**Minutes of Bures St Mary Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2015 at The Garrad Room, Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road at 7.30pm**

**Present:**  Cllrs G Jackson, R Butcher, L Alston, D Ambrose, J Carpenter,

 M Cudmore, P Arnold

Cllr J Finch (SCC), Cllr L Parker (BDC), Cllr D Lee (BHPC)

A Goody (Internal Auditor), T Saer & T Underwood (outgoing Parish Councillors)

**In attendance:** Mrs J Wright (Parish Clerk)

**In the Chair:**  Cllr G Jackson (Bures St Mary Parish Council Chairman)

**Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr J McCrory, Mike Seymour (outgoing Parish Councillor)) and PC Darren Marshall.

**Welcome**

Cllr Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted to all those present that it had been agreed at the previous parish council meeting to trial holding the Annual Parish Meeting immediately before the AGM. She was pleased to see so many in attendance especially all old and new councillors and welcomed the new format.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 254h April 2014 were read and confirmed (previously signed 22nd May 2014).

**Police Report**

A police representative had been invited to attend but had been unable to owing to shift patterns.

The Annual Police Report from PC Marshall had been circulated and the Chairman highlighted the reported crimes for the year. 1 Burglary, 3 Burglary Other Buildings, 6 Vehicular Crime, 7 Assaults and Public Order, 4 Theft, 3 Criminal Damage, 7 Miscellaneous Offences.

PC Marshall noted that of all these reported crimes, 6 were detected via arrests and subsequent charges or cautions. Several other offences were dealt with by way of Community Resolutions.

Suffolk’s Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore was staging a series of 7 public meetings across the county. The Babergh meeting was to be held at the Grand Hall, Hadleigh Town Hall Complex, Market Place, Hadleigh IP7 5DN on Wednesday 10th June commencing at 6.30pm.

**Financial Statement**

The Clerk presented the following report:

**Balances as at 1st April 2015:**

Business Instant A/C balance: £15,922.46

Treasurers A/C balance: £ 4,703.59

 £20,626.05

Parish precept to Babergh District Council for financial year 2015/2016: £26,435.00 as per previous year 2014/2015.

Council Tax Grant: £1,007.50 for 2015/16 additional to the Parish Precept request.

Previous year 2014/15: £1,511,25. The Council Tax Grant will continue to be reduced from BDC year on year until a Nil figure. Parish Council will continue to monitor the effect of this reduction on its budget.

Parish Element of Band D Tax Rate: £66.16 for 2015/16 (£73.77 for 2014/15)

**Allocation of Parish Budget 2015/16:**

Cemetery Authority ` £3500 (as per previous year)

Bures Community Centre £200 (50% of telephone line rental)

Sportsground £8,000 (£417.50 increase on previous year)

Repairs/Projects £2,000

Lighting £2,000

Lighting Loan £1,749.92

Insurance £800

Training £500

Hall hire £300

Auditors £400

Administration £375

Subscriptions £400

Clerk’s salary £4,380.48

Repairs/projects £2,000

Grounds Maintenance £1,300

Gritting £225

Earmarked Funds £1500 for Elections/Referendum

 £404.27 Defibrillator funds

 £1,000 for Neighbourhood Plan

Minimum Retention Funds held £6,608.75

The parish council took out a 10 year PWB Loan of £21,465 commencing on 2nd April 2013 for the upgrade of the parish street lighting. £5,000 in addition to the two half year payments was paid during the year 2014/15 leaving an outstanding year end balance of £12,989.

The Clerk’s hours were increased by 2 hours per week commencing January 1st 2015

 – 8 hours for St Mary Parish Council and 4 hours for Sports Ground Committee.

**County Council Report**

Cllr James Finch informed those present that he had been elected onto the Highways Cabinet.

His annual report had been circulated previously to all members.

Cllr Finch proceeded to highlight the following main points:

SCC freezes council tax for the fifth year in a row. Suffolk schools’ ascent of league tables confirmed.

Suffolk first in the country to extend Better Broadband BDUK programme. Multi-million-pound investment in skills secured – this investment to fund projects set out in the Greater Ipswich City Deal including a new youth employment centre in Ipswich and an incentive scheme to encourage businesses to invest in training. SCC aims to double the number of apprenticeships in Suffolk.

SCC pledge to tackle Mental Health – The Time to Change organisational pledge signed on World Mental Health Day was a public statement of aspiration for SCC and the NHS in Suffolk to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination.

Cllr Finch was thanked for his contribution to the meeting.

**District Council Report**

Retiring Cllr James Cartlidge was not in attendance and therefore no annual report presented.

Recently elected Cllr Lee Parker introduced himself to the meeting. He gave a brief outline of himself and noted to the members that he was currently a parish councillor for Newton Parish Council and was keen to promote the interests of parishioners within his area boundary as their newly elected District Councillor.

**Chairman’s Report**

Cllr Jackson proceeded to present her report and a copy to go in the parish magazine.

Noted below are highlighted items from the Chairman’s report:

Pikes Marsh – considerable work undertaken by councillors to identify and iron out problems during the building development. Slaughterhouse site – approved much to the disapproval of the parish councillors. The Croft issues – no progress had been made on this and the Chairman took the opportunity in writing her Annual Report to more publicly apologise for her part in leading residents to believe a solution would be found. Bank House – still a major concern for the members. S106 monies – funding had been secured for the aerial runway and adult exercise equipment. Dog issues – a shocking number of dog- related incidents reported during the past year on the sports ground. The Chairman took the opportunity to remind parishioners that sporting activity is incompatible with out of control dogs and the mess left by dog owners who do not pick up after their pets. Streetlights – these had been changed to low energy led lamps. Teamtree – both parish councils had taken over responsibility for the Christmas lights and had given positive support to Teamtree.

The Chairman proceeded to extend her thanks to the 4 outgoing parish councillors, outgoing Babergh District Councillor and the Clerk for all their hard work.

**Questions from Parishioners**

Tim Underwood asked Cllr Parker if he felt that it would make any difference in the workings of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils now they were combined. Both Cllr Parker and Cllr Finch felt that this move could only be positive and accelerate the workings of the District Councils.

This concluded the business.