

# ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday, 23 May 2013 at 7.45pm at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall

### MINUTES

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

**Also Present:** Linda Gray (Clerk), Adrian Gunson, County Councillor and 14 Members of Public.

1. **Apologies** were received and accepted from Sarah Cook and Derek Blake.

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 26 April 2012

The minutes previously circulated by the Clerk were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Chairman's report by Robert Todd**

**Thanks** were extended to all Councillors and who's continued support and commitment had assisted the Parish Council to carry out its commitments.

Thanks were also extended to Linda Gray the Clerk who undertook to keep the Parish Councils administration up-to-date and within statutory guidelines.

Adrian Gunson was congratulated for his re-election success and best wishes sent to Derek Blake for a speedy recovery.

**Special thanks** went to Mark Rolph for the standard of information included on the website and the timely updates throughout the year.

**Local Plan** - the last 12 months had been an unsettling time with the provision of 5 houses being enforced on the village from South Norfolk Council Local Development Framework.

This situation had now changed hopefully for the better and more information would be available later in the meeting.

The Parish Council had continued with its other responsibilities of highway issues, dog bins and grit bins.

**Gritting Routes** - A request to extend the Gritting Route in really bad weather to include Chapel Lane had been accepted.

**Winter Warmer packs** a South Norfolk initiative had been distributed and the remaining 3 were stored at the church.

**Planning** – It had been a quiet year for planning applications but the Councillors continued to review each application submitted for Ashby. All comments and observations were returned by the clerk to the Planning Department.

**Community Infrastructure Levy** – This scheme aimed to raise funding through housing development on a two tier system where the district was also split in two. The scheme at present had been delayed but would soon continue; its impact on Ashby St Mary and the surrounding areas were unclear and could affect the recovery of the house building business.

4. **Financial report by Linda Gray**

The Parish Council had found it necessary to increase the precept to £2,500.00 and expenditure was largely statutory costs. There had been no training costs or capital expenditure to report. The bank balance for the year 12/13 had finished at £135.00 as at 31 March 2013.

In response to a question from a resident Robert Todd confirmed the Parish Council had tried to keep the increases of precept to a minimum during this period of economic difficulties but each year the increases in costs took up the small amount of reserve. In the next couple of years the Parish Council would need to rethink this stance of minimal precept increase and try to build up some reserves.

**Village Sign Maintenance** – The village sign remained the responsibility of the Parish Council and required repainting. This matter required discussion and would be included on the Parish Councils agenda.

5. **Local Development Framework**

**The process so far-** South Norfolk asked landowners to put forward land for development and after assessment, several sites were removed as they did not fit the criteria required e.g not close to a School or bus Service or highways or drainage issues. Ashby had a site identified for 5 dwellings on Mill Common.

# ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

## **a. The Parish Councils response**

Councillors were angry regarding the lack of local opinion sought by South Norfolk and collectively worked on a combined response with Thurton Parish Council, who had requested housing development, but had not had a site selected. The response included the views, comments and frustrations of the Councillors regarding the inappropriate selection of the site in Mill Common. The Chair had on several occasions contacted the LDF team at South Norfolk to discuss the issue and highlight a better solution of other more appropriate unselected sites.

## **b. An update**

The Parish Council felt it had a real fight on its hands and at some points in the last year came to terms with the fact that the published decisions may be absolute. The second round of consultations made changes and adjustments to the initial site specific report and included the suggested removal of the Ashby St Mary site in Mill Common. The Chairman had contacted the LDF team and they acknowledged the change had been unchallenged during the consultation but the outcome of the consultation still needs to be published and the Policy Committee will meet on 17 June 2013.

## **Residents highlighted the following areas during the discussion;**

Will Ashby always be combined with Thurton – Yes for this Local Plan which will stay in place for 7-10 years as per South Norfolk's policy but Ashby St Mary would always strive to be independent from Thurton, all planning applications remain separate but some linkage is good such as the Village Hall and Primary School. The Parish Council would always make every effort to support the views of residents in Ashby St Mary.

## **6. Parish Council Website Report by Mark Rolph**

The website can be found at [www.ashbystmary.org.uk](http://www.ashbystmary.org.uk) and had been online for 6 years. The main information was contained just 6 pages and included information on meeting dates, minutes, agendas as well as history, a gallery of pictures, Homewatch, Queens Jubilee celebrations and the rainfall statistics. More recently the Website had included all the up to date information regarding the progress of the Local Development Framework. The QR – Quick response code which Ashby St Mary was the first PC in Norfolk to offer had been added to all notice boards and could be used with smart phones to locate the Website online

## **7. Neighbourhood Security/Ashby Update Service Report by Mark Rolph**

Residents who had previously forwarded their information to Carol Powell the former Homewatch Co-ordinator would be aware that the old messaging service had ceased sometime ago. The new system used online Police alerts by email. Homewatch had been replaced on the agenda with a more general title of Neighbourhood Security in order that Police reports and Police attendance at meetings could be dealt with Homewatch issues. The new service from Ashby St Mary Parish Council includes police reports and updates circulated to a group of residents' emails directly once or twice a month. The email address remains confidential and the group of recipients was steadily growing and stood at approximately just over a quarter of all the parishes households. Please contact the Clerk or view a link from the website to be included in this service.

In response to a question from a resident Mark Rolph agreed to look at the Cold Calling issues in the village.

**Action Point – Mark Rolph** – Contact Kevin Nightingale to discuss the No Cold Calling scheme.

## **8. Police report by PCSO Kevin Nightingale**

Kevin had left the meeting at 8pm as he had given his report at the beginning of the meeting. The Police and PCSO from the Loddon office patrolled 31 Parishes in the area and tried to attend Parish Council meetings when they could. The Parish Crime statistics for the past 12 months was just one reported crime of theft of money. However 12 incidents had been reported to the non emergency line and included a civil dispute, suspicious delivery, domestic issues and noise. Some anti social behaviour had been reported at the Village Hall and was included on the regular patrol of the area. The mobile library van now included Police Surgeries and would be advertised in the village.

A resident highlighted speeding issues in the village and Kevin confirmed he would pass on the concerns to the Speed Awareness Team and also promoted the free rental of a speed

# ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

camera which operated by residents over a two week period to produced a survey to indentify speeding and which could be reviewed by the Speed Awareness team.

## 9. Bulk Buying Oil Scheme Report by Mark Rolph

The Rural Community Council had attended the meeting last year to present the Bulk Oil Buying scheme to residents. The scheme worked with Anglian Farmers Affinity to obtain heating oil at reduced rates due to the bulk amount being purchased. The scheme had limitations and variations and residents were still finding they had to ring round to check the price quoted was competitive. There was no information available to confirm how many residents had joined the scheme and the subscription of £20 was now due. Mark Rolph had researched an alternative syndicate process that he was happy to manage and for the last delivery had saved 3p a litre on the AF Affinity prices. Please contact the Clerk or view a link from the website to be included in this service.

## 10. County Councillor's report from Adrian Gunson

**Surface Dressing** – Green Lane Hellington, Mill Road, Ashby St Mary, Lion Lane Thurton.

**Pot Holes** – Reported on Vale Road and Low Common

**Church Road, Ashby St Mary** – Drainage work to be completed.

**Hellington Corner** - Footway had been resurfaced and a request to extend the 50mph speed limit in this area had been submitted due to the Green Pastures Farm Shop submitting an application to expand its retail area.

**Vehicle Active Speed Sign** –Installed on the A146 in Thurton

**Bergh Apton Waste Site** –Full planning permission as a permanent site was now in place after strong village campaigning.

**Wherrymans Way footpath** – Maintenance undertaken by NCC as part of Norfolk Trails.

**Hobart High School** – Converted to an Academy and now was independent from NCC.

**Loddon** – Drainage works on George Lane

**River Chet, Loddon** – The south Bank of the Chet was receiving work to strengthen the banks to keep the river navigable for tourism in Loddon.

**Construction Fund** – Funding grants for construction in villages of Community buildings and included extensions and refurbishments of existing building.

## 11. District Councillor's report Report read by Robert Todd

Significant issues with the Greater Norwich Development Partnership between the District Councils, South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich and the housing targets and smaller market towns such as Loddon could be pressurised to larger developments.

## 12. Ashby and Thurton Playing Field Committee - report Attached

## 13. Village Organisation Reports

### The Tree and Footpath Warden report from Edgar Hoddy

Footpaths: Edgar confirmed that NCC would cut the grass on footpaths if they became impassable during the summer. A footpath on the boundary of Ashby and Claxton was subsiding and required a working party of residents to undertake work to reinstate it

Trees: Edgar confirmed he could survey trees under his level one qualification. Ash die back may be a problem and Edgar was able to identify the symptoms if required.

A resident highlighted the problems with the Oak tree on the junction of Mill Common and Mill Road Ashby St Mary and the land owner needed to be contacted to undertake urgent work to the tree.

**Reports from the Church, Pre-School and WI were attached to the minutes.**

## 14. Any other business

**Ashby St Mary Cricket Club** – Details to be included at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

**Action point – clerk-** to include and contact the Cricket club for next years meeting.

**Notice board refurbishment** – Mr Taylor had offered to undertake sanding and staining the main notice board in the village. Councillors agreed and thanked Mr Taylor for this very kind offer.

**The meeting closed at 9.45pm**