

## PARISH OF SNETTISHAM

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2014 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

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

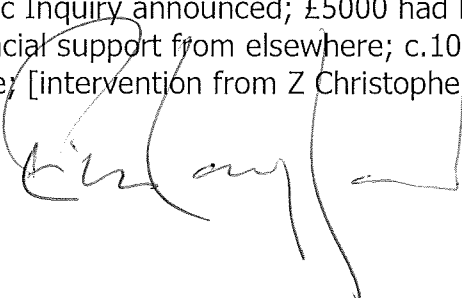
Taking minutes – Simon Bower (Clerk, SPC)

Also present Members of the Public – J Bailey; V Bailey; Z Christopher; A Clarkson; E Fountain; M Fountain; A Gascoigne; A Lamplugh; A Langford; D Snelling and one other. A Wright arrived later.

The meeting began at 7.03 pm

- 1 The Chair welcomed those present and outlined the purpose of, and regulations governing, Parish Meetings.
- 2 An apology for absence was received from Cty Cllr John Dobson. Boro' Cllr Avril Wright apologised for her potential lateness..
- 3 The minutes of the previous meeting (30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013) were available for those present. They were approved as being an accurate reflection of the meeting by common consent – there being no objections. They were duly signed by the Chair.
- 4 The Chairman gave a report from the Parish Council (SPC). There being 6 council vacancies he thanked those councillors there were for their hard work. He remarked that this situation was not uncommon – e.g. Dersingham was currently six down on its complement of 18 councillors. [On asking it was observed that the Memorial Hall trustees were only 10 out of a potential 23.] He moved onto outlines his view of Council successes: getting the Coasthopper to go via Poppyfields; the TORC magazine (1500+ copies with 12 pages) which was now able to go independent; the new Clerk was acquiring a positive reputation and Council were pleased with him; the Common was much improved in conjunction with Norfolk Wildlife Trust – preparations underway for re-seeding the heath and Country Wildlife Status was being proposed, with the possibility of becoming a Geo-Diversity site, (though Common right had been allowed to lapse in 2006 Council was keen to extend the maximum possible such rights in any case commensurate with good management); the War Memorial project was nearing completion in readiness for a re-dedication on 7<sup>th</sup> July by the Bishop of Lynn – corrections had been made (Walter Smith finally getting his recognition) and a new base fitted (thanks to Frimstone and Ridgeon's); new flowerbeds had been planted and were now established and colourful; thousands of poppy seeds had been planted and thanks were given to councillors and other volunteers. He moved on to outline the position with the Beach Footpath: NCC making the order, objections being made and a Public Inquiry announced; £5000 had been put aside by SPC to fund the case with no financial support from elsewhere; c.1000 had recently taken part in a walk along the route; [intervention from Z Christopher suggesting contacting the Prince of Wales for

Signed:



(Chairman) Date:

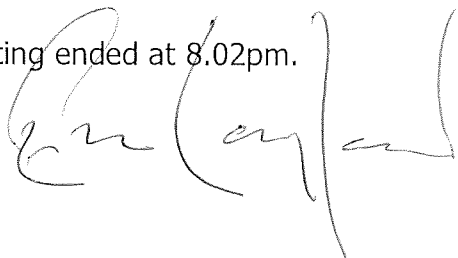
13/5/15

support]; people were asked to share their stories in case a "golden nugget" was found to support the retention of the Path; witnesses would be cross-examined at the Inquiry and all were encouraged to attend. There had been a concerted series of Land Claims from Beach property owners alleging ownership of land under the revetement – previous such claims had erroneously been allowed to succeed without SPC intervention - this was leading to another fight. Finally there were still incorrect signs on the route; this had not been properly addressed by NCC. The Car Park lease had been ended by the Council being evicted; Ken Hill now run the Car Park themselves and hopefully this will make life easier for the Council. Feral chickens had become a problem which the Council had addressed and removed - another such sweep looked likely in the near future. Council had arranged two Open Days which had been a great success in putting across Council's actions and options, earning good feedback. Council hoped that financial issues from the past would be concluded within a month or so.

- 5 Borough Cllr Zipha Christopher reported on the potential Incinerator project replacement. This would make a profit from use of recyclables, use rubbish to make building materials, and do so with no nasty fumes. There was the potential for co-operation between BCKLWN and Breckland Councils.
- 6 The Clerk then read a report from the Memorial Hall Trustees (attached). Since the report had been prepared the decoration had been finished with new curtains onstage. A question was asked about the latest on the Barker's Pond drainage situation. The Clerk was asked to get an update on this.
- 7 As no member of Norfolk Constabulary was present the Clerk summarised the most recent monthly newsletter. Within Heacham and Snettisham there had been a burglary from a dwelling plus five on non-dwellings – these included items from a caravan in Heacham plus quad-bikes and agricultural equipment in Sedgford. Two arrests had followed domestic violence incidents. One theft from a motor vehicle and five damage to vehicles (two scratched opposite the Rose and Crown in the Village, a smashed windscreen, slashed tyres etc.) Eight thefts had occurred including from the Bircham Rd substation. Damage to a building with broken windows at the RSPB reserve. Attempted theft of money from a Pay and Display machine. A harassment case following from a domestic situation led to an arrest and caution. One dog on dog attack reported. Three domestic abuse incidents not pursued as disagreements not assaults. Next SNAP meeting was advertised.
- 8 The Clerk gave a report on the Townlands Charity and the Watermill Heritage Centre (attached). The Chair observed that the rise in income was due to Council vigilance, and yet even now the amount paid was only what the tenant received in subsidies.
- 9 Mr Clarkson asked if there had been a new Union Flag purchased. The Chair replied that there would be a new one by 7<sup>th</sup> July celebration. Mrs Wright commented that she had been addressed forcefully on the subject of dog waste around the Village. An extensive discussion followed including whether CCTV might be an option and the difficulty of proving a case; names were mentioned. Eventually there was overwhelming support for the PCSO to be consulted by the Clerk. Mrs Christopher raised the subject of changing Council solicitors. Council would consider this at some point.

The meeting ended at 8.02pm.

Signed:



(Chairman) Date:

13/8/15

## REPORT

Since our 2013 AGM, the Committee have had a successful year as far as Finance goes, but not without its problems. Our overriding problem this year has been the Playing Field. After completing the new drainage, our priority was to repair the football pitch for playing on. Unfortunately this did not work out as we intended. Due to the continued wet conditions and problems with the water level and issues from the dyke known as Barkers Pond, high levels and issues with the water was still causing concern.

Discussions on this matter were held between parties concerned to try and resolve the level of water in the dyke, but unfortunately little success was achieved, although a dry spell aided the drying out process.

Work on completing and bringing the field back to a good situation was agreed by the Trustees and a contractor was sought to complete these works, which entailed many tonnes of soil being delivered and placed onto the playing field, and then reseeded of areas treated was completed.

Unfortunately these works were not carried out as per the specifications required and the soil used was not to the standard required of a football pitch. Large stones and other foreign objects were found on inspection of the final works being completed. This has resulted in an unsatisfactory and unsafe playing area, and a dispute between the contractor and the trustees, has not been resolved and is an ongoing situation, of which has been placed in the hands of a Solicitor. A full survey has been undertaken by the Institute of Grounds Man (IOG) to great cost to the Charity. The trustees after full study and discussion of the reports have employed the recommended services of a fully qualified playing field grounds organisation to undertake the works to correct and bring the playing field back to an acceptable condition for all sports to be played on the playing field. These works were due to start in October 2013, but due to the very wet conditions it has not been able to commence, but will as soon as conditions allow. Once these works are completed and all areas re seeded time will need to be allowed for the grass to grow and establish itself.

