

Minutes of the BRUISYARD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday, 23rd May 2011, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall, Bruisyard.

Apologies for absence:- apologies were received from Peter Robinson, Sonia Richards, Jeremy Holland-Howes, and Pc Mary Thompson .

John Marten, Vic-Chairman of the Parish Council took the Chair in the absence of Chairman Peter Robinson due to ill health. James Ingmire proposed that the minutes of Bruisyard Annual Parish Meeting for 2010 be accepted as a true record. John Marten seconded the proposal and all agreed.

1) Parish Council Report by Vic-Chairman:-

He welcomed everybody and thanked them for coming

a) Council Members: The Chairman introduced the Clerk and Councillors present, Thelma Barham, John McKee, James Ingmire and himself. He informed the meeting that there was a vacancy for a councillor at the moment and that the clerk wished to retire after 10 years in the job and the Council needed to find a replacement for her.

b) Charity Donations: The Council makes donations to those charities that are able to help resident in the village. This year support was given to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, the CAB, Age Concern and the Disability Advice Service.

c) Planning: There have been no planning applications in the last 12 months.

d) Precept: The precept has been increased this year by £100 to £1800 to keep inline with inflation.

e) Rural Coffee Caravan: We will be visited by the Rural Coffee Caravan next month on 15 June

They serve coffee tea and cakes and distribute leaflets on services available in the area and give advice as to who to contact for help.

f) Wine Tasting: The Parish Council have held a Christmas wine tastings in the Villages Hall which was a great evening and well attended and thanks go to Mr and Mrs Berwick for arranging the event and it is hoped, with their help, to hold another wine tasting event soon.

g) Other events: A Coffee Morning was held in April along with a plant sale and another will be held later in the year.

h) Play area: The planning for a children's play area in the park has started with a committee looking at designs and equipment. An application to the Big Lottery Fund to finance this project was unsuccessful as the proposals did not show sufficient need for the play area. A second proposal will be sent in shortly and it is hoped this will be granted.

j) Council Members: In the last 18 months 3 very long serving Members of the Council have stepped down, Shirley Smith, Margaret West and Eleanor Berwick. As a thank you to them for their services to the Council over the years the PC Members will present them with a ¼ size replica of the plaque featuring the Church by the artist Anne Smith.

2) Village Hall Report:- Given by David Smith, Secretary. At the end of the financial year the village hall accounts had a surplus of £2869.55 excluding payments due and Bruisyard Young People funds. This surplus will be held for future maintenance and repairs. The total expenditure on utility services was £1068.70 of which £663.24 was for heating and lighting. The charges for hiring the hall in 2011/12 have been kept at the 2010/11 levels.

The main developments during the year have been;

- the construction of the much needed storage shed which was completed in October by Simmons Builders Ltd. The cost was £4423 and was funded by the Big Lottery 'Awards for All' and from the SCDC 'Playspace' budget.
- the projector screen was which funded by BSAC.

- the window blinds which were funded by an SCC locality budget grant on the recommendation of Councillor Colin Hart.

Many successful events and charity fund raising activities have been held in the hall over the past year. Of particular note have been the Open Weekend on 23-25 July, the Harvest Celebration on 16 October, New Years Eve Party, Twelfth Night Party on 6 January and the ACC French Night on 12 February. The Village Hall committee is very grateful to our excellent resident group – ‘The Bruisyard Light Orchestra’ – for playing at many of these events and at the many dances and social evenings held over the year. There are now several regular activities held in the hall which are proving to be very popular; in particular the weekly Pilates course, social afternoons, monthly ‘soup and pud’ lunches, film nights, social evenings and of course the youth club, ‘Bruisyard Young People’ which meets on Wednesday evenings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank John and Theresa McKee for all their hard work arranging the ‘Soup and Pud’ lunches and the Tuesday afternoon social.

3) Bruisyard Social Amenities Committee AGM. Report given by John McKee, Chairman

a) Report and Accounts:- Events are run by this committee so that funds raised don’t necessarily have to go to the village hall but can be spent on any other need that requires funding in the village.

The big event they organized this year was the Open Weekend with the official opening of the Village Hall. There were 2 events organised jointly with the Church, The Harvest Supper and the 12th Night Party. Both were a sell out and much enjoyed.

