

ASHMANHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on 18 May 2010 in the Preston Room

Present	Councillors	Councillor N Sharpe – Chair Councillor N Coleman – Vice Chair Councillor G Beales Councillor Mrs R Buxton Councillor T Hannant Councillor Miss S Hewitt Councillor G Saunders
	Officer	Mrs G Sharpe - Clerk to the Council
	In Attendance	6 Parishioners Nigel Dixon (District and County Councillor) Alison Ball (Norfolk Rural Community Council) Kate Sullivan (North Norfolk District Council)

- 1 The Chair read the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 May 2009. They were agreed to be a true record and then signed by the Chair.
- 2 **Annual Report by the Chair of the Parish Council**
The Chair read the Annual Report. The report will be published in the next edition of the Newsletter.

ANNUAL REPORT 01 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010

For Ashmanhaugh Parish Councillors, this has been a busy year. We have continued to try to protect and promote interests of the village and react to any challenges whilst influencing and embracing the changes and opportunities which have been offered. We have attended meetings with many bodies in order to inform councillors, raise the profile of the Parish and to make the parishioners wishes heard. We have received considerable support from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils, North Norfolk District Council, our District and County Councillor – Nigel Dixon, our Member of Parliament – Norman Lamb and our Safer Neighbourhood Team.

I was delighted to announce that, in January 2010, the Council was awarded Quality Status under the National Accreditation Scheme.



This has taken a great deal of work by the Clerk and the efforts of the Councillors. It is expected that this will give the Parish Council a greater voice and influence in the County and demonstrates that the Council runs to the highest standards.

On the 25 April 2009, the Parish Council sponsored the village Community Day, organised by the Ashmanhaugh and Beeston Preston Rooms Management Association. This was a successful event and it was pleasing to all those involved to see so many residents come along. At the Community Day, the refurbished village sign was officially 'unveiled'. The refurbishment work was carried out at Wayland Prison and the Council presented a cheque for £200 to Quiddenham Hospice in recognition of this work. At the same time, the opportunity was taken to launch and distribute the Parish Plan.

Neal M Sharpe. Chair of Ashmanhaugh Parish Council
Farthings, Stone Lane, Ashmanhaugh, Norwich NR12 8YR

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All thanks go to the team of residents whose hard work prepared it and to those who helped by responding to the questionnaires and attending open events and workshops. Copies were sent to Mr Norman Lamb MP, County Councillor Michael Wright, District Councillor Nigel Dixon, District and Council Councils and other public bodies and interested parties. An excellent report of the event was published in the EDP and the North Norfolk News.

In June, a working party was organised to clear rubbish from the Common. The day was sponsored by CPRE Keep Britain Tidy campaign and thanks go to all those residents and councillors who helped. The Council was pleased to be involved with the Rural Road Safety Conference and Workshop. Many ideas were discussed and promoted. As a result, the wheelie bin stickers were trialled and have been rolled out across the county and the village receives regular visits from the Speed Awareness Unit of the Norfolk Road Safety Partnership. Wheelie bin stickers were delivered to every household which fronted the public highway. There are more available, if anybody would like some please contact the Clerk. Their purpose is that they are displayed once a week, to remind drivers of their speed. They are not meant to be permanently on display as they, like many signs, soon become 'unseen'.

Liaison with the Safer Neighbourhood Team has continued and officers regularly attend Parish Council meetings and provide reports.

The Council is represented at the local Key Individual Network and the Happening Area Partnership meetings.

As a result of the Quality Council award, the Clerk has been invited to advise and mentor other parish councils, across the county, who wish to achieve this status.

The Council has continued to publish the bi-monthly Newsletter.

