

SNETTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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SUBJECT TO APPROVAL – MAY CONTAIN INACCURACIES

**Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Snettisham Parish
held on 16th May 2012 at 7.30 p.m. In the Memorial Hall**

Present:

Cllr. E Langford - presiding

Approximately 38 members of the public

Minutes taken by Mrs C Curtis

Welcome from the Chairman

Cllr Langford welcomed all present and explained that this meeting was an opportunity for local groups to make presentations and for electors to ask questions. There would be the opportunity for questions after each presentation.

Cllr Langford thanked the Trustees of the Memorial Hall for the use of the building for this annual meeting.

Cllr Langford explained that only people included on the electoral register were entitled to participate in the meeting.

2. To receive apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from County Cllr John Dobson.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 18th May 2011

An amendment was requested under item 8 Halls Exhibition Foundation – Make up of Trustees, this should read 'the 10 trustees consisted of 4 nominees of the Parish Council and 4 nominees of the County Council plus 2 trustees co-opted from the village'.

With the above alteration the minutes from the meeting held 18th May 2011 were accepted by a show of hands in agreement.

4. Address by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Langford reported that two years ago there were worries that we would never surface from the financial and administrative mess the Council found itself in. There was some animosity in the village with big divides amongst residents' views on who was to blame. We are now aware that these problems went back to at least 2004/05, which would put a lot more former councillors in the blame frame.

The important thing is that over the last twelve months your parish councillors have successfully worked together in establishing effective financial management controls and implemented a business model of Lead Councillor and support groups that have both helped identify the Council's major problem areas and enabled early success in securing the councils correct income levels as well as recovering a considerable amount of previously misappropriated council finances.

The Council year 2010/11 was a year of financial pain with the council having to pay out a lot of money to

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various bodies and living with a £30K loan to pay off. The Council year 2011/12 will be remembered for two significant different reasons. The council secured a goodwill payment of £70K from Barclays in recognition of fraudulent activity from 2004-2009, we successfully defended an unfair dismissal claim and a claim for underpayment of wages which if we had lost could have cost around £20K. The Council successfully banked a £14K surplus from the car park which has never been achieved before. The precept has been reduced and instead of a £30K loan we are ending the year by placing £70K in a 1 year fixed bond at a good interest rate.

Some 30 parishioners are regularly involved in a variety of voluntary activities such as communications – producing news in brief and delivering them through letterboxes; general grounds maintenance – trimming trees, strimming footpaths, cutting back overgrown hedges, clearing weeds, planting plants and flower beds, cleaning toilets and dog & human waste on the beach; DIY skills – making box planters, repairs and fixing of bench seats, village signs, fixing up dog and waste bins; Trade skills including electrical, plumbing, carpentry and building.

Last year was the first time ever that the village entered the village games with about 70 volunteer competitors with the village finishing 8th out of 10 in our 'class'. This year's games will be held on 24th June and hopefully the entry will be as good.

Residents successfully sported the Council's campaign to 'Save our Post Office'.

As well as voluntary contributions of time and resources there have been voluntary and anonymous contributions of money plus donations of litter bins, fluorescent jackets and grit bins, even a defibrillator, to name but a few. Volunteers have also raised money for the beach toilets and the Beach Trod footpath.

Partnership with the Police has helped reduce youth vandalism, and with Norfolk Green has helped the Poppyfield residents with easier access the local bus services.

The Council still have some outstanding issues to deal with such as the watermill account and a £1,500 court claim for compensation. However, these pale into insignificance when set against the fact that overall the council has had a very good year with many successes that have contributed towards improvements both to the council and the village community.

On behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Langford thanked all parishioners for their support over the past year and took the opportunity to thank his colleague councillors for the support they had given and for all the hard work they have contributed.

5. Presentation by PC Ian McCrea of the Norfolk Constabulary

There had been significant improvement in the last twelve months with reduction in crime, problems in Snettisham last year had all been dealt with and there had been changes with the new Chief Constable taking position. Officers now booked on in Dersingham and Hunstanton rather than in King's Lynn as previously this meant that officers were in the area for more time each shift. Anti-Social Behaviour had dropped by 20% over the county and showed that the new policing model was working well. Norfolk is able to keep policing numbers, including PCSO's, at the current level for the next three years. Other initiatives were working well including the Restorative Justice for youngsters who do not have criminal records. Enhanced Police Judgement is now also being used quite a lot.

6. Presentation by Ian Goddard, Memorial Hall Trustees

Mr Goddard reported that the year of 2011/12 had been very busy with repairs and maintenance of the buildings. This included new lights in the bar area, new carpet in the bar, new key pads, the bar roof had been repaired, the clock outside was now working and a new fence and gate had been installed. There was some decorating to be completed and a request for volunteers was made. The gardening club had planted the rockery.

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In the last year there had been four weddings, a ghost walk, a sing along, the children's Christmas party had been a sell-out, a New Year's Eve dance and bingo on a Friday.

The Trustees had received donations of an electric organ and were looking for someone who could play, a dishwasher had also been donated but this was not yet installed.

All the electrical work is completed on the pavilion and the new toilets were complete including disabled and children. A new entrance onto the field should be installed by NCC later this month

Use of the Tennis Courts had raised £633 this year, with the courts being looked after by Mr Godfrey.

In 2010/11 the Trustees were able to invest £10,000 into a bond and this year has added a further £5,000. As of Tuesday this week the bank balance stood at £9,835.48. The Memorial Hall Trust had donated £500 towards TROD 2 on Beach Road and £1183.33 to charities over the year.

The summer fete last year raised £1,185 and the fete this year would be held on 7th July. Mr Goddard asked villagers not to be too disappointed if car boot sales had to be cancelled due to weather, but the rain has left the area susceptible to damage.

Mr Goddard thanked the committee for the fantastic job they had done this last year and requested volunteers for committee member position from March next year.

7. Report by Borough Councillor David Johnson

Cllr Johnson reported that the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor had been elected at full Council last Thursday and Cllr Geoffrey Wareham had been elected Mayor with Cllr Gary Sandell Deputy Mayor for 2012/13.

Both Cllr Johnson and Cllr Z Christopher had been appointed on the planning committee for the current year. Cllr Johnson had also been appointed onto the Standards Board, Drainage Board, Disability forum and the focus group for the hospital.

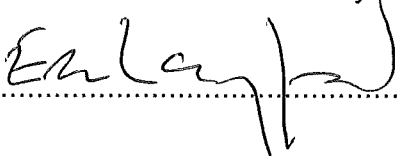
Cllr Johnson reported that the fight against the incinerator was still continuing and that the double yellow lines in Station Road are on Norfolk County Council's list to do.

8. Presentation by Mike Press, Practice Patients' Group

Mr Press reported that Practice Patients' Group would deal with anything patients bring to the group, the medical practice serves 8,000 patients and he as Chair liaised with the practice manager to try and get improvements. All surveys conducted show that the practice is excellent, 99% of issues are dealt with at the time. There are now a number of services available which would previously have been dealt with at hospital, these included warfarin checks, deep vein thrombosis checks and in each reception area there are blood pressure machines. Private travel vaccinations are available but obviously not on the National Health Service as by law these have to be paid for. The practice has a visiting service for diabetics and retinal screening checks are available. The mobile brittle bone service is used at Heacham and 320 of the 360 tests carried out had to go to the next step. Patients can register for repeat prescriptions on the internet and later this year will be able to make appointments on line but only one appointment at a time.

The Practice Patients' Group holds approximately 4 meetings a year. The practice has 3.5 doctors at the moment and there will be an additional doctor in June this year. Last year there were a total of 1325 missed appointments which could have been used by others if the people not keeping the appointment had advised the surgery.

There will be some significant changes coming about at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in relation to parking and some of these will take effect fairly soon.

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The Practice Patients' Group is a registered Charity funded by legacy and donations. The AGM is being held on 23rd July at the Heacham Surgery at 7.30pm and there will be two presentations.

9. Presentation by Hall's Exhibition Foundation

Mr Chris Holt was unable to attend this meeting so Ian Devereux gave the presentation to the meeting. Mr Devereux had been a trustee for 2.5 years. The Hall's Exhibition Foundation was almost unique across the United Kingdom and in the last year had provided grants of £66,000 to children of this village aged 11-25 years. In the last 12 months 18 grants had been given to the 11+ age group, 38 grants to the 16+ age group and 27 grants of £2000 each for university to the 18+ age group.

There were 12 trustees and all are people who live in the village. Anyone who has children who are interested in making an application, please make sure they have access to the forms required. Historically money was raised from the sale of Carr stone which has now been exhausted and the funding is currently from interest from monies in hand.

10. Presentation by Peter Bradshaw, Allotment Association

The Allotment Association was formed some 3-4 years ago; there are currently some 65 allotment holders some of which are half plots.

The Allotment Association still works with the Parish Council but the Association is trying to meet all its own expenses and costs.

The AGM was very well supported and is going from strength to strength. Currently there is one full plot available and anyone interested should put their name forward to David Bocking who is the Chairman of the Association.

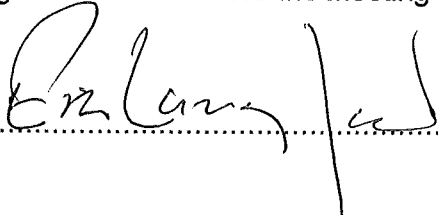
Ken Hill Estates is a fairly strict landlord and Mr Bradshaw asked residents not to allow their dogs onto the allotments, this was one thing they were strict about.

In response to a question from the public, Mr Bradshaw stated that they were hoping to hold a car boot in July and there would be a couple of other events during the year when produce from the allotments would be for sale.

11. Questions from members of the public and debate

- a) Mrs V Thorpe had requested the increase in Parish Office opening hours to be on this agenda and Cllr Langford asked for Mrs Thorpe to put her question before those present. Mrs Thorpe had left the meeting and Cllr Langford asked if anyone present wished to discuss or had anything to say on this subject. No one present wished this to be discussed.
- b) Mr Clark questioned the Norfolk Green Coast Hopper Bus which now came through Poppyfields and through into the village and asked if bus stops were going to be installed. Cllr Langford explained that the Coast Hopper has special status and therefore this was a "hail and stop" bus. Mrs Gascoigne added that there were a couple of residents against the new bus route and anyone who was in favour should make their views known to the Parish Council who could pass comments to Norfolk Green. At the suggestion of Mr I Devereux the meeting took a vote by a show of hands of all those in favour of the new bus route, this was unanimously in support of the new bus route. It was pointed out that if Norfolk Green only receive negative feedback in the next month then the service would probably be stopped, and this new route was initially for six months and if the service was not used it would be stopped. Cllr Langford asked the Clerk to notify Norfolk Green of the results of the vote taken at this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.55 hours.

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