



Fakenham Magna Parish Council

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held at Honington & Sapiston Village Hall, Committee Room at 7:30pm on Tuesday 10th May, 2016

PRESENT:

Cllr. A Jones
Cllr. R Johnston
Cllr. D Reay
Cllr. P Morgan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J O'Brien (*Clerk*)
[REDACTED] (*RFO*)
Mr E Wortley
County Cllr. J Spicer

FMPC31/16 OPENING AND NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Johnston proposed Cllr. A Jones to remain as Chairman seconded Cllr. Morgan. Cllr. Jones accepted, and duly signed Declaration of Acceptance.

FMPC32/16 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllr. M Rozier, Suffolk Police, A Blenkiron

FMPC33/16 NOMINATIONS OF OTHER COUNCIL OFFICERS

Cllr. Jones proposed that Cllr. Johnson should remain Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Morgan, accepted.

FMPC34/16 APPOINT MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Johnston proposed the Cllr. Reay should continue as representative at the Barnham Village Hall committee meetings, seconded by Cllr. Morgan.

FMPC35/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May, 2015 had already been approved and signed at the meeting of the Council on 7th July, 2015.

FMPC36/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGM

There had been no matters arising.

FMPC37/16 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman reported that 2015 had seen six meetings held during the year to progress the business of the Council. Peter Morgan had joined and we now have a full complement of Councillors. A number of projects have been completed:

- The erection of new notice board and litter sign
- The repainting of the phone box
- The publishing of new web site
- The purchase and placement of new grit bins – as yet to be filled
- Approval of new financial regulations

Other projects that have occurred in the Parish

- New kissing gates on footpaths
- New gates installed to field by church
- Finish of road resurfacing.

There is a lot of unfinished business to attend to this coming year:

- The status of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme



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- Footpath sign
- The progress of the Friends of St Peter's Group
- Highways – white lines broken at Broom Hill

No events had been held during the year. Thanks to Dave for his continued attendance at the Barnham Village Hall Committee meetings, and Jane for attending Honington Camp Liaison Committee meetings. Thanks also go to [REDACTED] for her continued diligence and hard work as RFO, and to all councillors Ray, Dave, Mark, and Pete for their support in progressing the business of the Council. Thanks to Edward who has continued to record the village's history as it happens, and has been busy cataloguing many artefacts found in the parish fields. Finally, thanks to Joanna and Paula for their continued support for the welfare of the parish.

FMPC38/16 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cllr. Jones proposed acceptance of accounts, seconded by Cllr. Morgan. RFO then read out and completed the Accounting Statement and the Governance Statement, it was then proposed by Cllr. Morgan, and seconded by Cllr. Johnston that the Governance Statement be approved and Cllr. Jones then proposed the Accounting Statement also be approved as true and correct, seconded by Cllr. Morgan.

FMPC39/16 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Thanks to Chairman, members, clerk etc. for the welcome and keeping me in touch – both at meetings and when needed in between meetings. The County Council remains very committed to retaining essential front line services – despite massive cuts in government grant and we expect more to come. Savings of over £170m in last 4 years. £34.4m this year and a further £75m to come over next 2 years – HUGE amounts of money and really difficult. The County Council element of the council tax has now been frozen for the 6th consecutive year, however, after some considerable debate and worry we did accept the Government's request to add 2% levy to the council tax to go towards the rising costs of adult social care. Schools: education remains a top priority and you are aware how concerned I have been that not all schools in Suffolk were rated "Good" or "Outstanding" by OFSTED and how low Suffolk was in the various league tables Statistics can tell any story – good and bad – but I can now report an increase in good and outstanding schools in the county (up to 80%) and we have moved significantly up league tables for key stage 3 and GCSE results. I have had 2 recent meetings at Barnham School and remain anxious about the state of the building and lack of space. I recently met with the Assistant Director for Schools and am now hopeful (but not certain) they will have a temporary classroom unit in place in September. The school would have been over-subscribed for next term but I am not sure where children live who have missed out on a place. Ixworth Free school continues to grow in numbers and they have a superb new extension. Transport is provided from Barnham to both Thurston Community College and to Ixworth Free School. Waste – very pleased that incinerator (energy from waste facility) now open and fully operational – and will mean no more waste to landfill, energy for growing veg and saving per annum of £8m. We still need to resolve the location of a new transfer station in BSE which is proving to be controversial in planning terms! Roads: biggest concern to public and parish councils. Contract now with Keir May Gurney – many of our staff have



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transferred to them. Problems of potholes worse than ever after flooding but working through backlog – also resurfacing programme. An extra £10m of capital funding for roads has been allocated this year but it may be difficult to get all schemes in the pipeline delivered. Adult care biggest pressure and responsibility – as well as important investment in child protection (700 children in care) and I still work on county fostering and adoption panel 2-3 days a month. For Fakenham Magna speeding remains a concern. I am totally committed to developing more schemes that slow the traffic down (traffic calming) and supporting the community Speedwatch. I have introduced regular meetings for all the parish councils on the Euston estate to discuss highways issues. One that needs to be pursued is the offer from the Estate to at least have some discussion about some form of path to link the centre of the village to the footpath starting beyond Park Ride cottages. My only contribution to Fakenham Magna this year from my locality budget was for new grit bins – but I am “saving” up helping you for when the great church conversion project takes off!

FMPC40/16 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

No report was available.

FMPC41/16 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS REPORT

The usual yearly report was unavailable.

FMPC42/16 LOCAL HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT

Edward Wortley reported that the oldest resident of the village is now Mrs Joan Tunney who is 92 years old. No baptisms, weddings or funerals were held in the church during the year. Edward gave his sincere thanks to Fakenham Magna Parish Council for all its help and support along with kind individuals who have contributed to the Parish history files.

Cllr. Johnston proposed thanks to Edward for all his reports during the year.

A full copy of this report is attached to these Minutes.

FMPC43/16 Councillor's Report

Cllr. Johnston reported that the Church plans were progressing with the removal of the redwood tree and hedges trimmed.

FMPC44/16 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was agreed for Tuesday 9th May 2017 at Honington & Sapiston Village Hall, Committee Room, commencing at 07:30pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: