

## **BRAMERTON PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2016 in the Village Hall.**

**Present:** Mr D. Blake (Chairman), Mrs V. Knowles, Mrs G. McArthur, Mr G. Shaw, Mr R. Simmonds, Mr R. Smith, Mr K. Wheeldon, and Mr B. Ansell (Clerk). Also attending Mr V. Thomson (District Councillor) and 14 Parishioners.

1. **Opening remarks:** The Chairman welcomed those present, especially our guest speaker –Liam Pickering
2. **Apologies for absence** were recorded for Dr A Darwood..
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 27th April 2015,** Together with the Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, which had been circulated to the meeting, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. **Chairman's report.** The Chairman stated that parishioners would have an opportunity to state their views, on the main issues facing the Council, a little later on.
5. **South Norfolk District Councillor's Report.** Cllr Vic Thomson, introduced Liam Pickering, from the Council's Housing, Health & Well Being – Independent Living Team – to report on South Norfolk's latest initiative in helping people live independent lives.
6. **Norfolk County Councillor's Report.** Cllr Roger Smith, commented on his recent "Current Issues & Concerns" - his monthly newsletter (available on line) to Parish Councils which gave details of particular matters concerning the Henstead Division which he represents, Of note was his concerns for the disruption to Poringland with Anglian Water's replacement of water mains and sewage drains and the changes to the timetable in September for the No 85 bus service. The Chairman thanked him for his report.
7. **Village Reports:**
  - a. **St Peter's Church.** Chris Hawes presented the report and thanked everyone for their support in particular the clergy, the PCC and parishioners. Attendance remained static but low. The costs of maintaining St Peters Village Church with major works now required to the roof and to the Church Fabric (damp in the vestry) was an ever increasing burden to the small and mainly elderly congregation and would require significant fund raising. He thanked the Parish Council for their contribution towards the Church clock maintenance, the cutting of the grass in the churchyard, and parishioners for their support.
  - b. **Bramerton Relief in Need Charity.** Dick Meadows Trustee and Secretary, gave the report again noting that despite a change of name to "Bramerton Helping Hands" only one award was made in 2015 but stressed that the Charity was always



open to applications for financial assistance for those in the Village in time of need.

- c. **Bramerton Society:** Keith Wheeldon presented the report of events in the year. The usual range of activities had taken place consisting of a Treasure Hunt, talks, the popular quiz & supper night, and the programme for 2016 noted The Village Picnic for the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations (June 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm) and a visit to The John Innes Centre.

A tree in the memory of Brenda Hawes had been planted in the Churchyard and A "Community Orchard" had commenced with heritage fruit trees planted in the former meadow adjacent to the Allotments.

- d. **Village Hall Committee:** Geoff Shaw Chairman of the Village Hall committee noted that the Village Hall provided an important centre for both the Village and the Community and was well used despite changes by Sunbeams. The Hall was in good order with further maintenance on the floors and replacement lighting. Financially it was successful - thanks to all the Members of the Village Hall Committee.

## 8. Parishioners Questions

In introducing "parishioners questions", the Chairman drew parishioners attention to the significant fall in the end of year balances shown in the latest accounts which had given rise to the 44% increase in the Parish Council's precept. The work to the parish trees, registration of parish lands & property, and the replacement/refurbishment of the Village sign had been the main issues. Geoff Shaw outlined the difficulties and obstacles of registering the parish lands which had created significant financial costs to the Council; the abundance of mature trees in the Parish which required work to keep them safe; and finally the Village sign which had been felled in a motor accident over 3 years ago. Protracted negotiations initially with the Insurance Company, later with the chosen Contractor, has resulted in the Sign kept in storage and now believed beyond repair. A number of questions and comments from the floor were received relating to the Sign, siting, refurbishment or replacement. The resolution was to pass the issue back to The Bramerton Society and their new Chair person –Mrs Jane Wheeldon.

**The Chairman** then closed the meeting, and invited Liam Pickering – Team Leader of South Norfolk's Independent Living Team to address the meeting outlining the ways in which this new exciting initiative from South Norfolk would attempt to provide continued independent living for residents in South Norfolk with a wide range of support services to keep people in their own homes and delay or prevent the need for increased levels of support.

The presentation was followed by refreshments.

.....(Chairman).



21-05 meeting closed.

