

# NEATISHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Neatishead Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th April 2016 at 7.30pm in the new Victory hall**

Present: Councillor D Pritchard - Chair  
Officer Mrs S Hunt – Clerk to the Council

In Attendance - 13 Parishioners and District Councillor B McGoun

### **1. Apologies**

Were received from Esther Dack, PCSO, County Cllr Allison Bradnock, Cllr Paul Ryall, Mrs Dukes – Village School, Pauline Simpson - Church, Joan Wellsted – Baptist Church, Friends and Neighbours Scheme, Sally Church, W.I., Clare Male – Playingfield Committee.

### **2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015** were agreed by the meeting to be a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman Mrs Daphne Pritchard once the date had been amended to 2015.

### **3. District Councillor – Mrs Barbara McGoun.**

Cllr McGoun has been the representative for eleven years, and thanked the Parish Councillors for their work. This work is often unnoticed until a contentious issue, such as the contentious Affordable Housing Scheme is proposed, which provide a spirited public reaction in the last year.

This issue gave the opportunity to harness the energy and look closely at the importance of keeping the village vibrant and active, and consider the ways of providing adequate housing for those people who have found it difficult to move back to the village for lack of affordable housing.

Apart from the housing issue District casework in the Parish has been relatively small. The threat of losing the boat waste bins, happily, did not impact on Neatishead with the same force as other villages locally.

The District Council has been working on broadband, the boundary review, and the devolution issue, all of which are ongoing.

This lovely village goes from strength to strength, the New Victory Hall, the Shop, the Pub. There is a lot going on in the hub of the village and the heart is stronger than ever. Mrs McGoun thanked the village for allowing her to represent them.

### **4. Police Report.**

Esther Dack sent a report which was read by the Clerk;

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 6 crimes were recorded from Neatishead, these include 4 assaults, 1 burglary other than a dwelling (farm Building), and 1 attempted burglary other than a dwelling, and one person arrested for being in possession of a controlled drug – cannabis.

### **5. Neatishead Parish Council.**

Daphne Pritchard, Chair; Main topics for the Council in the past year have included the Staithe Car Park, which is due to be re-surfaced in the near future. This is to be funded on a 50/50 partnership with Norfolk County Council and will enhance the Staithe. Neatishead has been lucky that the refuse will continue to be collected this year by North Norfolk District Council, however this may change in future years, and the anticipated potential cost to the Parish if they were to take on the service is anticipated to be around £1,800. The Playingfield Committee have been busy gathering information and ideas from villagers for new play equipment. Mr Barrett has been commissioned to work within the Parish for another year, and the Parish Council are very grateful for the splendid job he does on the grassy areas within the village.

A tree preservation order was placed on the three Oak Trees on the right hand side of the Playingfield.

The Parish Council called an extra-ordinary meeting in October, attended by representatives from NNDC, The Church, and other interested parties to explain the exception policy in regard to affordable housing being built in Norfolk, and particularly that proposed within the Parish. The latest update is that the pre-planning consultation is taking place, obviously the Parish Council will pass along any information it receives.

The White Horse has been placed on the 'Community Asset Register' which means should it be marketed the Parish will have 6 months to try to organise a purchase before it goes onto the open market.

Bottle collections and Clothing banks continue to generate revenue for the Parish – and thanks are due to parishioners who continue to take the time to put their recycling into them. This revenue increased during 2015/16.

The green by the School is the property of Highways, and so the Parish Council is no longer responsible for the upkeep of this.

It is important to explain why the Parish Council has removed the dog bins – they cost £3 per empty, against £2 for a normal waste bin, and dog bags can go into the normal bin. This is intended to save the Parish over £200 per annum.

Sarah Hunt, the Clerk, has attended several training courses during the year to ensure that the Council is up to date with changes in legislation, and continues to ensure the Council follows all statutory requirements. All parishioners should have received a copy of the bus time table in the NIB, and Councillors hope they can understand it.

The Chair thanked fellow Councillors, and the Clerk and said that the Council is in a good and stable financial position to move into the New Year.

Members of the public are very welcome at all Parish Council meetings.

