

ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 28 April 2005 at 7.45pm at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall

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

Also present: the Clerk (Linda Gray), Adrian Gunson (County Councillor) and P C Sonya Lake

Derek Blake (District Councillor) sends his apologies, also present thirteen members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1 **Apologies:** Wendy Premachandra, Claire Drewery, Rev Knight, Jacqui Hill, P C Paternoster, Doreen Yallop and Ursula Pank.

- 2 **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on Wednesday, 5 May 2004 were read by the Clerk, approved by all present and signed by the Chairman.

- 3 **Chairman's Report:** Robert began by thanking the previous clerk Lorie Lane-Rogers for all her support, advice and commitment. Linda Gray of Loddon, was introduced as the new clerk.
 The bi-monthly meetings continue to be well supported, and Adrian Gunson and Derek Blake as County and District Councillors have been a great support this year.
 Wheelie bins were introduced and the new system is settling down.
 Planning applications had been low, the Parish Council continues to review these with care and will offer local input at any opportunity.
 Finances are consistent with other years and the Parish Council has given assistance to local causes, namely the Pre-school for new equipment and the Village Hall for grass cutting costs.
 The Parish Plan got off to a slow start but with the leadership of Sarah Cook, significant headway has been made.
 Two Parish Councillors resigned recently, Claire Drewery and Wendy Premechandra. The Parish Council conveyed grateful thanks for all their efforts with the hedge and tree planting in the village.

- 4 **Financial Report:** From Mark Rolph
 Total income for the year £4,341.24 including £2,000.00 precept and £4.78 bank interest. Expenditure of £2,055.57, including Parish Plan expenses of £247.92 and donations of £700.00 (Pre-school 2 x £250.00).
 (The Parish Plan received £788.05 funding from the Countryside Agency last year. With the £75.00 spent last year this gives a balance of £465.13 to continue with the project)
 The annual Accounts were proposed by Edgar Hoddy and seconded by Sarah Cook.

- 5 **Parish Plan Report:** From Sarah Cook

The Parish Plan was started 18 months ago; the committee has been very active in circulating questionnaires and collating the information gained. Publication time scale has been extended and will be printed by the end of October. Every household will receive a copy; the content will be of use to all as it includes, village history, maps and services available.

The Parish Council will act on feedback from the questionnaires; details will be included in the bi-monthly minutes.

Questionnaire response was very high at 87% and appreciated by the committee. Robert thanked Sarah Cook and her team for all their hard work and looks forward to receiving a very good Parish Plan.

- 6 **Police Report:** From P C Sonya Lake (Attending on behalf of P C Paternoster who was unable to attend)

There were no crimes in Ashby St Mary in 2004. In 2005 to date there were 2 ; 1 x burglary to a dwelling and 1 x common assault and battery.

The A146 is regularly policed; this includes Ashby St Mary and Thurton.

A Non-Emergency telephone number 0845 456 4567 will be in operation from May.

Robert thanked PC Lake for her attendance at the meeting and extended the invitation to the Bi-monthly Parish Council meetings and accepted that it is not always possible for the Police to attend although perhaps a report could be sent.

- 6 **County Councillor's Report:** From Adrian Gunson.

Speed limit for Chapel Lane/Chapel Road. Monitoring has been completed which has resulted in not matching the criteria required.

Mill Road and St Marys Road will be resurfaced this summer.

Ashby Road Junction with the A146 was resurfaced last summer.

Bus timetable has been updated to lay on more busses at busy times.

The Grass Cutting contractor for Ashby St Mary has been replaced.

Wherrymans Way Footpath to Yarmouth will open soon.

Police Station, PC Gould is retiring. This may leave the Police Station at Loddon unmanned.

Hobart High School and Thurton Primary school, the deal with PFI and Jarvis has failed, the County Council is now borrowing the money directly, causing a years delay in the plans. Hobart Highs building work of 8 Classrooms, sports hall, canteen and possibly an all weather sports surface should start in July. Thurton Primary School's rebuild should now start in 2006 or 2007.

