

ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 23 April 2015 at 7.45 pm at Ashby St Mary and Thurton Village Hall

Present: Robert Todd (Chairman), Terry Kitt (Vice Chair), Sarah Cook, Mark Rolph and Edgar Hoddy.
Also Present: Linda Gray (Clerk), Derek Blake, County Councillor and 8 Members of Public.

MINUTES

- 1. Apologies of absence** were received and accepted from Peter Wright and Edgar Hoddy
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2014**
The minutes, previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Chairman's Report** from Robert Todd
Thanks were extended to all the Councillors who continue to support the Parish Council: to Mark Rolph for his Webmaster role keeping the Website up to date, the Neighbourhood Security Service and the Oil Syndicate. Thanks were also extended to Linda Gray who supported the Parish Council as the Clerk. Adrian Gunson was commended for the many decades of support he had given the Parish and local issues while he was County Councillor. Derek Blake remained as District Councillor. Peter Wright would be retiring from the Vice Chairman role and as a founder member of the Parish Council he would be greatly missed. There were two Councillor Vacancies on the Parish Council and information for anyone who is interested was available from the Clerk.
Review of 2014/15
The HGV restrictions on Mill Common had been a major achievement. The result of planning applications was an area where Councillors were continually disappointed regarding the District Council lack of consideration and increased disregard in the opinions and local knowledge of Parish Councillors.
Anglian Water – The burst water main over Christmas had been a challenge and householders were pleased with their individual £20.00 compensation offer and the £1,0000 offered to each Parish Council affected which Ashby had donated to St Mary's Church through the PCC for their planned projects.
Broadband – The village had not been included in the recent improvements implemented by the County Council. Mark Rolph had undertaken a survey of the broadband speeds in the village with varying results. BT Open Reach would be implementing a further improvement plan in the future that may rely on the help of residents to install by digging trenches for new cables.
Village Hall Management team – The Village hall was presently financially stable and user numbers were good and the volunteer committee management team had, up until recently, always been complete. With the resignation of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary there was a desperate need for new members to take on these roles. A mail out to all the residents of Ashby St Mary had proved unsuccessful in filling these roles and there was now a major concern regarding the existence of the Village Hall. .
- 4. Financial Report - Report by Linda Gray**
The Precept had been slightly increased to £2,683.20 per annum and expenditure remained largely statutory costs and the South Norfolk Tax Support grant was £47.00. There were no capital expenditure or training costs to report. The Parish Council has been able to set up a Village Sign Maintenance fund from the donations of residents now the repainting of the sign was complete for further maintenance on the sign. The insurance costs had increased slightly as the Parish Council had moved over to an individual policy with Came and Co. The bank balance for the year 14/15 had finished at £ 1,953.64 as at 31 March 2015.
- 5. Parish Council Website - Report by Mark Rolph**
The website had been going for 8 years and was kept up to date on a regular basis; it included a considerable amount of information for residents, including Parish Council minutes and agendas, Police reports, rainfall statistics and Cricket Scores. Robert Todd congratulated Mark Rolph on the quality of the information included on the Website.
- 6. Neighbourhood Security/Ashby Update Service - Report by Mark Rolph**
Included on every Parish Council agenda and Police reports were sent to the 52 residents on the data base. The police crime reports are tailored to individual areas and Ashby was included in the Loddon report which included high levels of information and issues relating to local residents. This was a free service and any resident could join the service to receive the information by contacting the Clerk.
- 7. Police Report** – No report received.

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8. Ashby's Heating Oil Syndicate

Mark Rolph had successfully been running the scheme for 2 years. There was no formal membership and members purchased their oil individually after the organiser negotiates the price. The membership had risen in the last year from 25 to 30 members. Residents at the meeting expressed their appreciation of the service as it provided significant savings to householders.

9. District Councillors Report - From Derek Blake

Local Plan – The inspector had highlighted some issues but the finalising of the local plan should be concluded by June 2015. The next element to consider was Gypsy and Traveller sites to include transfer sites which were now under consultation.

Planning policy – The interpretations of these policies had been too rigid and more decision had been delegated to planning officers.

Waste Recycling – Investment at the Costessey facility had enhanced the green bin usage which now included glass which rendered no further use for the local glass collections sites. Plastics remained a problem and only food plastics could be accepted. Surplus garden pots could be recycled at Notcutts in Norwich.

WREN grants remained available to community groups

Planning – The development plans of the garage site in Thurton remained ongoing

10. Ashby and Thurton Village Hall and Playing Field Committee Report from Terry Kitt

If the present roles remain vacant and unfilled the existence of the Village Hall would be compromised.

The hall is at present financially stable with a full quota of user groups. The 100 club was well supported but 19 tickets remained unsold. Aviva would be sending a community group to help repaint the hall. The AGM was on the 25 May when the vacant position on the committee needed to be filled.

WREN grants - The committee had tried for 4-5 years to secure a Wren grant but found the system to be too onerous.

11. Village Organisation Reports include

St Mary's PCC – The loss of Roy Roebuck was a great loss to the village. Thanks were extended to the Parish Council passing on the Anglian Water donation of £1000.00 which would be used to bring the building up to modern requirements by providing toilet facilities and a small meeting room. The new vicar would be in place by the end of the year.

Ashby Cricket Club - Out of 14 fixtures 7 were won. The funds raised at the Champion game went to the riding for the disabled. Grants had been awarded for maintenance and the provision of equipment. New members were always welcome; the Club meets year round and during the winter uses the nets at Langley school.

WI – Numbers were increasing and all 30 members enjoyed outings, meetings, ten pin bowling and bell ringing. The Ten pin bowling team had got to the semi finals of the county. Craft afternoons were well attended on a monthly basis.

Thurton and Ashby Pre School

The outside area improvement had been completed to a high standard and all the children and staff enjoyed using the new improved space. The latest Ofsted inspection result was "Good" with highlights in the report to the "well resourced outdoor learning environment". To celebrate both the Ofsted result and the new outside area a very well attended outdoor open morning was held.

12. Parishioners Questions

Trees and Footpaths – In Edgar Hoddy's absence the following was discussed. As the Oak Tree on Mill Road had been found to be within the curtilage of the adjoining property the maintenance of the tree was the responsibility of the owner of the property and if there was a safety issue they were requested to contact the local authority to organise work to be completed.

Date of next meeting 14 May 2015

The meeting closed at 20.54 pm

Meeting Dates for 2014/15

22 January 2015 - 19 March 2015 - **23 April 2015 Annual Parish Meeting**

14 May 2015 - 2 July 2015 - 17 September 2015 - 19 November 2015