

## PARISH OF SNETTISHAM

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013 IN THE METHODIST HALL**

Chair – Cllr Eric Langford (Chairman, Snettisham Parish Council)

Taking minutes – Simon Bower (Clerk, SPC)


Also present approximately 25 Members of the Public

The meeting began at 7.32 pm

- 1 The Chair welcomed those present and outlined the purpose of, and regulations governing, Parish Meetings. Councillors are present as Parishioners and also to listen to the views of the Public. Voting is an option on issues raised by the Public.
- 2 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Zipha Christopher.
- 3 The minutes of the previous meeting (16<sup>th</sup> May, 2012) were available for those present. They were approved by show of hands as being an accurate reflection of the meeting. (Prop: Ian Devereux; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Janet Lane)
- 4 The Chairman gave a report from the Parish Council. He announced the arrival of the new Parish Clerk, Simon Bower. 2012/13 had been a year of financial consolidation, leaving the Village well-placed to move forward, and able to rely less on volunteers. The de-registration of the Council from VAT in 2005 had rendered the Council liable to a potential £60,000 debt to HMRC. With the Car Park rent being discussed and Ken Hill looking for a 200% increase, these two issues clearly need urgent attention. On a more positive note the Village had been brightened up considerably, with planting of flowerbeds etc. in Newbridge, the Market Square, opposite the factory shop, and at the Alma Rd roundabout. There had been tree surgery work in Lodge Walk and the Memorial bench for Dr Chapman is in place. Thanks were given to Cllrs Maria Fountain and John Bailey in particular; also to Cllr Eddie Fountain, Cllr Niru Burchett and Anthea Langford. Plans for the Common, in association with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, are in place, and volunteers were sought. The Chair expressed the hope that the application for the Beach footpath to be confirmed as a Public Right of Way would be approved soon with legal and accurate signage. He concluded by thanking his fellow councillors, and reported that NorfolkALC had commented on the high level of councillor involvement.
- 5 Borough Cllr Avril Wright remarked that she had only been in place for a month and therefore was on a steep learning curve. She outlined her background (a professional musician, followed by extensive work with the Prince's Trust, in particular for the benefit of disadvantaged youngsters). She was becoming involved at Borough level especially in the Planning and Regeneration areas.

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 21/5/2014

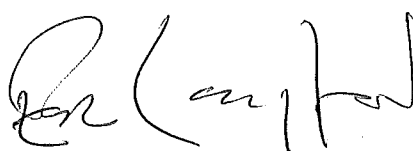


1 of 7

- 6 Chris Tansley of Coastal Vets then gave a presentation. He introduced himself as having started Coastal Vets in 2009, and had won a Mayor's Award for Young Business People. He spoke on the bug which had affected several dogs walked in Sandringham Woods. This first appeared in 2010 and had also been reported in several other Woodland areas nationally. The symptoms were varied and non-specific, but tended to occur within 24 hours of exposure. Several causes (algae, spores etc.) had been ruled out, but no definite one had been confirmed; harvest mites were the leading candidate at the moment. He referred to a website ([www.aht.org/sci](http://www.aht.org/sci)) where reports could be made, including reports of dogs who were unaffected. He recommended using the same route and keeping dogs in sight at all times. He then moved on to diseases which could transfer to humans as bugs were "not fussy". The various methods of transfer were covered. Lyme's disease (caught through ticks) was becoming more prevalent in NW Norfolk. Direct transfer (such as "cat scratch fever", leptospirosis - leading to Weil's disease - and ringworm - cat to child transfer). Faeces borne disease included those causing food poisoning: Giardiasis (diarrhoea), Hydatid Disease (tapeworm and cysts), Campylobacteriosis, Salmonella (hygiene very important if one has a sick dog), Toxocariasis (important to worm pets - 200,000 eggs per day can be produced in one pet) and Toxoplasmosis (a danger to pregnant women - 350,000 cases in people reported). Finally he recommended a series of safe practices to minimise the risks: tick removal from, and regular worming of, pets; wearing clothing providing more cover including gloves while gardening; clearing up after pets; avoiding (or thorough washing after) licking by pets.
- 7 (order changed from agenda) Sgt Gareth Newman gave a report from Norfolk Constabulary. The Chief Constable had moved on and the Commissioner (Stephen Betts) is charged with a new appointment. King's Lynn has a new superintendent - Carl Edwards who had worked in the Town before). Dave Buckley is the Chief Inspector in King's Lynn. He reported that in 2012/13 there had been a 12% drop in recorded crime locally, with a fall of 25% in violent crime; burglaries were approximately at the same level. There are vacancies on the SNAP team through retirement, though some had been replaced. He reported on the recent sad death of PCSO Sandi Greenacre; recruitment was underway to replace her and two others who had moved. Otherwise business was "as usual". Maria Fountain thanked the Police through Sgt Newman. Ian Devereux asked if the new residents of Anmer House (the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge) had required any changes in policing; a committee was currently assessing this and would then advertise nationally, including any firearms officers required.
- 8 The Clerk then read a report from the Memorial Hall Trustees (attached)
- 9 Ian Devereux spoke on the work of the Hall's Foundation. This was begun in 1708 for the benefit of local "poor boys". The legacy from the carrstone workings left a seven figure sum, which produces a £60,000 annual income. This is distributed to those youngsters in the Village who reach various educational milestones, £200 at age 11, £200 on entering further education (16+) and £2,000 pa for those at university. There are 12 trustees, 4 nominated by NCC and 4 from SPC. With the carrstone now being exhausted, income has disappeared, and new avenues are being sought. One such is a "community" of those who have benefited in the past, who may be willing to contribute