They are holding another Open Weekend this year as part of the run up to the 2012 Olympics. The funds stand in the region of £1300 but the exact amount is not known as the treasurer Peter Robinson is in Hospital.

b) Elections:- All members of the committee have agreed to stand again. Jake Church has been co-opted onto the Committee in the last year. Anne Smith proposed that all be re-elected. Eleanor Berwick seconded this proposal and all agreed.

4) Bruisyard Young People:- Report given by youth leader Paul Church

The club was formed in March 2010, meeting every two weeks on a Wednesday evening at 6:00 and caters for children 6 – 14 years old with anything up to 16 attending. The aim of the club is to encourage the children to play constructively together at the same time as respecting each other and how they treat one another.

David Smith proposed a thanks to the youth leaders, John Marten, Nicola Able, Paul Church and Keelan Smith and recently Abigail Lee for all their hard work with the children. All present seconded this vote of thanks.

5) Police Report - PCSO Mary Thompson sent a report for the meeting:-

Between 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2010 there were no reported crimes in Bruisyard. There were 3 last year.

Crime Trend

There are still heating oil thefts occurring within the SNT. To guard against this security measures should be taken to frustrate offenders by improved lighting, putting in security measures for tanks and householders making regular checks.

Thefts of scrap metal, copper, lead etc are also occurring – bottom line – secure any valuables – sheds and outbuildings need to be secured and consider buying a shed alarm.

She is happy to be contacted by the public about any police matters. Framlingham Police Station number is 01473 613500

6) District Councillor Graham Peck:

Graham Peck introduced himself as the new district Councillor for the Hacheston Ward saying how delighted he was to have been elected as a District Councillor and how much he was looking forward to serving the community in the future. Having been brought up in Suffolk he then spent his working life first in the Navy and then in aviation. He serves as a Council Member for Little Glemham. At present he is in the process of taking over from Colin Hart who he said has done an excellent job over the years and will be linking up with him in his role as County Councillor.

In the days since the election considerable time has been taken up climbing a steep learning curve in respect of the structure, processes and protocols attached to the Suffolk Coastal District Council and its internal workings and as a new Councillor he is currently undergoing an induction process. Given the short time that he has had to grasp the SCDC issues he had little else to report but will no doubt, have more information for the PC next time.

County Councillor Colin Hart's Report:-

Following the government's comprehensive Spending Review, Suffolk county Council faces an unprecedented financial challenge. The Council's income is split roughly 50-50 between council tax and government grant. The government grant to local authorities will be reduced by around 28% over the next 4 years and this is being frontloaded which means the loss of income will be felt more heavily in the first two years.

The result is that Suffolk County Council had to make £42.5 million in cuts for the coming financial year and expects to have to make a further £50 million next year. Making cuts on this scale will inevitably mean employing fewer people and cutting back on some services. This means making difficult choices and taking unpopular decisions. Set against that is the fact that council tax is being frozen this year.

The County Council has been looking to divest itself of some of the activities it currently provides directly and is looking to the voluntary sector, social enterprises, the private sector and town and parish councils to provide these services more locally and more cost-effectively. This approach has been known as the New Strategic Direction.

The New Strategic Direction is not set in concrete and has already evolved in light of experience over the last six months and it is likely to change even further as a result of the leadership change at the end of May. Councillor Jeremy Pembroke announced he is stepping down and in his place Councillor Mark Bee will be confirmed as leader of the council at the AGM.

The County Council and the public sector as a whole will be going through a period of considerable change and upheaval over the next few years. Given the state of the national public finances, carrying on 'as normal' is not a practical option. What is important he concluded is to ensure the change is managed with as little disruption as possible.

7) Questions from the floor:-

John McKee asked if the District Councillor could do anything about Heritage Housing Association leaving one of their houses in the village empty for months even though there is one of their tenants in Saxmundham who wishes to transfer to the house. A letter from

Bruisyard PC Chairman to them concerning this house has not been acknowledged or replied to. Colin Hart said that housing associations were not accountable to district councils and there is little that can be done now the houses are no longer owned by Suffolk Coastal. He suggested that we could take the matter up with our MP. John Marten will bring the matter to the attention of his liaison office from Heritage as a tenant of that organisation.

Paul Church asked if anything could be done about badly maintained hedges that obstruct the road in a number of places in the area. Colin Hart will look into the problem but pointed out that the responsibility for hedge cutting lies with the owners of the land and the Highways Department endeavour to make them comply with this duty.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all those present for coming to the meeting and the meeting closed at 7:50pm