DRAFT

**ALDBOROUGH and THURGARTON**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MONDAY 20th MAY 2019**

**Present:** Cllr. P. M. Elliott (Chairman) Cllr. T. Gibbons (Vice Chair Parish Council),Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. D.G. Gallant, Cllr. P. Hall, Cllr. A.Hicks

**In attendance:** Mrs. S. Hayden -Locum Clerk

Mr. J. Winnett - Highways Engineer

Representatives of: Community Centre Committee; Village Care; Aldborough Players; Aldborough Allotment Association; Wildlife Club; Fete Committee; Stepping Stones; Cricket Club; Chapel; Church.

24 members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES:** Cllr.Ruth Elliott, F. Brown, F. Broadbent

**2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of 9th April 2018 (Approval)**

The Chairman proposed the minutes be approved as a true record, no objections or amendments were received and they were signed at the end of the meeting.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

None that would not be covered by the following Agenda

**4. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN covering the activities of the Parish Council and presentation of new draft Management Scheme for The Green**

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors and previous Clerk for their work over the past year – there were now three new Parish Councillors making a full Council of seven. Special thanks were given to David Wayne who had been a Parish Councillor for many years and who was moving from the village. Thanks were also given to all volunteers contributing to work in the village.

In the past year, the Parish Council had spent time on the Exception Housing proposal for Doctors Corner and Broadland Housing Association had visited to consult with the Parish Council on the site. Other potential development sites in the village were included in the Local Plan.

Speed signs had been shared on an eight-weekly basis with Erpingham, Ingworth and Alby. Most recording were for 30mph, but the A140 to the bridge recordings were regularly 50 – 60mph. Volunteers had moved and operated the signs. They had been paid for by County Councillor John Timewell.

The village websit*e* was temporarily out of action, but there was a link to the Parish Council website, which was being developed.

The funding for the bus shelter was now in place, with a Parish Partnership grant being agreed. This would be clear, with a green frame and set off the ground.

The Village Sign – In 2018 the design agreed was of a fair on white oak. A competition held for the other side resulted in a cricket scene winning. Cllr. Gallant who was dealing with the sign advised that he had received some design work, but would be looking for further designs towards the end of summer and in the autumn, before the Parish Council would be able to make a decision. There was then a short discussion on the sign and bus shelter.

The Chairman then commenced the presentation, on screen, of the draft Management Policy, explaining that it had been twelve months in the making and was intended to explain how and why The Green was managed for the village. It would be available on the Parish Council’s website during the consultation period to 24th June 2019 and in its approved form from then, with further methods of availability being considered. Explanations followed on the Management Scheme (a legal document), legalities around existing and proposed parking and use of The Green, maps to show proposed and current parking areas and proposed and possible methods of preventing driving on The Green. Questions were raised from the floor and answered and the Chairman confirmed that comments and suggestions were welcomed on the Policy, with forms being available at the meeting if required.

**5. Report by the Community Centre Committee**

The report given by the Community Centre Committee is annexed to these minutes

**6. Report by Highways Officer**

Highways Officer John Winnett (also shown as star of screen in his acting persona!) then answered various questions raised re: speeding and maintenance in the villages. On speeding, he explained that 20mph speed limits were always desired but impossible to enforce. He would be interested to see the SAM2 results. He explained speed calming influences, the most effective being houses/people. Village gateways can be used to indicate edges of villages, but signs would not affect high speed. Enforcement action would be taken if high speeds were recorded and results of SAM2 signs would support Police being asked to take action. There was no money in the NCC budget to change speed limits other than with evidence of accidents over three to five years, although it could be developer led. The benchmark was set by Norfolk Police. Developer led tended not to produce compliance. It also has to be considered that more signs/road markings were ineffective after a while and led to urbanisation of small villages. Discussion and answers to questions followed on speeding and heavy traffic through the village, including the process of changing the speed limits. The Highways Officer suggested that very often discussions with local farmers can result in different routes more acceptable to the village,being used during busy times of the year, such as sugar beet lifting. Damage to highways and the method of reporting was then discussed, together with spraying of glyphosate and how to object by petition. The Chair then thanked Mr. Winnett for his contribution to the meeting.