**6. Youth Club – Mr Palgrave-More.**

The generosity of a donation from the Parish Council has ensured that the Youth Club continues, however there are not sufficient numbers to be confident this will continue. 12 – 15 attending members are necessary to ensure the continuity of the club, and those figures are currently not being achieved. The club takes place at the New Victory Hall at 5 – 7pm on the last Friday night of the month, and is open for all children 9 years and upwards. It is very welcoming.

**7. Playingfield Committee – Nicholas Fowle.**

The children's equipment is currently in poor state, 1 piece has been removed, and 1 piece repaired but it is a poor reflection on the community of Neatishead, Barton Turf, and Irstead. Clare Male has headed up a committee which has worked hard, visited other villages and canvassed villagers to see what would work well within the parishes locally. Three quotes have been received against equipment identified as needed. This will be over £30,000 so the next stage of fundraising is a major task. A presentation will be made to the Parish Council in the near future.

**8. Neatishead Primary School.**

Mrs Dukes sent apologies, and a letter read out by the Parish Clerk.

The school currently has 44 pupils on roll. This is a slowly improving trend as the success of the school becomes better known. There are a strong set of governors whose range of experience and commitment benefits the school.

There are two main classes, both supported by full time classroom assistants. A specialist sports coach continues to take children for P.E. and Sports Lessons. Teachers are also mentoring two trainee teachers from the UEA this year.

The Ofsted this year judged the school to be 'good' with outstanding features, the school also underwent a Diocesan inspection this year. Both reports are on the school website and make positive reading.

An annual inspection by the Local Authority rated the school as 'outstanding'.

There are many opportunities for children at the school – the choir performed at many events, the netball team brought home the trophy from the cluster schools tournament, links have been forged with schools in Zimbabwe and Australia, pupils performed in the NABS production.

Salhouse school is the partner school, and teachers liaise together for professional development, planning and moderation opportunities. Pupils share school trips, and a residential trip to Holt Hall is due for June.

Other trips visited the Theatre Royal, the Norwich City Study Support Centre, Pizza Express, the Applestore, Norfolk Constabulary and a farm visit.

Many visitors have come into school to deliver learning opportunities.

The school works hard to deliver all aspects of the new curriculum and develop a system for assessment without levels. The I.T. equipment is being updated which will vastly increase the use of technology throughout the school. Attendance is high, which shows how much the children enjoy attending school at Neatishead.

Most of the pupils are members of the Children's University which recognises and rewards out of school activities and leads to a graduation at the UEA in the Summer Term.

Thanks were extended to the Parish Council for presenting children attending the school with the coin to commemorate the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is a good opportunity for the pupils to share a wonderful occasion

with their community. The School feels a strong part of the community, and welcome everyone to all public occasions – please look out for them and come along.

**9. Neatishead Charities – Mr Nick Fowle.**

The village Poor's or Fuel Allotment Charity has a long history, detailed in last year's minutes. There is an annual problem of how to distribute the money raised. The Charity asks via the NIB for people to contact the Trustees for help, and they would encourage members of the Parish to get in touch.

The Trustees are currently seeking to alter the terms of reference to make distribution of the money easier.

**10. Community Gym – Jim Clinch.**

The Gym takes place at the New Victory Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays from 8.30am to 12.30pm. People can drop in when they are open, or book a free taster session by telephone with Carol on 01692 535342 or by email at [gym@victoryhall.info](mailto:gym@victoryhall.info)

The Gym offers a good range of equipment, and a highly qualified and experienced instructor who can support personal goals over fitness and weight loss in a non-competitive atmosphere.

The gym is mostly used by local people with an average of 20 people attending each 4 hour session. There is a variety of membership and payment options available, with an Annual membership fee of £12 – to use it

once a week it is £16 a month, as often as someone likes £20 a month. Session passes are £24 for 5 passes. Junior membership is available and GP referral is at the reduced cost of £10 a month for three months with no membership fee.

**11. White House Stores.**

No report received.

**12. Baptist Church.**

Mrs Joan Wellsted was unable to attend but a report was read out by the Clerk.

The Church is in Church Lane. There is one service each Sunday at 10.30am. On occasions all three churches gather for a service. The church has had the wooden seats removed and replaced with comfortable chairs. The kitchen was enlarged a few years ago, and more recently modern toilets with disabled access have been installed. During the Summer months the Church has a Tea and Cake afternoon or a Coffee morning. Any money raised is donated to charity. All are welcome to share on a Sunday, or at any other time. Please look for notices, or check the NIB to see what is planned. The Church is keen to share in village activities and to give the opportunity for the Community to get to know the congregation.

**13. Friends and Neighbours.**

Mrs Joan Wellsted was unable to attend, but a report was read out by the Clerk.

The club was founded in 1971, and still goes strong. Membership peaked at 60, and currently sits at around 40. Members (sixty plus) are very welcome. The meeting is on the second and fourth Thursday in each month for about two hours. There is a speaker and coffee, a stall for small items and a raffle.

The Annual Subscription is £6. During the Summer there is an outing, and at Christmas a lunch at a nearby venue. Members come from throughout the area. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Mrs Joan Wellsted on 01603 417792.

**14. New Victory Hall Report – Mrs Doreen Dean.**

The Hall continues to be a great resource, run by 15 Trustees. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the Hall, and it continues to flourish. Twenty two groups regularly use the hall, and 36,414 visits were made by people during 2015. It is occupied 88% of the open time, and 84 private or social functions were held in 2105.

The Hall continues in good shape financially, income was £36,000 in 2015 and expenditure was £29,500.

The Accounts are independently examined. Many people fundraise for the Hall, and thanks were sent to those who give their time to organise the activities. Trustees are not complacent, and are mindful that it is important to maintain success. Hire rates are reasonable and have remained static for two years.

Reserves are now £25,000 to maintain the Hall. The render issue has now been resolved at no cost to the Charity. New volunteers are needed to help run the hall, Trustees would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to get involved.

A new objective is to explore with the Community Heritage Group the feasibility of developing a Community Heritage Centre on site.

The Hall can be considered a success. About 70% of the activities taking place on the premises are advertised in the NIB.

Copies of the Annual Report were made available to the meeting.

**15. Women's Institute – Mrs Doreen Dean.**

The W.I. group meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at the New Victory Hall at 2pm. The group has had a fantastic year under a delightful President and excellent committee. New members are welcome.

**16. Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group – Claire Penstone-Smith.**

The group delivered a WW1 project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was formed from members of the individual village history projects coming together with a grant of £9,900.

The project delivered 31 meetings, 6 open afternoons, a 9 day exhibition in 5 churches across 3 villages, a Living History Day at Neatishead School, a Project Reception, a drama, and ecumenical Remembrance Day service and a two day exhibition. An end of project report has been submitted.

The group now have a specially made wooden chest filled with Edwardian and WW1 artefacts which can be borrowed by community groups or used by members to give talks, the WW1 website gives access to a wider audience and members hope that parishioners will be interested to learn more about the history of all villages. The group now owns three laptops, a printer, scanner, laminator, external hard drive, a digital viewer, display boards and recording equipment. Fundraising continues for future projects.

Meetings will be regularly held – the next is on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Members of the community are welcome to join.

The group is looking forward to forming a joint working party with the New Victory Hall to explore the possibility of having a permanent home for the archives and equipment to enable community access.

**17. Parochial Church Council – Jim Longfield.**

Sandra Ellison had departed the previous September. The interregnum period was ably supported by the church wardens and lay ministers who all deserved a huge vote of thanks for their hard work.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March a selection committee interviewed the Reverend David Smith and their offer to him to become Rector of the Benefice has been accepted.

David is currently working in North Cheltenham, and previously had served with the RAF and spent 18 months in the Falklands Islands, so he has a good grasp of rural communities with limited local transport.

He will arrive later in the Summer with his wife, at a date to be mutually confirmed.

The Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council is to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April in the School Room.

**18. Gardening Club – Jane King.**

The club meetings monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at the New Victory Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

There are different speakers, social events, and outings – It is a very sociable group and not all members are expert gardeners, speakers cover subjects as diverse as 'History Beneath your Feet' and 'Herring Fishing in Great Yarmouth'.

Most members live within the Parish – the September Annual Show is open to everybody, details will be in the NIB. There are gardening, cooking, knitting and other categories and entries from non-members are welcomed. The last show was very pleasing, but entries this year, particularly from younger members, would be well received.

The membership is £16 per year.

The Chair Daphne Pritchard closed the meeting at 8.48pm by thanking everyone for their attendance and also those who made presentations to notify others of the activities that go on within the village, it is so lovely in a place with such a great community spirit.

Signed: