



WALDRINGFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 28 April 2009

Present: 41 Residents, Parish Councillors Kay, Matheson, Rayner, Archer, Videlo, Gold, Dale, Earle and Underdown, SCC Councillor O'Brien, Phil Embry of Suffolk Fire Service

- 1 Apologies for absence received from SCDC Cllr Veronica Falconer, Suffolk Police PC Michael Crisp, Max Pemberton and Betsy Reid.
- 2 It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 April 2008. Proposed by Cllr Underdown, seconded by Mrs C Fisher-Kay, all agreed. It was also resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Public Meeting held on 9 September 2008. Proposed by Mrs J Stredwick, seconded by Mr M Crawford, all agreed.
- 3 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 April 2008 and Parish Public Meeting held on 9 September 2008.
- 4 **The Chairman of the Parish Council, Ian Kay**, spoke to a visual power point presentation. His report included an introduction to the Parish Councillors and their responsibilities. Dates of future Parish Council Meetings were given and highlighted that they are open to the public, with an opportunity for residents to give information to the Council and ask questions. He went on to say that all information about the Council can be found by following the 'Parish Council' link on the web site at <http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/WaldringfieldPC/>
Ian went on to say it had been an extremely busy year for the Parish Council and in particular for the Clerk who had a lot of extra unforeseen work as well as 'learning the job'.
He gave an outline of what has happened to date regarding the BT Application for outline planning permission on Adastral Park. Upon checking the Suffolk Coastal District Council web site, 200 responses had been received so far, 5 in support, 135 against, and the rest being processed. It appears that more housing is to be allowed on green space after 2025. There are 15 changes in the new application. Suffolk Coastal District Council are staging an exhibition at Martlesham Parish Rooms on 29 and 30 April and Ian encouraged people to attend and write in again regarding this application. Don't rely on previous letters, and it would be helpful to say object or approve, otherwise it could be assumed that people are neutral about it.
With regard to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, the dwellings planned for Adastral Park fill a large amount of the government directive to Suffolk coastal District Council. However other sites specific to Waldringfield are mentioned. In particular Fishpond Lane is mentioned and causing some concern. So far 18 comments have been received by Suffolk coastal District Council, 17 objecting to the proposal.
The Boundary Committee report on unitary authorities has been delayed, and a revised consultation is taking place with a closing dated of 14 May and a decision expected to be announced on 15 July this year. The options are: the whole of Suffolk or an Ipswich/Felixstowe unitary (includes Waldringfield) with the rest of Suffolk.
Traffic Calming issues for Fishpond Road and School Road. The PC is trying to set up a working group and volunteers are needed.
The Parish Plan produced in 2004 needs updating. This working group also needs volunteers.
Two oak trees have been planted on the playing field and new equipment, funded by a play space grant, should be installed later in 2009.
The Post Office currently run from the Village Hall would become a mobile post office. The sub-postmaster responsible had found this would be more economic and more services could be available by having all services on a van which would visit all the surrounding villages, including Waldringfield three times a week.
The full report from the Chairman Ian Kay is published on the web site.

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5. **The Responsible Finance Officer of the Parish Council, Jean Potter**, reported the balance of accounts stands at £10,542.47 including accrued amount of £500 for new notice board and standard reserves. The precept having been held at £7,800 for 2007/8 and 2008/9 will be increased to £8980 in 2009/10. The Locality Grant of £500 will be used for the notice board at Cliff Road which should be installed shortly. Budgeted items increased due to a lot of extra and unforeseen work as already described by the Chairman. A draft summary of the accounts was available. The PCC has budgeted £1600 in grants for 2009/10 for PCC, Village Hall, Church Field and the Wildlife Group. The full budget for 2009/10 will be displayed on the Parish Council web site shortly and will be updated each month.
6. **Suffolk Fire Service. Mr Phil Embry** gave an interesting talk on fire prevention and answered questions with reference to the fire in Waldringfield on 13 January this year. With regard to fire hydrants, he explained that the fire service is not able to respond as they have done in the past. Two Hydrant Inspectors have been appointed and they have to cover the whole of Suffolk. There is an inspection and maintenance programme, but it would be helpful for residents to highlight where the hydrants are and report faulty ones to the fire service to pass onto the inspectors. Mr Embry will arrange for a map and list from current records to be sent to the Parish Council. In response to further questions Mr Embry explained that hydrants and water mains in villages are not always big enough for a really well developed fire which is why extra water bowsers are always drafted in. Narrow lanes do pose problems regarding access. Fire Service is consulted when planning applications are received by Suffolk Coastal District Council, and the Fire Service often makes recommendations, but the District Council makes the final decisions. Traffic Calming is not an issue when responding to emergencies. The Fire Service was to be congratulated on the way they worked and coped with the fire on 13 January, and this was endorsed by the whole meeting. Mr Embry thanked the meeting for inviting him and emphasised that if any householders had concerns regarding their own homes they could call the fire service for a free fire safety check and recommendation.
7. **Suffolk County Councillor Patricia O'Brien** reported a challenging year for all local authorities in Suffolk due to the local government review. Strategic projects requiring development and decision had not been helped by the surrounding uncertainty. Much time and effort had been expended on putting forward a business case for a single Suffolk unitary and also providing information to other local councils for the North Haven unitary. The School Organisation Review decisions in the Lowestoft and Haverhill areas will mean closure of middle schools. The decision on middle schools in Mildenhall and Leiston areas is expected in June. £150m is designated for 13 schools in Ipswich and Felixstowe, including special schools and pupil referral units. £3.8m is being invested into children's social work as a direct result of more children coming into care. Suffolk county Council has made £100,000 available to Citizen's Advice Bureau and £500,000 to Credit Unions to help families in difficulties during the economic downturn. £1m is being given to localities to fund capital transport schemes that address local priorities. Funding bids for reconstruction of the junction of Fishponds Road/School Road, and kerbing alongside the verge opposite the school in Waldringfield have been accepted. Council Tax increase for 2009/10 is 2.45% the lowest rise ever in Suffolk. Cllr O'Brien had objected to the proposed development on Adastral Park on the grounds of increased traffic levels and lack of an existing solution to problems of capacity on the A14/A12 and the Orwell Bridge, the effect on the character of villages and quality of life, and the unease that 1,010 homes might become 2,000 or 3,000.

BREAK FOR TEA AND COFFEE

8. **Church Field Trust. Christine Fisher-Kay** reported ongoing events and maintenance of the field. Trees and shrubs planted over the last few years appear to be doing well. An owl box is to be erected on a post at the lower end of the field, in collaboration with Waldringfield Wildlife Group. Christine reiterated a plea for dog owners to use the red doggie bin and clean up after their dogs. Also that dogs should always be kept on a lead as many people do not realise that dogs disturb wildlife, particularly the ground nesting birds which Trust members are trying to encourage.

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Tree Warden, Christine Fisher-Kay also reported planting of Oak Trees on Playing Field and Cherry Trees on Church Field. An oak tree was removed from the school boundary as much of the trunk had rotted. A large sycamore removed from a position close to the centre of the village and we may yet lose the cherry tree in the village hall car park. Coppicing of the trees at the school continues with Betsy Reid and the involvement of the children who also make shelters for wildlife. Much has been done with planting village verges. The hedgerow survey is almost complete. Christine also gave information on dead Elm, Horse Chestnut disease, and advice on ivy on trees.

- 9 **School Governors and Association.** Head teacher Sarah Rogers reported the school year so far had been extremely busy. She had taken up post at the beginning of the calendar year. A new motto has been adopted 'We care, we share, we learn together'. The school entrance has been improved with new doors and artwork. The school council continues to meet weekly, the children facilitate and clerk the meeting very effectively, whilst the rest of the school listens attentively. They chose to support three charities this year, EACH, Make a Wish and NSPCC. Our school was one of the first to achieve the Healthy School Status. There are opportunities for football, netball, dance and ICT clubs. Music and performance are important and 50 children went to Snape Maltings to perform as part of the Celebration of School's Music. Book Week was celebrated with visiting poets, authors and a book illustrator.
Waldringfield School Association's popular Christmas Fayre raised nearly £1,300 an astonishing amount for a small school. Other events included a Summer Fayre, Spooky Disco, Valentine's Disco and Spring Coffee Morning. Funds from this have bought a new PA system and a whole school boat trip to Ramsholt organised by Waldringfield Boatyard.
- 10 **Sailing Club Past Commodore Cathy Fish** reported strong competition in all classes home and away, most notable in the Lark Class with 8 of our 15 teams in the top 10 at the National Championships. A new galley manager has been engaged who in addition to everything else they do, have introduced Sunday lunches in the Autumn.
At the AGM in November it was agreed that a proposal for a Pontoon should be taken to the Parish Council and Fairway Committee. This was rejected by the Fairway Committee before the Parish Council Meeting so the Club agreed to consider another proposal. Members opinions are currently being sought before a Special General Meeting of the club is held to decide whether the proposal should be put forward.
- 11 **The Village Hall Trust** report was read on behalf of Max Pemberton. Income from bookings has been satisfactory. Additional income from the new Post Office arrangements has been most welcome. A number of successful fundraising events have been held. The Lottery continues to be popular with over 200 members. Thanks to residents for their support and thanks to the Parish Council for their grant each year.
- 12 **Waldringfield Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Association.** Mariah Skellorn highlighted the activities of the newest village group. There is a growing desire for allotment sites. It is not possible to restore any of the site formerly used as allotments in the village. A meeting with the Parish Council to discuss possible provision and the surrounding issues was most helpful. A varied programme of events encouraging gardening of all kinds is held during the year. Co-operating with Wildlife Group in taking part in a Suffolk wide survey of orchards extending into a survey of fruit tree varieties in the village.
- 13 **Waldringfield Baptist Church** Pastor Steve Wyncoll reported a lively and interesting range of activities for all ages and well attended Sunday Services. Recent visitors included a team of young people aged 18-22 from Capernwray Bible College in the Lake District. The first Church House Party was held last September at Sizewell Hall conference Centre. The church conducts regular school assemblies at Waldringfield, Bucklesham, Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary Primary Schools and the Pastor is Chaplain to Genesis (Special Needs Group) in Ipswich. The Church supports overseas missions, and has a special interest in three Romanian Orphanages.
- 14 **Waldringfield Wildlife Group.** Angela Mace highlighted the village verge project with 3,730 bulbs and 600 plant plugs planted in the roadside verges along with native wildflowers. This will benefit many insects, bees and butterflies.
The group is actively participating in the Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project.

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Seasonal reports are produced by Peter Maddison on local wildlife sightings, compiled from observations by residents. Many talks and events have been enjoyed during the year, and the group continues to campaign against developments which threaten wildlife habitats.

- 15 **Fairway Committee.** Richard Woolf reported the committee's rejection of the Sailing Club's proposal for a pontoon on the foreshore. The total moorings for the coming season will be 223 and the committee have approved laying of two 'Watch your wash' buoys at either end of the moorings. There are currently 28 people on the waiting list and the average time to be allocated a mooring is less than four years.
- 16 **Parochial Church Council** member Ron Payne reported that the PCC has worked hard to raise the money to pay the Quota or Parish Share paid to the Diocesan Board and highlighted the current years planned events. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their grant towards the upkeep of the graveyard.
- The Mothers Union continues with its monthly Holy Communion in the church and afternoon meetings in the Church Room.
- The Church Room Craft Group continues to flourish and its fundraising has supported the Children's Hospice and made curtains for the Church Room.
- The church has again been part of the unique Annual Yachtsmens Service on the river which is always well supported.
- Part of the Sunday Services includes the monthly popular Family Service for all ages with coffee and biscuits in the Church Room afterwards.
- The PCC is grateful to the Villagers for continuing support in giving money and time; cleaning the church, flower arranging etc. It is much appreciated.

WRITTEN REPORTS AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING and attached to these minutes are:

Suffolk Coastal District Council – Cllr Falconer

Suffolk Police – PC Michael Crisp

History Group

Neighbourhood Watch

Tennis Court Trust

Tree Warden

Village Hall Trust

Waldringfield WI

INVITED BUT REPORTS NOT AVAILABLE

Parent and Toddler Group

Wine Group

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