

LONGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Longham
held on 26th May 2009
at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

Present: Mrs Carol Jefferies, Mrs Carole Kennell, Mr & Mrs Bass, Mr R McLeod, Mrs A Kerry, Mrs M Dye, Mrs S Douglas, Mrs A Watson, Mrs D McLeod,
Mr C Kennell, Dist Cllr E Gould, Dist Cllr M Kiddle-Morris

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Douglas, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr P Collins.

2. To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2008

Mrs Kerry proposed the minutes of 12th May be accepted as a true and accurate record. This proposal was seconded by Mrs Watson. No one objected so Mrs Douglas as Chairman of the Parish Council, signed the minutes as accepted.

3. To report on Matters Arising from the minutes (not on the agenda)

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Mr Kennell, the Chairman for the previous year, gave a verbal report, mentioning the new notice boards that the Parish Council had recently purchased. He thanked the Clerk for the work she had put in, with regards to obtaining the grant money needed to purchase them. He thanked Mr Bass for his help in putting one up. The tree near the bus shelter had been cut down and the wood sold, so money has been raised from that. A directory for the village had been produced, mainly by the Clerk, and this was considered a useful booklet. The village hall had had a fire and therefore needed a refurbishment, which left the hall now looking quite splendid. The bike show last summer had raised £1,000. The money had been given to Air Ambulance and the Church. Another bike show will be taking place this year. He thanked his fellow Councillors for their support over the last few years, whilst he was Chairman of the Parish Council and Sue Douglas thanked him for all the work he had done as Chairman.

5. To receive report from any District Councillor present

Dist Cllr Gould spoke about the planning situation and Capita. Regarding the Local Government Review and the Boundary Committee proposals for the single unitary, a result is expected on July 14th. At the moment 420 Councillors cover Norfolk, but the number could drop to 80.

Breckland had put £12m into the Icelandic government but 80% will be coming back, and it could be more than that. They are getting it back because they were advised by Government investment brokers to invest in it.

6. To receive any other reports such as the Church, Village Hall

The Church

Mrs Dye spoke about the Church and she is still very involved with it. There is now a new Rector. With the church restoration work complete, the inside is ready for re-decoration, whilst there is a donation for this work, the Treasurer is actively seeking grants to cover the remaining cost. Mrs Watson will be organizing another garden event at her house this summer to help raise funds for the church.

The Village Hall

Mrs Kerry gave a verbal talk regarding the village hall. She explained how the fire was devastating for all the members and committee members. It caused a loss of revenue, which was not covered on insurance. Grants need to be obtained for the central heating costs. Bookings are up on last year and there is much interest for wedding party bookings. Last year there was a vintage tractor show but the football team stopped using the hall. Regarding the refurbishment, consideration was given to the environment and where possible, the village hall tried to 'go green'.

7. To discuss any 'Forward Plans' required

Clay Pitts

A report had been received but it was slightly contradictory, as in one part it suggests doing various things and then it finishes by saying, leave well alone. Mr & Mrs Bass volunteered to be involved with meeting someone from Wensum Valley Trust. The Clerk will contact Steve Dalliston regarding setting up a meeting in the village between him and some Councillors.

Litter Picking

Mrs Douglas spoke about the procedures necessary, as she had received some paperwork regarding this. Mr & Mrs Bass said they would like to become community rangers, so Mrs Douglas will contact Street Scene about this. It was decided 13th June would be a good date for the litter pick, with a 10.30 am start. Mrs Bass offered coffee to those taking part, at the start of the picking session, with wine or soft drinks at the finish. Mrs Douglas said she would make the necessary arrangements where Breckland was concerned. Regarding unlawful dropping of litter, if Street Scene are informed and can make contact with the culprits, they will prosecute.

8. To discuss the end of year accounts, if desired

No one had any questions to ask.

9. To discuss any Highways Issues

This groups are still in need of attention along Hoe Road. Highways need to be informed of this as well as the fact that verge cutting needs doing, especially at the junction of Ostrich Lane and the junction of Wendling Road/Honeypot wood.

10. To discuss Any Other Business

There was no further business to discuss.

11. To confirm date & time of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 10th May 2010 at 7.00 pm, in the Village Hall.

There being no other business to discuss, Mrs Douglas declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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Chairman, Longham Parish Council

Date