Financial Matters

<u>Unrestricted Income</u>	Precept	£2700
	VAT Refund	£133

Major Expenditure Excluding Salaries

*	Telephone Kiosk	£300
*	Village sign restoration	£200
*	Grass Cutting to the Common	£100
*	Repayment to Awards for All	£509
*	Subscription to Norfolk ALC	£80
*	Insurance	£184
*	Training	£125
*	Binding of Old Minutes	£40
*	Mazars External Auditors	£120
*	Quality Council submission	£50
*	Stationery	£60
*	Hire of Preston Room	£150
*	Grant to Ashmanhaugh PCC- (Churchyard maintenance)	£150
	Total	£2068

The Council has a responsibility to not overspend against its income and reserves without a resolution so to do. As a result of a generous donation, the sponsorship of the telephone kiosk was able to be continued until November 2010. Additionally, the Council was able to agree a reduction in the sponsorship costs from £500 to £300 per annum.

We were fortunate to secure funding for a further year to support to support the publication of the Newsletter. Advertising revenue has been ring fenced for future costs. I am pleased to say that the precept for 2010/11 is to remain the same as 2009/10. However, with local elections looming and unavoidable increases in necessary items of expenditure, the Council will need to carefully consider what is needed for 2011/12 and the following four years, at the review in September/ November 2010, as a new council will then be in place.

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Planning

North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) has now implemented its Local Development Framework approved by the Secretary of State in the summer of 2008, which is now the guiding document for planning matters in North Norfolk. The Consultation document concerning Site Specific proposals for development areas has been released for consultation. As one of those consulted on the draft document, the Parish Council was pleased to be able to have its' thoughts and comments valued.

Planning Applications for the year were:-

- 1 The retention of the Cricket Club Pavilion
- 2 Erection of a wind turbine at East View Farm
- 3 Change of fenestration at Carousel

Renewable Energy

The Councillors are currently considering whether to investigate the possibility of establishment of a community energy farm in the parish.

Newsletter

The Newsletter continues to be published bi-monthly and edited by the Clerk. Feedback from residents is positive and they acknowledge that they are kept informed through the articles it contains. At the moment, printing costs are being supported by North Norfolk District Council, for which the Council is very grateful. However, this funding may cease in July and a new sponsor(s) will need to be found. If you have any ideas about sponsorship or anything which you think will be of interest or improve the publication, please contact the editor.

Local Government Review

In February, the Boundary Committee made its' recommendations to the Minister. However, the Minister chose not to support the recommendation but to award Norwich City with unitary status and the rest of the County to remain County and District Council administered. This is currently being challenged by the District and County Councils but, with the possible change of government in May the position may alter.

Every Thought of Standing?

The Council is working with North Norfolk District Council Supporting Communities Manager, Maureen Clark, as part of a pilot project to encourage people to stand for election to the Parish Council. Ashmanhaugh Parish Council is taking every opportunity to be visible in the village and available for people to ask questions and find out more about it. In 2010/2011, it is hoped that the Newsletter will be carrying a series of articles promoting being a councillor and the Council will be holding an open evening meeting early in 2011, to talk to residents who may be interested in becoming parish councillors. I urge anyone who is concerned about, or is interested in, the future of the parish, to attend this meeting and consider standing for election to the parish council.

Council Website

The Councils website, <http://ashmanhaughpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk> (or just typ Ashmanhaugh in your search engine) contains a great deal of information, such as, minutes, newsletter, Freedom of Information schedule, Parish Plan and useful links. It is updated regularly and well worth a visit, I am aware that it has had many hits since our Quality Council award.

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And finally, your Clerk and Councillors have taken part in, commented on and contributed to:

- *North Norfolk District Council Local Development Framework Consultations*
- *The Local Government Review*
- *Norfolk Planning Conference*
- *North Norfolk Community Partnership*
- *Happing Area Partnership*
- *Gypsy and Traveller Conference*
- *EEDA East of England Empowerment*
- *Norfolk Association of Local Councils (Norfolk ALC) Annual Conference*
- *Norfolk Police Key Individual Network*
- *The Parish Plan*
- *Local Councils and Charities Conference*
- *Police Authority Budget Conference*
- *Rural Road Safety Conference and Workshop*
- *North Norfolk District Council Communities Pilot Project*
- *North Norfolk District Council Area Forum*
- *Norfolk County Council Local Transport Plan*
- *Proposed Changes to Airspace by Norwich International Airport Consultation*
- *Norfolk ALC/Society of Local Council Clerks Summer Conference*
- *Power of Wellbeing Training*
- *North Norfolk District Council Annual Parish and Town Council Conference*

