



## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ASHMANHAUGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

held in the Preston Room on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.00pm

### **Parish councillors present:**

Cllr A Buxton                                      Cllr H Buxton (Chair)  
Cllr S Bland                                        Cllr J Pond

**Clerk:** Clare Male

### **9 Parishioners were present.**

The Chair welcomed all attending and stated that this was not a Parish Council meeting but the Annual Parish Meeting. After the usual reports, parishioners could raise any matters of concern to them or the village.

#### **1 To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

Minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record and then signed by the Chair.

#### **2 Cllr Dixon - District and County Councillor**

The Chair thanked Cllr Dixon for attending all the Parish Council meetings throughout the year and reporting on the local area so well.

Local Members Fund - Cllr Dixon looks after 8 Parish and Town Councils and he has been given a small fund to address issues across the area. Agreed that this fund would be used for flood relief and to address drainage issues. Has been administered via the Highway Ranger.

Cllr Dixon acknowledged that the condition of the roads has deteriorated due to the cuts in budgets and that the public should make their views known to the Council in order to try and improve funding in this area.

#### **3 Norfolk Police Beat Manager.**

Report from PC Tom Gibbs - read by the Clerk.

In the last 12 Months there have been a total of seventeen incident reports relating to Ashmanhaugh parish. Nine of these relate to wide loads from Bridgland Moulders. From the remaining eight the incidents are as follows.

Two abandoned calls which transpired to be non-suspicious and non-crime related.

One hate crime which was a local neighbour issue

One domestic incident

One wildlife issue

Three concerns for safety, none of which resulted in crime or police action.

In summary Ashmanhaugh has remained pretty much crime free this year. One should however note that this list is compiled from calls to police via the force control room and there may be a few other matters that were reported either directly to police officers or at the front counter. None the less this is a reasonable guide to the current issues we are dealing with in your community and there are very few.

The parish should be aware that from the end of March our PCSO team will no longer be active. In real terms this leaves only myself as the neighbourhood officer although there is a team of response officers, detectives and other specialist staff who will continue to provide a service to the community.

Any crime should be reported via the 101 non-emergency system, however if there are local or emerging issues, or if anyone wants any advice then they are welcome to contact me at Hoveton either by phone or email.



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Police stations are now closing to the public across our area and it is now the case that the public can only speak to a member of staff at limited, main stations across Norfolk. The open stations at Great Yarmouth, Bethel Street in Norwich, Kings Lynn and Wymondham. I am based at Hoveton now as Stalham is closed permanently. The Hoveton station is an operational base but currently is only open Monday morning between 9am and 12pm when we have a volunteer who comes in.

We are keen to recruit Special Constables to work in our community around Stalham and Hoveton and we are also keen to get more community speed watch teams up and running. If anyone is interested in either of these roles please contact PC Peter Davison, our engagement officer at North Walsham Police Station via the 101 number.

Finally I would like to encourage the community to talk to me as and when they need to. If there is an issue tell me and always report crime. If it isn't reported we won't know about it and can't do anything about it. I am keen to get out into the community as much as possible and will endeavour to get into the village from time to time on patrol. If you want me to come and see you at all please let me know and I will be happy to call by.

#### **4 Annual Chairman's report - Harry Buxton.**

The Parish Council has met six times, public attendance continued to be sparse, I would like to express the Parish Council's thanks to Cllr Dixon who has attended the majority of meetings to advise of us the bigger picture at both District and County level.

Alan Wiseman has resigned from the council due to home life commitments. Steven Bland and John Pond have both joined the committee. Steven replaces Marta Gibbons and John replaces Alan Wiseman. Our thanks go to Alan for his service to the village as a councillor.

Minutes of all meetings are published on noticeboards and on the website. If you require any further information please contact our Clerk Clare Male.

A balance of £6440.50 was brought forward at April 2017. The amount has been slowly increasing despite increased costs to allow us to build a reserve for on going works.

We are now in a position to start works on the Common and we have a sub committee meeting at the end of March to discuss the work and the order of them. The timings of which will be reported to the village and especially the residents on Church Road.

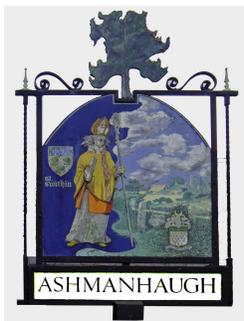
Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday in May, July, September, November, January and March at 7pm in the Preston Rooms. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

#### **5 Church Warden report - Anne Mulhall**

In this last year 26 services have been held at St. Swithin's including special celebrations at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. Congregations at the major festivals were smaller than last year particularly at Christmas when we only had one family at Christingle and 29 at the Carol Service. The children's craft activities at Easter also failed to attract more than a handful of children and we will not be running them this year.

The archdeacon's visitation which occurred in October went very well apart from a few minor details. He thanked everyone for their hard work and emphasised that for our size we are still doing rather well.

In terms of finance we will again be running at a deficit. In 2017/18 the annual expenses were £9243 and the income £6389 a deficit of £2854. In line with Diocesan policy the benefice is moving towards attempting to meet the realistic costs of having an incumbent, thus the costs of running St Swithin and maintaining our services are increasing on an annual basis. Once again I would like to thank both those who actively engage in our fund raising, and the parishioners of this and nearby villages who give so



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generously at our events. However, with such a small parish and a dwindling number of people actively engaging in fund raising events we cannot raise enough from this source to offset the deficit.

We need to try and raise more money through giving, and to this end we are hoping to set up a group of friends who are willing to donate on a regular basis to keep St Swithin open. We are also trying to promote the idea of giving through the leaving of legacies and there are pamphlets in the church outlining how this can be done.

Once again many thanks go to Hazel Flavell and Richard Greenslade who have kindly played the organ for us on many occasions. Another thank you must go to Harry Buxton who has remained as fabric officer for us despite stepping down from the PCC. Liam Mulhall has, after a fruitless search for a treasurer, agreed to rejoin the PCC. Finally, thanks are due to our team of flower arrangers, church cleaners, and graveyard maintainers who ensure St Swithin is such a lovely church to visit and worship in.

### **6 Preston Rooms report - Steve Newstead.**

Good news is that the last of the wooden windows will shortly be replaced with plastic. The number of events held seems to have declined in the past year. The committee is very grateful to the knitting group, gardening club, tai chi and all the groups that use the hall on a regular basis as this really helps with income. Thank you to everyone who helps with the village fete and plans are underway for this year. The AGM for the Preston Rooms is the 20th April and they are looking for new committee members.

### **7 Cricket Club report (ABWCC) - Paul Shipley (Youth cricket)**

Pleased to report that last season the first and second team maintained their league position. This season the club is looking to form a Ladies team. The Ashmanhaugh ground is used for youth cricket. Since last year new signage has been added and works have been done to the Pavilion. Thanks to the Poor's Trust for funding some of these works. More works are planned for the forthcoming season including a new fixtures board. Harry Buxton is now Chair of ABWCC.

### **8 Light Railway report - John Pond**

Good year with the extension to the club room now completed. Bushes and trees have been thinned out. New steam engine has been bought in. First open day is 6th May. Public attendance is down but there are 26 members. Thanks to Hazel and Terry for running the Preston rooms book stall at every event.

### **9 Poor's Land report - Rachel Buxton**

Due to the retirement of Mr Mulhall, the Board has a vacancy for a new Trustee. If any resident is interested in joining the Board, please contact one of the Trustees. They are Mrs Rachel Buxton (Chair), Ms Sarah Hewitt, Mr Neal Sharpe and Mr Terry Childerhouse.

The Board has three regular meetings a year but will call extraordinary meetings if necessary.

The objective of the Trust is

- The relief of poverty
- To improve the quality of life for those residents who have need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantages.
- The advancement of education.
- The advancement of community development



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- Greater use of community buildings.

The annual return to the Charity Commission has been completed and is available on the website. Currently, the Trust has some £3,000 of uncommitted funds available for grants.

In the past financial year, the Trust has provided grants to the Village Hall, the Cricket Club and one resident. Tree pruning has also been carried out, on the Rectory Road boundary.

If there is any person or group, who is in need of a grant and meets the objective, please contact one of the Trustees.

### 10 **Parishioners' Matters.**

#### **Vehicles driving on verges:**

Bollards or stones can only be placed on private land. If parishioners place items on public Highway verges and these cause damage to a vehicle the parishioner can be held liable.

#### **Norfolk Day:**

27th July 2017. No plans for the Parish Council to hold an event as there will be many competing events.

#### **Community spirit in the village:**

Seems to be continually declining. Questioned what can be done to help improve engagement. Villagers must act before the village community spirit dies once and for all.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Clare Male  
Clerk and RFO to the Parish Council  
11th April 2018