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 21/5/2014



287

to give back to the fund. The website can be used to apply for older students, younger pupils are automatically introduced through schools. Questions were asked regarding: those who live locally but are schooled elsewhere (reply to check directly); means testing (no); were music lessons covered (possibly yes); were trips covered (could be); age limits (11-25 only).

- 10 Tony Burgess spoke about the Sailing Club. He remarked that the Club began in 1938, with a pause for WWII resuming in 1948. The 1953 flood had been a major event in the Club's history; a cup was named after one of those who drowned – the Peter Beckerstone Cup. He commented on the rewards of working with youngsters; there were courses throughout the Summer, with a number of qualified instructors to train them. These were not elitist and were as affordable as could be made possible. He concluded with a story to illustrate the huge value that could be obtained from such involvement. A young boy who lost his mother at age nine was encouraged by his grandmother to take part when lost as to what to do as a teenager. He had recently graduated in Marine Engineering from Strathclyde University, and put his success down to his early experiences. He also remarked on how lucky they were to have such a unique environment in which to work and play.
- 11 The Clerk then gave a report on the Charities in the Village (notes attached). As the issue of what was being done regarding the sum currently sitting in the watermill account was raised, those present were asked their views. Around 20 voted to distribute the money back to original donors if traceable and to Heritage Centre otherwise, 2 were against and some wished for more information.
- 12 Only one general question was asked; this related to the Memorial Hall field and the recent lack of car boot sales. A brief discussion ensued regarding current issues with the Playing Field.

The meeting ended at 8.55

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 21/5/2014



## REPORT

Since our 2012 AGM, the Committee have experienced a difficult year.

We have endured quite high expenditure in respect of both the Hall & Playing Field. The electric in the Hall has had a complete overhaul, and the wiring has been brought up to the standard that is required in a public place. We have installed heaters in the toilets and kitchen. A new Water Heater has been installed in the Pavilion kitchen. Key pads have been introduced for the organisations that use the Hall & Pavilion on a regular basis, and they have been successfully used during the past year.

The dropped curb has been installed, as well as the concrete track onto the Playing field in readiness for future car boots.

We have re-decorated the Bar area, laid carpet tiles and a nonslip floor in front of the Bar for spillages.

Unfortunately due to the rainfall in the year, and the drainage collapsing on the field, the Fete had to be cancelled and all car boots were unable to take place. New fencing had also been erected at the top end of the field in front of the Dyke.

John Austin from Ken Hill kindly gave us permission to use his top field for car parking, so that we were able to hold six car boots, which enabled us to use this money towards the installation of the new drainage system on the playing field.

