

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF GREAT ELLINGHAM HELD ON 19 APRIL 2017.

Present: Cllr Betts (Chair), Cllr Banks, Cllr Getley, Cllr Mellor, Cllr May, Cllr Perkins, Cllr Howe-Li-Rocchi, Cllr Snelling and Cllr Simpson. County Cllr Cliff Jordan, 18 members of the public and the Clerk to the Parish Council, Anne Rayner, were also in attendance.

- 1. Welcome and introduction – Councillor Tim Betts, Chairman –** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed Councillors and parishioners.
- 2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2016 –** The minutes, circulated in advance of this meeting, were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
- 3. Chairman’s Annual Report -** Copy attached
- 4. District Councillor’s Report –** Not available
- 5. County Councillor’s Report –** Copy attached
- 6. Reports from Village Organisations –** Copies of reports are attached from the following groups and organisations: Under 5’s, pre-school Further reports received on the evening were as follows:

Greenfingers – Report from David Edgar

The club continues to meet at the Crown during the winter months, thanks to William Mason. The 2016 indoor meeting highlight was an impromptu talk on bee keeping. Visits included; a local garden at Nelsons Loke, the Old Rectory at Barnham Parva and Simon Smith’s hydrangeas at Gressenhall. Summer visits will include Guy Barker’s garden at Shropham, Gooderstone Water gardens near Swaffham, Elsing Hall near Dereham and Dale Farm, also near Dereham. Membership has increased again, with 47 current members. Attendance at meetings is good. Although the club is based in Great Ellingham, members also attend from Rocklands. The club now has their own website greenfingersgardeningclub.org. The committee has arranged member discounts at Wymondham Garden Centre and Walnut Tree Nurseries. The Club is an associate member of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Great Ellingham Allotment Society – Report from Christine Arnold.

All the main allotments are filled. 10 Large plots and several mini plots are taken by Great Ellingham Residents or community groups. The Under 5’s and the Scouts have community group plots. There are also two junior plotholders growing a variety of crops, fruit, vegetables, salad and flowers for cutting. The friendly and welcoming nature of the allotment society means that everyone, whatever their age or experience, is welcome. There are a couple of free mini

plots and a very short waiting list, so now is a good time to get involved with growing your own.

Breckland Astronomical Society – Report from Dan Self

The group meets every Tuesday and come from all over Norfolk. The A11 makes the meeting place very accessible. Spencer Allan obtained a grant in 1995 to erect the observatory and the society currently has approximately 100 members. Everyone is welcome. Meetings tend to start at around 8pm. Dan kindly brought along some photos taken from the observatory, which were very well received.

St James' Church – Report from Charles Mason

Thanks to the parish council for their financial donation. This has been a difficult year, with the illness and subsequent retirement of Rev. Michael. Positive news includes the replacement of the south aisle door at a cost of £7000, Charles encouraged parishioners to come in to the Church to have a look. Charles also passed on thanks to Shane and Will Mellor for the new memorial gate and to Dennis Leech for the grass cutting of the churchyard.

Recreation Centre – Report from Mike Bowden

Mike reported that, although the income for the year increased by approximately £2500, most of this was lost covering the cost of damage sustained during the break-in last year. The centre is financially stable though, showing a profit of £4216 in the end of year accounts. There is currently an issue with obtaining bills for the supply of electricity but this should be resolved soon. The hall is thriving, with a high level of bookings, meaning that people enquiring about bookings are often turned away. Bingo and bonfire night are the most successful evenings, for the finances of the centre. Mike passed on his thanks to all the committee members.

51 Petanque Club – Report from Graham Beales

A grant of £4200 was obtained from Breckland District Council, this covered most of the cost of the installation of the terrain. The October "come and try" event was successful and seven new members have signed up, this is enough to start a second team. A pre-season friendly in March was a great success. The club is considering starting a social membership scheme, for those who would like to play socially, without taking part in league matches. The club will be meeting every Thursday until the end of September and everyone is welcome.

Great Ellingham Cricket Club – Report from Richard Ewin

Richard reported on a successful season for the club. Last year the club had teams of under 9s, under 11s, under 13s and under 15s. The club has 1 county age group player and 1 player who has recently left and is now in the Norfolk under 17's squad. There are 2 senior teams and the Saturday team was promoted last year to division 2. One club member recently broke a record which has stood since 1994, by hitting 166 not out in 42 overs. The club's aim is to gain promotion to the Alliance League and they would eventually like to establish a second Saturday team. Current projects in the

pipeline include a water supply to the wicket and nets. The club may approach the parish council for a grant in the near future. The club have been granted a premises licence.

Chit Chat Club – Report from Rev. Jan May

Between 45 – 60 people attend on a Wednesday morning. The club opens every Wednesday, unless it falls on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. The club continues to be a great success and a lifeline for some in the village and surrounding area. The club has been able to make the following donations during the last year; £200 to kidney research, £200 to Shelter, £200 raised to help a poorly pupil at the school, £565 to Marie Curie and also half the cost of the village defibrillator. The club also provided a toilet to a village in Africa and has donated knitted goods for Syrian refugees.

7. Matters of concern to Parishioners – Nothing raised.

8. To confirm the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting as 18 April 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.