Our thanks go to Mrs Margaret Dix for helping the committee by taking control of the bookings and use of the tennis court, without volunteers like Margaret, these facilities would not be available.

The top room at the Memorial was fitted out with wall boards and given a lick of paint to brighten it up ready for the Art Exhibition. It is our intention to place a plaque in memory of Ray Godfrey in the Art room for all the work he undertook on behalf of the Memorial Hall, this should be installed ready for the Art Exhibition starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> July this year.

Also this past year, we were able to spruce up the fence around the playing field with the help of the Probation service, I'm sure you will agree it looks so much better. New Dog signs have been placed around the playing field, we now ask that all dog walkers abide by these and think of the children and adults that play their sports on the field. We have also erected cigarette containers either end of the Pavilion with the hope that this will help keep the area clean and tidy.

We have replaced two external doors on the Pavilion with UPVC Rosewood doors, helping to alleviate drafts.

The security light at the front of the Hall, has been upgraded to a more powerful one, the old one has been placed at the back of the Hall, and we now also have a security light facing onto the car park.

A wooden shed has been purchased to house certain items from the Hall, alleviating items stored within the Hall. The committee have also installed sensor lighting to both the toilets at the Hall and Pavilion, hoping this will alleviate the problem of lights being left on. A Fridge has been purchased from a parishioner, who also kindly donated a small freezer, this will enable us to serve ice creams ourselves at this year's Fete.

We held a Halloween Disco this year for the children of the village, which was well attended, with everyone participating by dressing up, and prizes given out for best outfits. The children's Christmas Party once again was a big hit with 77 children attending. A New Year's Eve Dance was held, although those attending thoroughly enjoyed it, not many tickets were sold, therefore doubting whether it is a viable event for 2014.

## FUTURE EVENTS

Car Boots will take place this year starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, dates to be given out on a first come basis. The cost will remain the same as last year £80.-

The Art Exhibition will run for one week starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> July in the Memorial Hall.

The Fete will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, and to be in the same theme as previous years, as this seems to be popular. We are always in need of volunteers for this event, so if anybody would like to join us, please give your name & telephone number to one of the trustees.

Future works planned are:- works to improve the drainage around the tennis court.

Improvements to the roadway leading onto the playing field, also the car park has had temporary repairs, but further works are being considered.

Also work is intended along the edge of the playing field by way of a Brick wall and rails, which will be installed to marry up with the existing rails in front of the Pavilion, this work is to be donated by the Cricket Club.

The main Hall is in bad need of re-decoration, again volunteers are needed for this, if able to help please see one the Trustees.

The Tennis Court is to be cleaned by Mudmagic, then the Cricket Club have volunteered to paint the boards on their work weekend 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Income & Expenditure 2013/14

**EXPENDITURE**

Memorial Hall	
Electric - 12 months	935.00
Water - 12 months	413.00
Rates - 7 months	362.67
Refuse - 12 months	313.50
Insurance - 12 months	1283.86
Cleaning Materials	518.06
Cleaner per annum	4179.90
Window cleaner	40.00
Audit	498.00
Air Con/Heating Maintenance	233.60
Ashill Fire Equipment	74.40
Memberships - Licence Bar per annum	70.00
- PRS Music Licence	308.47
Stationery	604.32
<b>Total cost of Hall Expenditure for 12 months</b>	<b>9834.78</b>

<b>Income</b>	
Donations	570.00
M&G Investments	404.05
Rents	13754.25
<b>Total Income for Hall upto February 2014</b>	<b>14728.30</b>

**Expenditure - PAVILION**

Electric - 12 months	1354.00
Water - 12 months	77.00
Insurance - 12 months	641.44
Cleaning Materials	4.39
Cleaner per annum	1403.50
Hereonwood - Grass Cutting	450.00
NPFA	20.00
<b>Total Expenditure for Pavilion</b>	<b>3950.33</b>

