

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Village of Snettisham held on
Wednesday, 18th May, 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Cllr R Barker [RB] – in the Chair (as SPC Chairman)

Approximately 120 members of the public

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

- 1 The **Chairman** welcomed all those present. The Clerk explained the Parish Meeting, and its restrictions – eg only electors able to speak.
- 2 There were **apologies** for absence from Borough Cllr Avril Wright, and Cllr John Dobson who would be slightly late.
- 3 There being no objection, the **minutes** of the meeting on 13th May 2015 were signed with two amendments, correcting one name and adding another.
- 4 **Chairman's** Remarks. RB opened by thanking, and saying a little about, the 13 councillors, volunteers from all walks of life, and how proud he was to be part of the team. He also thanked the Clerk and all volunteers who worked with Council and the TORC magazine. He mentioned work on the Woods, the new TROD, the SAM2 sign, Lodge Walk and Play Area improvements, the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan, the fete, Open Meetings, additional street lighting and the Watermill opening as current or recent projects, as well as good relations with the Memorial Hall. The precept had been lowered in this time by £5,000.
- 5 **Borough** Cllr Ian Devereux spoke of his 12 months on the Borough Council. He thanked County Cllr John Dobson for his help and reported that his colleague Avril Wright had been heavily involved in planning, care, chicken farm at Sedgford, heritage issues and the KL Festival. He had been working (with "interruptions") on governance, the running of the Borough Council, effective meetings etc. As a result of this both were now on the Cabinet.
- 6 **Reports:**
 - Marian Abramovitch reported for the **Heritage Group/Friends of St Mary's**: She commented that the Church was the only place in the Village one could read about the history of Snettisham. It was a focal point for the Village regardless of religious affiliation. Recent/current projects included a new roof, west window rejuvenation, hospitality area totalling over £140,000, which came from grants, donations and the Friends. Norwich Cathedral Choir to sing next year. Working now on improving facilities to help bring children in, a community room and improved signage from the Village. There is also now a Village cinema. She encouraged those present to consider involvement and support.
 - Clerk read a report on **Townlands**: a brief explanation of the Charity. Current balance £3,300. Currently in discussion with Charity Commission on a range of matters. Also trying to establish if the Charity could be involved in any way in the neighbourhood Plan.
 - Ros Pugh reported for the **Womens' Institute**: centenary celebrations included two Snettisham members attending Buckingham Palace garden party. Celebrating HM's longest reign, VJ day and centenary, the British legion

Signed:



(Chair)

Date: 10/5/12

were invited to an indoor street party. A tree was planted as a memorial on the playing field. Members remove posters, serve teas (eg Open Meetings) and host stalls at events. Many prizes were won at the Village Show, and several also help with the TORC.

- Clerk read a report from the **Events Committee**. Christmas events were more popular and successful than ever; as a result, the new format would be retained – Carols on 1st December at 6pm and Market 3-6pm on 4th. Thanks to those who opened and took part; also to John Bailey for the lights – visitors from far afield – and those who provided electricity. Over 100 children met, and received gifts from, Santa. Stalls were busy and varied. Quizzes have proved popular at the Rose and Crown, raising funds, and this will also be the case at a car boot on 21st May. No separate event for HM's 90th Birthday but sponsoring activities at the School's celebrations on June 10th. Attention drawn to facebook and twitter accounts. Request for dry storage space for assets including the Sleigh.
 - Clerk read report from the **Primary School**. Mr Stevens finishes as part-time Head this term and Executive Head from September will be Mrs Nicky Darley (Head at Heacham). Working with West Norfolk Academy Trust to go from requiring "significant improvement" to "good school" hopefully at imminent inspection. Two new teaching spaces being built over summer; current buildings being demolished; reception will have their own space, plus an additional area for nursery and pre-school. Significant sporting success – cross-country, football, netball and golf. Hoping to have the highest number of children running in 2016 Mini GEAR. Residents and prospective parents welcome to visit by appointment.
 - Clerk read a report from the **Allotments Committee**. Poor weather having a significant effect. Ken Hill visit commented on size of structures, trees/hedges, access etc and most of these have been addressed. Letters also sent over standard of some allotments – three resignations and one notice given. Currently four allotments available – two half, two full. Repairs made to road due to weather effects. Currently a problem with vermin – many cages being erected – a hard winter would help. Warmer weather has led to increased activity and plots looking good. Open Allotments Day to coincide with Open Garden Day.
- 4 (cont – **County** Cllr John Dobson having arrived). He spoke of the changes in NCC leadership due to political changes – Greens removing support. Finances of Adult Social Services still an issue even with extra Government support. New Managing Director doing a good job. Committee structure means no individual could make decisions – as with the incinerator. Devolution to Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough being looked at; major stumbling block the elected mayor – not appropriate in non-urban environment. Also promises of money over 30 years not constitutional.
- 7 Clerk outlined the position regarding the potential proposal to extract **silica sand** adjacent to the Village. Parish Council [PC] rejected the idea in both previous consultations. Some sites have been removed and the AOS_A (Snettisham site) reduced in area following this. Only on 9th May was confirmation received that AOS_A still included in the plans. Now possibly the time to look at organising Village more widely, and form a group with wider scope and greater flexibility to

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work alongside PC. The PC would meet formally after meeting to consider actions. Cllr Dobson commented on the difference between strategic and planning questions and the deadline involved. There were many elector comments/questions, including:

- Similar issues near Roydon Common; suggestion that a lorry every 45 minutes may ensue;
- Access – effects on A149;
- Resident adjacent to AOS_A could dig two feet before water coming in;
- Effect on roads in the Summer;
- Other organisations contacted?
- Ingoldisthorpe PC – minutes suggest lack of support;
- Question over proportion of the current AOS_A site needed; still 10%?
- Similar diggings near A13 were used for landfill when finished with;
- Traffic noise;
- Wildlife - effects of industrial facility; once gone birds etc will not return;
- Effect on strata; processing arrangements;
- H&S issues of number of lorries; further impact on emergency vehicle access;
- Compulsory purchase prices – would they be at agricultural rates?
- Suggestion that documents exist stating that NCC cannot compulsorily purchase as not the contractor; (Cllr Dobson to talk to NCC; Borough may have such rights; likely a way would be found);
- Effect on tourism of extra traffic.

Following this RB suggested an action group may be the way to proceed. One or two immediately indicated willingness to take part.

At this point two votes were taken. The first was whether those present wished to oppose the plan, and the second was whether those present felt that the PC should help with funding. Both of these were overwhelmingly supported – possibly unanimously - with no objections. At this point wider discussion took place as to how to proceed. Stuart Dark emerged as a possible interim leader, and it was suggested contact details of those present and willing to help could be sought – Clerk provided paper etc. There were also requests for clearer map and the possibility of outside expert help.

8 A **question** was raised over SPC's decision to donate money to the School PTA for purchase of coins to commemorate the 90th Birthday of HM the Queen – see note.

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

Note: Clerk suggested this was not appropriate, as too specific a question. He has subsequently apologised to questioner. There is already an agenda item on next SPC agenda which will cover this.

Signed:



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