**7. Reports from Village Organisations**

**Village Care**

Village Care performed three functions in the village. The first was lunches on a Tuesday at £5 per head with tea and coffee, when the bar was also open. The lunches were cooked from scratch by volunteers. There were 45 members and anyone was welcome to attend at the Chapel from 12.30 to 2pm. The second function was providing transport to such as medical appointments, doctors’ surgery, Cromer Hospital and Norfolk & Norwich Hospital. There had been a falling-off in requests but it was not known why. It was confirmed that the finances of Village Care were reasonable, but there was a need to generate income. The third function was cafes where dementia care was the background. These had become a regular village event, with the last one being hosted by the School where books from the childhood of those taking part had been shared with the pupils and enjoyed by both.

**Aldborough Players**

It had been a busy year for Aldborough Players who had put on a Murder Mystery and such was the popularity it could have run for two nights not one. There had been a Pantomime in February and the summer production would be “A Bunch of Amateurs” – tickets available in the village shop.

**Allotment Association**

The Association’s report was read out and is annexed to these minutes.

**Aldborough Gardening Club**

The group had received funding for herb planting at the Surgery and had a garden plot on the allotments. This was organic/sustainable and was so successful it could give surplus produce to the lunches and flowers were available for any group if needed. The Club had £3,000 to invest in the Surgery planting and had donated £500 to the Church Room for maintenance. There were two vacancies on the Committee. Social events were held. Details of the Club are on their own website.

**Wildlife Group**

The Group were looking for more members, currently membership stood at 35/40. They had eight talks and outings during the year, including June moth trapping

**Village Fayre**

This was on 23rd June 2019 at 12 noon, with a small group helping. It would be a traditional event this year not a money making event, although any profit would be donated to the Hedgehog Preservation Society. There would be 35 stalls, Norfolk rare breed sheep, a fire engine and farm machinery. The Norfolk Rivers Trust would attend and there would be scything around the Pond. There would also be Morris Dancers, a dog show, donkeys, a blacksmith and step dancing.

**Stepping Stones**

The Chair of Stepping Stones preschool group reported that there had been a loss over the last financial year of nearly £12,000 and the year before £10,000 loss. The group was still viable due to reserves from previous years. The Easter Egg Hunts had been successful and raised £4,000 and £6,000. The group had applied to a sustainability grant from NCC and had received £10,000 to break even this year. The Chair was not sure whether another grant would be available next year. The pre-School leader work tirelessly, but unfortunately had health problems this year. The Farmers’ Market every month raised £100 approximately. Stepping Stones was a feeder to the Primary School and if it had to close, there would be a knock-on effect on the School. The Chair was highlighting the problems so that the village are aware. There followed a discussion on funding.

**Cricket Club**

The Club was in good shape and was going into the season with a good green. The team went up to Division III last season. The Wednesday team was in good shape and even oversubscribed. The Sunday team had pulled out of the League and was now playing friendlies. The children’s sessions on Monday night were very popular, with 45 children. With the pub being closed in 2018, the Community Centre had helped with the bar. The Club was stable financially, supported by sponsors, ex-players and the Vice President who had been very generous.

**Chapel**

The Chairman reported for the Chapel, who held lunches once a month and the Mens Club with approximately twenty members.

**Church**

The Chairman also reported for the Church. There had been benefice changes to include Aylsham. The new young Vicar now looking after the Church may start to hold meeting in the Church Room.

**8. Public Questions, Representations and Discussions**

There was a short discussion on the benefice changes and Church magazine.

It was requested that the Parish Council minutes be reported in “In Touch”

There was an update on the Tractor run which has proved popular

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm