

MINUTES OF THE NEATISHEAD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

Held on 27th April 2017, 7.30pm at the New Victory Hall

Present: 20 members of the public and Mr David Church Chair.

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Hunt, Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies
County Councillor Allison Bradnock and Parish Councillor Paul Ryall.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th April 2016 were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.
3. District Councillor - Mrs Barbara McGoun
North Norfolk District Council has had a difficult year, the Government funding regime for local authorities has undergone changes, and also the Chief Executive Officer and two other senior officers have left the Council. Currently two corporate directors are sharing the role of CEO. It remains to be seen if this is workable.
A resolution of no confidence in the Leader of NNDC due to the handling of this issue was put in November 2016, but was lost.
NNDC voted not to support the Mayoral Combined authority of Norfolk and Suffolk.
Hoveton is being removed from the list of adjacent villages to Neatishead, which will impact on the affordable housing figures provided from NNDC for the village as those on the list for Hoveton will no longer be included. This should be finalised by the Summer.
The ward changes which would have joined Hoveton with Neatishead for representation at District Level should not make any difference to the representation received by the village, and is purely a logistical exercise to reduce the number of District Councillors from 48 to 40 and ensure that all Councillors represented an equitable number of Parishioners.
4. County Councillor - Mrs Allison Bradnock sent in a report.
The County Council underwent a change of leadership in 2016. The proposal for devolution for East Anglia was considered, debated and went to public consultation – the eventual outcome was a vote by the County Council against the proposal. The NDR has come to the conclusion of the first year of construction. Funding was awarded for the Norwich Castle Medieval Gateway project.
Locally there was a focus on road flooding, drains and other Highways matters such as winter road gritting, signage and parking. Not to mention footpaths, public rights of way. The three rivers way cyclepath was opened and work continues on the further two stages.
Allison expressed her thanks for the support received, but confirmed that she would not be standing in the forthcoming elections.

5. Report from Mr David Church, Chairman of Neatishead Parish Council.

Mr Church thanked his fellow Councillors for their work during the year, and the Clerk for her support. Thanks also to both the District and County Councillors who have both worked so hard for the Parish.

The Staithes has been an ongoing issue with maintenance issues. The Council has been in conversation with the Broads Authority, and work has started on obtaining a canoe pontoon and an electric hook-up for the boats mooring there. The flooding which caused damage to the car park has been addressed by Highways.

The NNDC legal team is working with the Council to obtain first registration with the Land Registry, and in negotiating a lease with the Broads Authority. The Council's newest member Mrs Dianne Pickering has taken on responsibility of seeing through the upgrade of the playground on the Recreation Field. The first success was the award of a grant from Tesco's, and work continues to provide equipment suitable for younger members of the community.

The Council has made donations in the last year to groups within the village, but intends to review both the sums and recipients in January of next year.

The proposed Boundary Review affecting the District Councillor representation showed clearly how close a community Neatishead is, and how well they work with adjacent parishes. It is being proposed that two councillors will represent a larger area leaving Neatishead linked with Barton Turf and Irstead.

The village sign was damaged by storm Doris, and the Council awaits news on the refurbishment.

Goal posts and nets at the Playingfield will hopefully soon be upgraded. A new picnic table has been installed and hopefully the work taking place at the field will ensure that it remains a facility that everyone can enjoy.

Money comes into the Parish from recycling – please do support this by using the recycling banks. The visiting boats donate money for the water at the staithes.

The Council is intending to have a joint meeting with Councillors from Barton Turf and Irstead during the next year to enable the Council's to work closer together.

Medals to mark the Queen's 90th birthday were given to the children of the village and attendees of the village school.

The installation of the BT box in the parish car park made £736.00 for the Parish.

The topic of Affordable housing provision within the parish has been quiet for the last 12 months.