3 Presentation from Norfolk Rural Community Council – The Good Neighbour Project

Alison Ball gave a presentation on the project. It started a year ago and already Gt Ryburgh, Potter Heigham and Little Snoring have groups up and running. Residents would help neighbours with simple things like changing curtains or a light bulb or a run to the hospital. She said that if the community wish to, it would need to set up a steering group which would answer requests on a rota basis and organise the action. All volunteers would need to be CRB checked. Also, it would be a community project, not run by the Parish Council. Costs would be about £200 pa and would need to be funded from the parish precept, grants or charities although NRCC would provide the set up funding.

4 Presentation by Kate Sullivan (Active Communities Team, NNDC)

Kate Sullivan gave a presentation on the “Branching Out in Your Community” project. The idea came from an Area Forum meeting and the Parish Council was asked to take part. The purpose of the project was to encourage more people to stand for parish council elections and it has been going for three years now. NNDC carried out a survey of North Norfolk residents to determine which way to go. The focus is to get people more aware of their parish council and become involved. To this end they have been supporting Ashmanhaugh Parish Council with its events and appearances and Newsletter. The Active Communities team have also worked with the Council with councillor training. The project will continue until May 2011.

5 Review of the Telephone Kiosk

The Chair said the continued sponsorship of the telephone kiosk would be reviewed at the July 2010 Council meeting and he urged all those who had feeling about it, to attend and give their thoughts. Three resident attending said that they were in favour of not continuing with the sponsorship.

6 Anne Mulhall - Preston Room Report

There are 8 members of the committee all whom represent a group who use the Preston Room. The duty of the committee is to ensure the village hall is available for use by parishioners. However the aims are three fold:-

- * To maintain the fabric of the building
- * To ensure we hit the budget
- * To provide a social hub for the village and listen to what people would like provided

All meetings are open to the public and, at each meeting maintenance, grants, fundraising and update structures and plans are discussed: checks on monthly accounts and budget predictions: reports from group representatives received.

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During 2009 there were many activities, Board Games Club, Gardening Club, Senior Residents, Art Group and Luncheon Club and a further 17 events. For 2010 there are 15 events planned although the Board Games Club and Luncheon Club will not be running.

In 2009, the cost of running the hall was £2379; the projected budget for 2010 anticipates a lower figure. Some events are being revamped, for example the Pudding Club, this year there will be just two events for this club, a 'Summer Fantasia' and another which may be a 'Curry Night'. The new events of 2009 were very successful – the Village show: Community Fair: Quizzes and Bunny Drives will continue as well as some new joint events – a Christmas 'Thank-you': Scarecrow event at the PCC Fete and the Preston Room committee will have a stall at the PCC Minimarket.

A new Television has been installed and all licenses are in place for showing DVD's and musical events. As a result there is now a Social Club which will cost £5.00 per adult. This will allow benefits to the member when coming to other events. It is hoped that tax payers will Gift Aid their £5.00 membership in order to raise more revenue.

7 St Swithins Report

There was no report from St Swithins Church.

8 Ashmanhaugh Newsletter

The Chair reported that he had received favourable comments concerning the Newsletter. It would continue for the foreseeable future.

9 Parishioners Matters

Two complaints were received concerning parking, by the Cricket Club members, on Church Road. It appears that they are not using the club car park but parking inconsiderately, on Church Road. Because of the manner of parking, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for emergency vehicle to gain access to the north end of the road. The Chair said that the Council had already received such a complaint and had passed concerns on to the Club. Cllr Mrs Buxton also offered to make representations.

A resident asked that the Council should look at the continuing costs and the benefits associated with its Quality Council award as he could see no value. The Clerk said she would prepare a report for the next Council meeting.

A resident complained about the hedge to the south west corner of the crossways, on Stone Lane. She said it was so overgrown, you could not see down Stone Lane and it was dangerous when trying to pull out of Rectory Road. The Chair agreed that an approach should be made to the householders.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.