

COUNBRAMERTON PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2015 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. R.Bennett, (Chairman),Cllr D. Blake,Dr A.Darwood, Cllr G Shaw, Cllr R Smith, B. Ansell (Clerk) and 11 Parishioners.

1. **Opening remarks:** The Chairman welcomed those present, especially our guest speaker -Ann Stephens.
2. **Guest Speaker** – Ann Stephens – Engagement Officer for Norfolk Healthwatch gave a short talk on the role of Norfolk Healthwatch in the new style NHS which monitored services provided by Hospital Trusts, General Practitioners, Social Services and the Public's perception of those services. The Chairman thanked her for her presentation.
3. **Apologies for absence** were recorded for Councillor Joan Coles.
4. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 28th April 2014**, having been circulated to the meeting, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
5. **Chairman's report.** The Chairman Cllr Rob Bennett reported on the Council's activities since the last meeting. Further work has continued to register all Parish Council properties with the H.M.Land Registry, however the Village Sign has yet to be re instated but hopefully this will be achieved shortly. Other matters included Boat waste at The Common where for many years the Broads Authority had arranged a clearance. Unfortunately the Parish Councils efforts to provide a replacement service with the grateful assistance of both Sue Thomson and Officers of the SNDC had not provided a permanent solution to resolve matters and the Store had now been removed.

Keeping the Council's grounds in good order was a significant cost. Work on various trees has highlighted the need for a financial contingency fund to cover this work . Whilst trees can enrich the landscape, and Bramerton has many mature trees, their care and maintenance can come at a high price.

The Chairman drew attention to the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2015, as circulated, noting that it had left a healthy balance for the coming year.

The death of Councillor Brenda Hawes earlier in the year was recorded having served for almost 20 years as Councillor, Vice and Chairman of the Council. She would be sorely missed by the many parishioners to whom she had served so well over two decades.

Finally the Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors, District & County Councillors and the Clerk for all their efforts in the year; he reminded parishioners that Parish Council meetings are open to the public and that they are all welcome to attend.

6. **South Norfolk District Councillor's Report.** Cllr Sue Thomson, reported that South Norfolk District Council had again frozen Council Tax; was looking to improve sports facilities in Poringland & Long Stratton; and to remain financially secure in an increasing fragile economy. On other matters, particular note was the continuing action being taken by South Norfolk Council with other Councils to improve recycling within Norfolk; Building Control based at South Norfolk was looking to regionally expand across East Anglia; and more locally to have provided grants to assist local projects. Finally, having achieved more than she had hoped over 12 years, including Chairman of SNDC, she would not be standing in the May elections. The Chairman thanked her for her long service and assistance over the years and County Councillor Roger Smith presented her with a bouquet of flowers as a token of the Council's appreciation.

7. **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 future of adult education service, the controversial removal of lay bys from the A146, pot holes; and the threat of more schools in special measures .Locally, remedial work on drains and gripes to prevent flooding at both ends of The Street, the replacement of the Post Box in Easthill Lane and the resurface of the footpath along The Street had all been carried out following his intervention. The Chairman thanked him for his report.

8. **Village Reports:**
 - a. **St Peter's Church.** In the absence of Chris Hawes, Churchwarden, Geoff Shaw Church Treasurer - presented the report and thanked everyone for their support in particular the clergy, the PCC and parishioners. The costs of maintaining a Village Church and remedial works to the Church Fabric was an ever increasing burden to the small and mainly elderly congregation but otherwise the Church was in good order. 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 a change of name to "Bramerton Helping Hands"emphasised a change in direction but stressed that the Charity was always open to applications for financial assistance for those in the Village in time of need. He noted that the Charity was dependant on its

rents for income and were currently in correspondence with tenants to raise rents to appropriate levels for 2015.

- c. **Bramerton Society:** Keith Wheeldon presented the report of events in the year. The usual range of activities had taken place consisting of talks, the popular quiz & supper night, litter pick, and the programme for 2015 noted an expansive range of visits, boat outing through Norwich, and a Treasure Hunt.

It was hoped to plant a tree in the memory of Brenda Hawes after appropriate consultation.

- d. **Village Hall Committee:** Rob Bennett noted that the Village Hall provided an important centre for both the Village and the Community and was well used. The Hall was in good order with refurbished Kitchen and toilets and further maintenance was planned for the floors and replacement lighting. Financially it was successful - thanks to all the Members of the Village Hall Committee.

9. Questions from the floor:

First Bus had introduced a scheme for a pass for passengers to show to drivers of their buses if they needed help when accessing a bus. Roger Smith had details.

The Chairman then closed the meeting, after which refreshments were served.

.....(Chairman).

21-05 meeting closed.