There is a current vacancy on the Parish Council, please can anyone who is interested, or who knows anyone who is, please contact the Parish Clerk.
6. Neatishead Charities - Mr Nick Fowle

The Charity is seeking to alter the terms of reference to enable better distribution of assets. Hopefully it will change to; 'The relief of poverty, the advancement of education and community development and the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantages for the settled inhabitants of Neatishead.'

7. Community Gym - Jill Bazire

The gym continues three mornings a week, Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. There is a steady and increasing usergroup. Currently there is a bid to replace equipment. The member survey, as always, shows satisfaction with the provision. New members are welcome – drop in at any point, or email gym@victoryhall.info
8. New Victory Hall Report - Hugh McGill

There are five elected trustees and two co-opted. Currently the two co-opted positions are vacant. There are also two parish council representatives and 6 user group representatives. The object is to run the hall in a way that benefits and improves the lives of local residents.

It is a thriving hall, with a variety of events, clubs, users and private hirers. The hall's annual budget cycle sets aside an amount for maintenance and additional facilities, with the current project improvements to heat gain and glare.

The group is seeking to run the hall efficiently, but also to provide social opportunities and fun for local people.

Useage has been good all year, and the hall continues to work with local groups. The community room is available for local groups to use.
9. Women's Institute - Mrs Sally Church

Mrs Church is in her third year as president, and continues to be part of a group that draws not only from the village of Neatishead, but also from Barton, Horning, Ludham and all surrounding villages.

The meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month between 2 and 4 at the New Victory Hall.

It is much more than a meeting in a hall – competitions were entered at the Norfolk Show, it enters national competitions, fosters and shares traditional skills among members, is working on the national initiative on climate change. The group is a celebration of all things WI, and reaches out to others when relevant, a card was sent to the Queen and a letter received in return. Four members attended afternoon tea at Buckingham Palace during the year. Speakers are entertaining and informative, and craft days keep members busy.

This year a recipe book is being produced – and will be available in the village.
10. Neatishead Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group - Claire Penstone-Smith

The group has been given the use of the Community Room at the New Victory Hall for meetings and displays for the next six months. There were regular displays at the farmers markets on stage and these have proved popular with visitors.

Each month this shows a different aspect of the village history.

Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, topics vary each month and include films, walks, talks and research. Anybody welcome. A group of friends has been formed to support the work of the group.

There is a semi-permanent display in the black shed at Barton Turf.

Neatishead School is investigating its history. The church has a Heritage Lottery Grant towards the roof and an extra room over the porchway. The Baptist church are collecting history and photographs.

A record of every headstone in St Peter's churchyard is being made. Current projects include the Norfolk Regiments involvement in WWI battle of Paschendale and the fallen from the village. WWII fallen from the village. Promoting doomsday projects – incorporating smaller aspects and involvement from members of the community is welcomed. The group is seeking to produce a footpath map to cover all of the villages following the success of the Neatishead map. Long term the group seeks archive facilities and storage and permanent displays within the villages.

11. Saint Peter's Church - Revd D R Smith

Neatishead has a lot going for it and is a full community with a shop, the hall, the pub, the school and the church. These facilities rely on the community and need support.

St Peter's Church – Pauline Simpson

The emphasis of the church is on team work and many support the work of the Church, including a churchyard working party, cleaning and flower arranging teams and those that form Friends of St Peter's who raise income. The East and 3 North windows have been replaced.

Work is ongoing to repair the east wall.

5 Lime trees have been removed that were causing damage to the West wall.

The Memorial Trees have been pollarded.

The noticeboard has been replaced.

A tabletop tomb has been repaired.

Smart water has been applied and an automatic front door locking system installed.

The church is now locked between 5pm and 9am.

The Church welcomed David and Angela in July, and thanks must go to others who also conduct services to maintain the current worship pattern.

The school attends events at the Church. Children are encouraged to be part of the Church, a children's corner has been developed and seasonal events are held.

It is a small team – everyone is welcome to become part of the worshipping congregation, but equally anyone who would like to be involved in the maintenance of the building and its surrounding would be equally welcome.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.