The river Chet at Loddon has received flood defence work.

A146 Loddon by-pass has been resurfaced from the Beccles Road junction to the George Lane junction. Turning lanes have been introduced at the High Bungay Road Junction. Chedgrave junction is having white lines painted to assist turning at night.

Hellington Corner requires resurfacing.

Trowse by-pass was resurfaced last year.

Norwich University Hospital's new access road should be open shortly.

Thickthorn roundabout is to have traffic lights.

Six Park and Ride Schemes are now up and running around the City.

A11 and A47 has no plans for improvement and the A11 has been removed from the plans for dualling to London.

- 7 **District Councillor's Report:** Apologies accepted from Derek Blake.

- 8 **Ashby and Thurton Playing Field Committee report:** from Mike Cook
Internal decoration has been completed. A £20K estimate from May Gurney, to enlarge the Car Park, has been received. Negotiations continue with the NPS for a licence to allow the school to use the Village Hall and Playing field. The AGM will be held in May, all are welcome. Mike Cook will be standing down as Chairman along with Sarah Cook the Parish Council representative. Mike Cook noted that a representative from the Parish Council is not essential as previously thought. Volunteers are needed to take the places of Mike and Sarah.
- 9 **Election of representative to serve on Village Hall Management Committee:** With reference to the above information concerning the Parish Council representative it was agreed to discuss this at the Parish Council AGM in May.
- 10 **BYRUS Report:** Apologies accepted from Jacqui Hill.
- 11 **Church Report:** by Arnold Miller.
Attendance remains good. Although costs continue to increase, finances are good. Fundraising events experience very good attendance and support from the parish. Monies spent soon will enhance the church building so as to make better use of it. The church is open 24hours a day seven days a week.
- 12 **Other Village Organisation Reports:**
WI: Report by Betty Catchpole
A good year, attendance has been steady. Lots of good meetings.

Thurton and Ashby Pre-school and Parent, Baby and Toddler Group: Report by Sandra Rennie read by Sarah Cook.
Another successful year due mainly to Government Grant Funding received, so can offer three year olds free places. Some equipment and toys have been replaced. The garden project was a great success thanks to the Parish Council Donation. Attendance and finances remain good. The committee continue to give great support and enthusiasm.
Thurton Parent baby and Toddler Group have also had a good year with steady attendance, which the pre-school supports with a Toddler Leader.
This arrangement is key to the village as it offers a first point of contact for parents and children to the pre-school and school as well as other community groups.
- 13 **Any Other Business:**
Road sweeper expense as referred to in the minutes of last years Annual Parish Meeting. There followed a discussion concerning the cost and the effectiveness of this service in the village. Adrian Gunson will continue to bring this matter up at the County Council.
Police presence in Loddon it was of great concern to the village the news that when PC Gould retires, the Police Station enquiry office may not be manned. The nearest manned Police Station would then be Gorleston or Yarmouth. The officers at these locations would be unaware of local issues. Although PC Lake could not comment on the issue of the Police enquiry office at Loddon she assured us that the A146 is

constantly Policed and that officers continually refer to long standing Police Officers of the area such as PC Sparks, and PC Shulver and Sergeant Leggett.

Homewatch Mark Rolph talked about the homewatch scheme being resurrected, as the feedback and enthusiasm from the Parish Plan Questionnaires was good. Mark has contacted the local Co-ordinator to find out further information. There followed a discussion on the best way forward and the views of the parish on how information could be circulated.

Local volunteer co-ordinators need to found who live in different parts of the village to ensure the whole village is covered.

Communication by email was a popular choice, but not all of the parish has access to this. It was agreed that a combination of both email and a telephone ring around service was the best way forward.

Mark asked that Homewatch be included as an independent item on all further agendas of the Parish Council.

A Web site, for the village would also be a good contact point and the Clerk has agreed to look into setting up this facility.

Old Photos, Sarah Cook is asking if any body in the parish has old photographs of the village, particularly agricultural scenes, for the Parish Plan publication.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.