**Income - PAVILION**

Rents	2948.00
Car Boots @ £80.-	900.00
E-On Refund	784.61
<b>Total Income For Pavilion upto February 2014</b>	<b>4632.61</b>

Income - Tennis Court	503.00
Expenditure - Tennis Court	13.50

**Funds generated from (nett figure) upto February 2014**

Bar	2777.21
Bingo	6702.90
5 Car Boots	3463.71
Fete	850.53
G Kite - Dances	706.10
Art Exhibition	202.86
Monies generated from Craft Fairs	224.15
Children's Halloween Disco	279.00
Charity Bingo's - Teas/Coffees	172.45
	15378.91

Funds placed in Saffron Building Society - £20,000.- fixed 1 year @ 1.5% matures February 2015

**Large Works undertaken within this financial year**

Hall Repairs *	2335.68
Toilet Sensor Lts/New O/S Security Light	

Pavilion & Playing Field Expenses/Repairs ***	2909.44
IOG Report + Legal Fees	1650.01

\*\*\* Temporary Repairs to Car Park/2 New External Doors/Sensor Lights/Top Soil

Hall subsidised Children's Christmas Party by	361.82
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Balance in Bank as at 17/3/2014 £22,093.49

**Projected Future Works**

- Cost of Works to the Football Pitch - £7k to £10k
- Cost of Works to New Roadway into Playing Field Car Park £10k
- Repair & Paint Main Hall
- New Stage Curtains
- Clean Tennis Court
- Steam Clean Hall Chairs

These works are, and can only be achieved by the work of fund raising by the Trustees and their supporters

## **Report for Annual Parish Meeting on the Townlands Charity and the Heritage Watermill Situation.**

The current status of the **Townlands Charity** is still under review. As a result of last year's work on this, the Hall's Foundation have been approached to see if they were interested in taking over the running of the Charity, absorbing it into their resources, and using their effective management structure to maximise the use of the Townlands benefaction. It was the preferred option of the Trustees when last discussed, as it would keep the resources under local control. The issue of the aims of the Charity (ie what was the intended destination of the proceeds) would need modifying, but since with the advent of the welfare state "poor of the Parish" is difficult to define it would be practicable to align the aims with those of another charity.

As yet the Foundation have not given a formal reply, though it is understood that positive discussion has taken place, and will be reconsidered at a future meeting.

In the meantime Council was made aware of further options through a meeting in Thornham dealing specifically with the large number of such funds which exist in Norfolk. There is a fund which is available to help study such poor lands charities; a by-product of this is that, through NRCC, help is available with possible reallocation of such charities in an effective way. Following a recent visit by Henry Meiklejohn – the NRCC expert lawyer – he has taken away the documents for research purposes. In return for this he will advise us on the best route as he sees it, taking into account recent changes in charity legislation. This service is provided to us without charge or obligation, but if it seems the best route, the actions required will also be funded. Further, advice regarding the difficulty of removing the current tenant may be incorrect and advice is being given on this.

It should also be mentioned that a group of Parishioners have volunteered to run the Charity. As the stated aim of the Council is to remove itself from any involvement this would require any such group to become legal Trustees. This is not without merit, but Council and the current Trustee believe that given the small income of the Charity, this is not the most sensible option.

Given these three options, and ongoing legal consideration, no decisions have been (or for that matter can be) made. Once Henry Meiklejohn has reported, the situation will be publicly explained and discussed.

During the year the new rent for the land has come into operation; we now receive £500 in two six-monthly instalments. The balance in the account is £2225, £1413 (savings) £812 (current).

### **Watermill**

The funds from the Watermill account have been returned as discussed last year to the only donor who made contact. The residue has been paid over to the Heritage Centre. Due to continuing problems with the banking of Santander (instructions not acted upon, lost documents etc.) the account is still open officially and payments made from the Council general accounts to expedite payment. Once all is clarified with Santander the balance will be transferred to the Parish Council and the account closed.

Simon Bower, Parish Clerk, 21/5/2014