations**

Church Report from Roy Roebuck

Rev Peter Knight would soon be leaving and take on a role in Tunisia. The recruitment of a new vicar would be undertaken in the next year. The new youth worker Ben Lawrence required assistance to run all of the Youth Groups.

The Church experiences good attendance from the village and surrounding villages for joint services and also for a number of special events.

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

Tree and Footpath Warden Report by Edgar Hoddy

No tree issues remained outstanding other than the oaks on Mill Common. All the footpaths had been walked recently and no issues were evident.

Resident questioned the overhanging Oaks on the junction of Mill Road and Mill Common. The Oaks were overhanging the highways. The issue would be reported to Robin Taylor at SNDC

Ashby Cricket Club – Report from Daniel Littlechild

The Cricket Club had now been going for a couple of years. No age or ability was required to join and fixtures included home and away matches. The new pavilion and improvements to the pitch had helped greatly to the teams successes. The dates of fixtures would be included on the PC website.

Thurton and Ashby Pre School- Report from Sandra Rennie

The Preschool struggled at the beginning of the academic year when several children left to attend school, but numbers had steadily increased and numbers now stood at 17. The last Ofsted judgement was Good and they were now able to offer the new two year old funding of fifteen free hours to eligible families as well as offering funding for three and four year olds. After gaining a grant to improve the outdoor area new ideas for enriching natural sensory play opportunities would be developed.

WI report from Eve Redden

A membership of 28 and still growing, meetings are held on a monthly basis along with a number of social events and outings. There is a wide range of activities they have become involved in including, walks, fundraising through trade stalls, reporting to the local press, the Peal of Belles, the ten pin bowling team and quiz teams. At Thurton School, children were awarded the WI prize for Care and Consideration.

### **14. Any Other Business – Nothing reported**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm