

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Village of Snettisham held on Wednesday, 16th May, 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Cllr Ros Pugh [RP] – in the Chair (as SPC Chairman)

Bob and Avril Almey, Val Anderson, Mel and Heather Billington, Thelma & Stuart Bradley, Gerry Byrne, Stuart Dark, George Deverick, Chris Holt, Janet Lane, Carol Mardon, David Snelgrove, Edward Stanton, Diane Westwood. For part: Ian Devereux, Carol Bower. [NB list may not be complete]

Minutes taken by Simon Bower (as Clerk to the Council)

- 1 The **Chairman** welcomed all those present.
- 2 There were **apologies** for absence from David Lamplugh, and for lateness from Ian Devereux.
- 3 There being no objection, the **minutes** of the meeting on 10th May, 2017 having been circulated at the time, were signed as a true record.
- 4 **Chairman's** Remarks. RP thanked Borough and County Cllrs Dark, Devereux and Wright for their work, noting that Avril Wright had resigned and would be missed "very much". She added thanks to the Clerk, Parish Councillors and volunteers (Diane Westwood and Steve Rowland in particular). She referred to the extension of the TROD, and work on Southgate Lane including signage. Street Lighting was still an issue in Station Rd area, but problems appear to be resolving. The bus shelter had work planned to complete the renovation, as had two phone boxes taken over by SPC. 2017 Fete a great success – thanks to Barney Sheldon; good luck to Rachael for this year. Contractor changed and increased budget for ground works due to real problems last year. Plea for dog owners to clear up. WWI Centenary; great launch of Snett45 – more later. Litter bins: volunteers please at Common. Improvements then to Village and services, but precept slightly lower again. Thanks to Alf Todd, Diane Westwood, Sandra Pipe and John Bailey as retiring Councillors; welcome to George Deverick and Gerry Byrne; Council is important and can be "fun"; with election next year would be good to have fresh faces. Finally, thanks to WI for refreshments. [Clerk added comment on grass-cutting done earlier in day.]
- 5 **Report from County Cllr:** SD commented on: a busy year; a balanced budget in 17/18 and hopefully this year; opening of the Norwich Northern Distributor Road; need to lobby for A47 dualing; Southgate Lane improvements; TROD (NCC and SPC); planning issues at Sheepbridge resolved; average speed cameras – alternative being looked at; silica sand – AOS_A not included in next plan either, so protected until 2035; Children's Services – OFSTED happy and out of special measures - £162m to be spent on schools, 90% good or outstanding.
- 6 Reports from **Village groups** etc.:
 - a. **Common Volunteers** – Diane Westwood: after a public meeting in Sept 17, a group was formed – first met in Oct. Priority renovation of heathland to avoid further loss, mainly by removal of birch. Last session in Feb., with nature walk

Signed:

(Chair)

Date:

in March – next session in Autumn 18, with bat walks and beach cleans also planned. Evidence of greater diversity already – e.g. goldcrests. Grant from NWT for tools to be spent in summer. Thanks to Frimstone for aggregate for car parking area, and to volunteers for all hard work.

- b. **Snett45** – Stuart Dark: a way to mark one in six of adult male population lost in WWI. Three ways this being done. 1 - Who were these people? Research into life stories – look on web for life stories of 25 of the 45 so far (search “Snettisham remembers”). 2 - Ros Pugh, Revd Veronica Wilson and Stuart planning to visits all the graves around the world. Visits marked with a prayer, TORC with lavender and rosemary, and letter from School. All travel costs paid personally by RP/VW/SD. 3 - Fundraising for Scotty’s Little Soldiers and the Poppy Appeal. 8th June traveling to Canada. Canadian Air Force, Mounties, Mayor and local Indian Chief all joining in celebration of life of Colin Coleridge. Already a credence table which had been lost is being presented to the Royal Canadian Air Force Museum. 29th July a tour of 5 days to European battlefield cemeteries taking place. Cost £459 – need 20 to be viable – get in touch. £50 per person being returned to charities. On 11th November, we should know much more about the 45; a Church service and Memorial Hall open – descendants will be guests of honour. Snettisham a “beacon of excellence” according to British Legion. Finally, request to get involved and for donations as several local businesses are doing.
- c. **Friends of St Mary’s** – Edward Stanton (treasurer): the Friends raise funds to maintain the fabric of the Church and are not a religious organisation. Church is the only place where the heritage of the Village is on display, and many residents have never visited. Was a focal point when built and would be good to return to that. Many halls in Village but this the most imposing venue. £100K of work done on roof, plus £10K to repair damage done by attempted theft. West window partly restored. Drainage issues temporarily halted plans for hospitality area, but now an overall scheme for 21st Century being developed to look at heating, sound, seating, disabled access, kitchen and lavatories. Possibly also to include better access to views etc. Visitors’ book shows “joy and interest” from so many. Desire to make more accessible to children. Services recently for uniformed groups and cricket team, plus of course Snett45. Concerts for last three years – including one for 250 children with Classical Music Rocks this month. International artists – a great venue. Desire to keep building from 1340 relevant to future generations. Fundraising through grants etc. – Village cinema. Friends are roughly half and half congregation members and not – more needed. Few better sites – “jaw-droppingly impressive” – 172’ spire, second only to Norwich Cathedral in the County.
- d. **Heritage Group** – Thelma Bradley: originally more involved in the Church fabric – e.g. with kitchen etc. More focused now on the gathering of information. Display boards have been in Church for five years, dealing with stone age to more recent; now looking more at the people of the Village, in a dozen or so folders – new additions most weeks. Problem with storing artefacts; need to work with Village and PC. Thanks to PC for support. Need for more people to be actively involved.
- e. **Women’s Institute** – Janet Lane: meets 2nd Thursdays – great speakers, book club, ten-pin bowling etc. Worked with Snett45 on displays in Church. 95th

- Anniversary – original driving force Lady Strickland; no longer do members have to be invited! Moving base to RBL Hall in near future.
- f. **Halls Foundation** – Chris Holt: Chris' 18th year as administrator. Grants are given to those aged between 18 and 25, once they have lived in the Village one year. Last year 21 grants of £250 awarded at 11+; for Further Education 26 of £250 were awarded (each year of college or apprenticeships – latter not widely known); 25 awards of £1,800 to those in Higher Education. Foundation also gives to educational institutions (including Smithdon HS). Trustees do interview practice with young people, and are always inspired by the quality; proud of them.
 - g. **Allotments** – Chris Holt: currently full, with waiting list – 66 plot holders. Chris attributed his tan to Snettisham air. A good sense of community – people are welcome to visit, and sample, in particular, his rhubarb.
 - h. **Bowls Club** – Chris Holt: acts as groundskeeper and chairman. Green is on a slight slope which gives home advantage in early part of matches! Average age has dropped recently with one or two younger members – should not be thought of as an "old man's sport". Plays in two leagues on average three nights per week.
 - i. **Memorial Hall and Field** – Clerk read written report: worked hard to improve facilities. Support from PC and Cricket Club. Better grass-cutting machine bought. Pavilion lavatories improved, with paint, new floor etc. – help from Cricket Club. Improving shower area with grant from NPFA. Leak under pavilion, and wall hit by dustcart; both now fixed, latter through insurance. Hall loos improved – help from PC. Christmas Party well-attended but Bingo session becoming less popular. Loss of revenue from playschool – other funding avenues investigated. Co-op loyalty scheme place awarded, and now involved in the Borough Lottery – please support.
 - j. **Sailing Club** – written report read by Clerk: 70 visitors attended Open Day on May 13th – new members and courses booked. Train from eight upwards; full programme of racing and training etc., including social sailing. Runs from March to October and is "surprisingly affordable".
 - k. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Clerk: PC believes this is complete – out for Borough consultation; hope no new comments to consider. Previous consultation caused mainly changes in wording, not to actual policies. Possible Inspectors have been sent copies by BCKLWN, and will take 2-4 days once officially started, though there may be a backlog before they can begin. Referendum on simple majority of Village; then is a legally binding document as with local and national policies. When referendum date known, further Open Days to be held. Copies of Plan available at the meeting.
 - l. **Townlands** - Clerk: land let to Ken Hill – total income c.£500. 17/18 financial year ended with c.£4050, minus one payment to be made in this year. No expenditure, so no public benefit, though accrual of funds will enable this at some point. Much more activity this year to resolve the position of the lease. Charity and Ken Hill clearly have different views, but meetings held are looking at way forward.
 - m. **Additional:** [Clerk noted that all groups were keen for volunteers, and that this applied in all aspects of Village life.] George Deverick reported for the **Scouts** (and Guides etc.): an exciting time; new hall has planning permission,

and funds from sale of old building will soon be available. Lottery has raised £2,600 over last two years, which also helps with grant applications - 50 supporters. Norton Hill and Glebe Car Boots have also added £5,000. Open meeting coming up to show off activities. Jimmy's Field being used more, also generated £3,000.

- 5 [cont... Ian Devereux now present.] **Report from Borough Cllr:** Ian reported on a super year, having enjoyed being a portfolio holder. He had been heavily involved with people and issues, particularly planning matters. Was on several boards etc. dealing with waste, coastal and maritime matters. Bins & fly-tipping were regularly asked after, and successful prosecutions for the latter. Also, safety and nuisance issues – prosecutions here too.
- 7 **Questions and comments:** Avril Almey thanked Halls Foundation for assistance to family member. Edwards Stanton on the outstanding record of the Cricket Team, - 2½ years without defeat; also to the general success with youngsters (57 last week), women's team(s). Thanks to trainers etc.

Meeting ran from 7.01 to 8.12pm, after which the WI served much-appreciated refreshments.

Abbreviations: BC(KLWN) – Borough Council; NCC – County Council; (S)PC – (Snettisham) Parish Council

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: