

Minutes of the BRUISYARD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday, 11th May 2004, at 7.00 in the vestry, St Peter's Church, Bruisyard.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Eleanor Berwick, Mrs Margaret West, Mr David Smith, Mr David Barham, Mr Terry and Mrs Michelle Gander and County Councillor Mr Peter Howard.

Chairman's Report:-

In the absence of Mrs Eleanor Berwick, Mr Peter Robinson, the Vice Chairman took the Chair. The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the serving councillors. If there are any Parish problems the public are invited to contact any of the Council Members or the Clerk.

- 1) **The Vestry:** the PCC were thanked for the use of the Vestry for meetings.
- 2) **Precept:** the Council has raised this by 4% this year in order to cover increased cost of administrating the Council.
- 3) **Charity Donations:** The Council makes donations to those charities that are able to help any resident in the village. This year support was given to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, the CAB and the Disability Advice Service.
- 4) **Parish Park:** The goal posts have had their posts extended this year to make them more stable with a greater length sunk into the ground.
- 5) **Village Sign:** A new sign is required as the existing sign is in a bad state of repair. A very similar image of St Clare will replace it, with the image on both sides of the sign. The artwork, being carried out by Mrs Anne Smith, has been completed and the foundry will be casting the sign into aluminium in the next month. Mr Peter Howard made a grant, from his local budget, of £500 towards the sign but this will not cover the whole cost.
- 6) **Grit Bins:** The Council has installed 3 grit bins at junctions around the village. These have been used in spite of the mild winter with little ice on the roads.
- 7) **Highways and Planning.** The grass triangle at the junction by Victoria Cottage has been causing problems with large vehicles. At a meeting with an officer of the Highways Department it has been arranged to reduce the triangle in size to alleviate the problem and the finger sign will also be replaced with the direction of the A 1120 indicated.
- 8) **Wind Farm at Parham :** The Council discussed the proposed wind farm at Parham Airfield and wrote letters to Planning Authorities supporting Parham and Great Glemham Parish Council opposition to the scheme with the added points of the aviation hazard they may cause and the fact that the Airfield will most likely have been mined when built in the war.
- 9) **Village Hall:** The offer of the Porter-cabin has unfortunately been withdrawn. The planning authorities have accepted, in principle, the erecting of a village hall on the village park. Alternatives are being looked at, including a log cabin made by a local company and other suppliers. The need for a village hall has to be established to enable the village to obtain grants from the Lottery Funds and other sources of funding.
- 10) **The Village Plan:** It has become evident to the Parish Council that, to have influence as to how the village will develop it is necessary through consultation with the residents to

formulate a village plan. Although the Parish Council will initiate this process, it will not be solely run by the Council and must reflect the views and needs of the community. The building of a village hall can be part of the village plan if it is wanted.

Mrs Eleanor Berwick and Mr Peter Robinson attended a planning seminar at Framlingham and found that Bruisyard along with some other small villages would not be allowed any development at all. To allow any development at all a village must have 3 of the following 6 facilities:- a shop, a school, a community meeting place, accessibility, employment and one other. Bruisyard has a small amount of employment and no other facility and so no development will be allowed even within the last village envelope. This means complete stagnation for the village.

The Chairman invited the District Councillor, Mr Colin Hart, to address the meeting.

Mr Hart informed the meeting that the council tax has risen by 4.5% this year, with around 80% going to the County Council and the District and Police each receiving 10%, with a small amount going to the Parishes. Although getting a small proportion of the tax, it is Suffolk Coastal responsibility to collect this tax. The District held its budget increase to 4.9% and to do this had to make savings of £1 million on a budget of around £12 million. Some charges have been increased to balance the budget and in an efficiency review a number of senior posts have been abolished with more likely to go.

The sports and leisure centres management will be handed over to an outside company with a saving of £250,000 on business rates.

The Council have agreed in principle to move the waste, recycling and garden maintenance into a limited company in partnership with Norfolk County Services with any profits going back into Suffolk Coastal.