We have asked Snettisham Parish Council to liaise with Ken Hill over clearing of the Dyke, this is still an on going process, but until this issue is resolved, it is most unlikely that car boots can be held in 2013, as there is still an amount of repair work needed to the football pitch.

The Art Exhibitions will continue to take place, and Tony Blackburn has taken over the arrangements for these.

The tennis court covering was cleaned by two volunteers, as it was very dirty and muddy.



21/5/14.

4 of 7

We had two framed pictures given to the Memorial Hall by the Parish Council, and these have been hung in the Bar area.

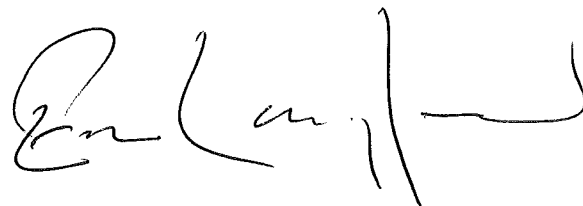
The Children's Christmas Party was very well supported with the children having a very good time.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

The Fete this year is to be held on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013

The cost of future car boots will be £80.-, the committee have decided to increase the costs of the car boots, to take into account the costs of electricity, water, and the upkeep of the field.

We have just had the football pitch levelled and re-seeded, The Committee have asked the Parish Council if they would like to help us with the cost of this, as it is a village asset and is used by most village organisations. In the meantime we have approached John Austin of Ken Hill estates, and he has kindly given us permission to use his top field for 6 car boots to enable us to raise funds once again for these repairs.



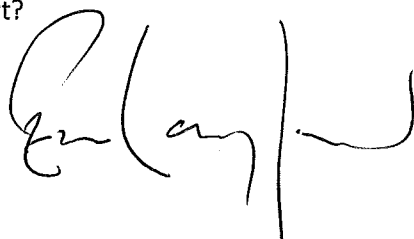
21/5/14

547

notes for meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013

re: Charities and the Council.

- begin by thanking for warm welcome; ask for understanding!
- biggest surprise on taking up post was responsibility for charities
- several issues arose very quickly, but legal position complicated
- this due to role as management trustee
  
- three specific charities/charitable issues
- memorial hall
  - independent trustees with a management role
  - council has a representative (nominee) – must vote for charity reasons not council
  - this applies to a dozen or so other local organisations
  - trustees have requested a donation; we were told no go and decision held
  - then told that we were told this due to misunderstanding question – typical of whole situation
  - “custodian trustee has no responsibility whatsoever for the management or financial upkeep of the Hall” – taken as meaning we can donate as we would to any other charity
  - this now on agenda for next meeting
- townlands
  - this dates from land given by the church commissioners to the village
  - council became custodial trustee, there has in past been a management set up similar to the one now in existence for the memorial hall
  - however at moment the Council is the trustee; this has led to strange situation
  - money – totalling £2300 - was moved by predecessor between accounts from TL to SPC
  - request from individual councillor to return money; council wanted request to come from trustees;
  - council met as trustee, requested return – properly acting in best interest of charity
  - council met as council, refused to return money
  - bizarre situation of writing to myself and an impasse between the two bodies
  - attempting to clarify via charity commission eg. varying interpretations of whether of not individuals councillors are responsible – charity commission says they are not
  - charity commission also advised that it would now be proper for trustees to take further action including contacting the police
  - where we are: list of people; need for possible courses of action to put before that group to recommend to trustees on long term future
  - because of joint role things get left – eg the rent review on the land owned
  - question is should the council and the trustees be separated?
- watermill
  - money donated to fund a heritage centre at the watermill
  - project fell through
  - records incomplete – again this arose during the “dark” period of council finances
  - last figure was just under £1700 in the account
  - council about to decide what to do with residue; only one person who donated has replied to give opinion on the direction of their funds
  - given that we now have a heritage centre in the village, and the funds were set up to promote that, should we divert?



21/5/14  
6 of 7

- final point – given problems with getting volunteers, should we perhaps in the long term be looking to combine those charities which are set up to benefit the people of the village rather than having several small charities
- none of these issues are black and white, if we get legal advice this can chew up the funds of a small charity in a few hours of work, so things will take time; better to move slowly and steadily rather than rush and waste limited resources

Erin Layton

21/5/14

757