

Minutes of the BRUISYARD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday, 24th May 2005, at 7.30 in St Peter's Church, Bruisyard.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr and Mrs Marshall and Mr Oliver Hitchcock.

Chairman's Report:-

The Chairman, Mr Peter Robinson, welcomed those present and introduced the serving councillors. Mrs Jan Donegan has left the village and therefore no longer sit on the council and Mr John Mckee has taken her place. 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 risen this to £1000 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 Air Ambulance, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, the CAB and the Disability Advice Service.

4) The Parish Plan: This is nearly completed and will be printed out and distributed to every household shortly. The Chairman thanked everybody for filling in their questionnaires. Mr David Smith was thanked for all the hard work has put into the final document, which will be used as a reference point for the council's decisions.

5) Parish Park: The Council has had the ditch in the park dredged to solve the flooding problem on Rendham Road, David Barham has cultivated and seeded the area where the spoil from the ditch was spread and this is now growing well. A litter-pick in the Park and around the rest of the village was organized in April and the District Council took the rubbish away.

A resident has donated hanging baskets for the notice board by the gate, for which the Council is grateful.

6) Village Sign: The village sign has been replaced; the old ceramic one was damaged beyond repair. Anne Smith designed and executed a replacement based on the original design. This is cast into aluminium and hopefully will last longer, only requiring a little paint now and again. Thanks were given to her for all her many hours of hard work she put into producing a very attractive result.

7) Planning: There have not been any controversial planning applications in the parish during the year. Planning consent has been granted for the development of the barn at Bruisyard Hall into a conference centre with accommodation facilities.

8) Wind Farm at Parham: The Council have had some lengthy debates about the proposed Wind Farm at Parham and concluded that commendable as wind power is, the proposed site is not suitable, and have submitted our findings to the District Council for their enquiry.

9) Village Hall: A sub committee of councillors and parishioners has been set up to investigate the possibility of acquiring a Village Hall and will hold it's first meeting soon. This committee will also oversee the installation of play equipment in the Park. The Chairman asked for further volunteers to sit on this committee. Mrs Michael Gander, Mrs

Nicola Able and Mr Roger Kindred put themselves forward. The Chairman thanked them for their commitment.

Mr Peter Robinson welcomed the guest speaker Mr David Smith, Chairman of the Parish Plan steering committee, who gave a presentation on the Parish Plan.

Mr David Smith began by giving the reason for carrying out the Parish plan. The Government wants local people to take control of the investment and activities in their own environment. He pointed out that there are funds available from various sources for projects and other villages in the area had accessed these for their big projects. Bruisyard, so far has not had any funding for a major project. There is a lack of social amenities in the village but before applying for funding for a project, such as a village hall, a need had to be proven.

It was agreed at a meeting last July to carry out the plan and the steering committee had their first meeting in August. The questionnaire was developed and delivered, by hand in November to every household in the village. 126 completed questionnaires were then collected in early December, which covers the views of nearly 90% of the village's population. The Parish Council, who has funded the project, has endorsed the plan and the next step is to print out copies and deliver a copy to all households in the village.

Mr Smith illustrated the results of the questionnaire with slides and introduced the Councillors who will take the lead for the issues covered. The comments from the questionnaire made it clear that people would welcome a lot more social activity in the village. There was a wish expressed for more recycling facilities. Most people liked Bruisyard as it is and did not want a lot of new development but were prepared for a small amount and the development of existing buildings for commercial use with the hope of creating local jobs

The Chairman thanked Mr David Smith for his excellent presentation and asked for any comments from the audience.

Mr John Barham was concerned at the condition of the churchyard and felt there were too many saplings being allowed to grow in the centre, which will restrict the room for further graves. There is a working party to cut the churchyard arranged for the following week and Mr Peter Robinson agreed to meet Mr Barham on site to discuss the problem then.

Mr Terry Gander expressed the view that there were more large lorries using the village's roads as a short cut through. Mr David Smith has also noticed a large number of lorries on the A1120 early in the morning and queried whether it should have A road status considering the width of the road is very limited in places. It is thought that the use of satellite navigation systems have contributed to the problem with it being an A road.

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

Mr Colin Hart complimented the steering committee on producing a Parish Plan that was clear and relevant. He pledged his help on the questions of education, recycling and any improvements to the traffic on the A1120.

Mr Hart told those present that the major issue facing the District Council again this year is how to balance the budget, with cost rising the increase from central Government does not make up the difference, leaving over £1 million gap on a budget of £12 million even with 4.9% increase in the share of council tax. This gap has been closed by making savings and implementing efficiencies, hopefully without a reduction in services. Two areas Mr Hart is responsible for, community grants and investment in information technology remain unaffected.

Finance will still be a major challenge in the year to come. Another challenge will be waste management, with determination to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount that goes to landfill. A major review is under way on how to achieve this which will involve parishes.

Mr Hart has been involved in the fight to get the one stop health centre in Saxmundham having had two meetings with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust. Unfortunately the PCT is heavily in debt and refuses to countenance the scheme while it remains the case.

The other issue facing the ward is the Parham airfield wind farm application and in his mind the issue is as simple one: is the need for these turbines so great that it is worth disfiguring the landscape and damaging the quality of life of people living so close to it. His answer is a clear no and he will do everything to urge officers and fellow councillors to reject the application.

A discussion followed on the way the garden waste bins were distributed and the lack of consultation as to who needed to have one and the fact that it wasn't easy to have them removed. Mr Hart agreed the distribution was not as sensitive as it might have been.

Mr Hart continued his address in his new capacity as County Councillor for the Framlingham ward, which covers 23 villages in the area.

The Conservative group, of which he is a member, now hold control of the County Council are determined to run the County Council more efficiently and have made the following policy decisions:- recruitment of none front-line staff is frozen until a need is proven, money to be spent on services rather than top heavy administration. They intend to work more closely with district and borough councils to deliver better services, particularly with waste management and recycling and give better value for money.

He personally would like to see an improvement in the relationship between central government and local government.

They plan a number of new initiatives:- dealing with anti-social behaviour, ensuring better care for older people in their own homes, increasing investment in roads, offering a broader range of after-school activities, freeing up council owned land for affordable housing and introducing a 20 mph limit outside schools.

He feels very honoured to be representing one of the loveliest parts of Suffolk and will do his best to represent the electors.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hart for coming and giving his reports.

A welcome was extended to new members of the village at the meeting, Rosie and John Gibb of Vyne Cottage and to Abigail of 1 Vicarage Cottages.

The date of the next Council meeting will be 19th July in the Vestry. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30 pm