His view is that a fundamental rethink at government level of what local government does and how it is funded is necessary, as costs keep rising and more of what is done is at the behest of central government.

Public speaking has been introduced at the development control sub-committees. This is on the whole successful even though it means longer meetings.

The District Council had responded to Saxon Windpower's scoping document and has set out the issues that need to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment. Mr Colin Hart will be urging officers to make sure the EIA is thorough, detailed and rigorous. He is not convinced of the merits of the proposals, believing the turbines will generate very little electricity but generate considerable subsidy income for the developer while permanently disfiguring the landscape and causing noise pollution for its neighbours.

As a Cabinet member Mr Hart is now responsible for Rural Issues, Communications IT and Community Grants. On rural issues he wishes to work more closely with Parish Councils to find out what local communities want. Please contact him if there are any issues he may be able to help with.

The Chairman thanked the District Councillor and then invited Pc Kevin Miller to address the meeting.

Pc Miller told the meeting that there had not been a crime in the village since 2002, when there had been 11 crimes reported in a short period of time. This spate of crime ceased at the same time a particular individual left the area. A high incidence of tools being stolen from sheds and developments sites has been reported around the area.

Anti-social behaviour orders have been used in the local towns to good effect. These are usually alcohol related. Pc Miller told the meeting he can be contacted by phone at Framlingham Police Station if anybody has any concerns.

The Chairman thanked Pc Miller and read a report sent to the Council by County Councillor, Mr Peter Howard.

The County Council has set a Tax increase of 3.8%, one of the lowest in the region.

There have been major improvements in the library services. All libraries are now open on Sundays. A new centre has opened in the Lowestoft library to provide a one-stop shop for all local government services in that area. Wickham Market is getting a new library in the centre of town and many other libraries have been refurbished and improved.

The first staff have moved into Endeavour House, the new County Hall, and the rest are moving in phases until the building is fully occupied. The move was funded entirely by an internal loan, which will be paid off once the old County Hall is sold.

There is an initiative by the County Council to set up a partnership with BT and Mid Suffolk District Council to provide access to services any time of residents choosing and by any method including email, text as well as phone and post.

Last year the county council gave it's full support towards plans to establish a university for Suffolk. The likely site will be on Ipswich's waterfront, including Suffolk College land.

Suffolk Fire Service is working hard to provide excellent service and modernise the organization, with some changes in the way the fire service works. Only one fire engine will be sent to an automatic fire alarm unless a phone call has confirmed the fire, as last year only 36 out of 2814 automatic fire alarms required the fire service to extinguish a fire. A new duty system is to be introduced so that more fire fighters are working at the times of day when fires are most likely.

The Chairman then introduced the guest speaker, Mrs Frances Hitchcock, to talk about the hedgerow survey.

Mrs Frances Hitchcock has become the co-ordinator for the hedgerow survey for Bruisyard. The survey is a County initiative supported by Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Wildlife Trust with the results going to the Suffolk Biological Records Department.

Volunteers from the village will conduct the survey with participants being given a map of Bruisyard with all the hedgerows numbered; there are more than 500 hedges. It is hoped to complete the project by the end of 2005. A representative 30m section of hedge is studied, recording the species present, the trees in the hedgerow and the condition of the hedge at the time of recording.

There is a training day for the volunteers on Saturday 14th May at Suffolk Wildlife Centre at Foxburrow Farm and at least 3 members of the survey team will be attending.

The landowners' permission has to be obtained to allow the volunteers access to hedges that are not on a public road. The survey in the future may be of significance to farmers who have applied for grants towards sustainable farming methods as the existence of hedges on the land carries a great deal of weight.

A number of people at the meeting were interested in the project and were willing to help carry out the survey on their own land.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Frances Hitchcock for coming and talking about the hedgerow survey.

There being no further business The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:45, inviting anybody who was interested to stay for the AGM of the Parish Council which followed immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.