

Minutes of Bures St Mary Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 24th April 2014 at The Garrad Room, Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs G Jackson, M Seymour, R Butcher, T Saer, L Alston, C Holbrook, J McCrory, T Underwood, D Ambrose, Cllr J Finch (SCC), Cllr J Cartlidge (BDC), Cllr D Lee (BHPC) and one member of the public

In attendance: Mrs J Wright (Parish Clerk)

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

Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no apologies received.

Presentation

Cllr Jackson noted that no presentation had been arranged but welcomed all to stay for refreshments following the meeting. She also advised that the reports from both the County and District Councillors along with her own Chairman's Report would be circulated via the parish magazine.

Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2013 were read and confirmed (previously signed 23rd May 2013).

Police Report

A police representative had been invited to attend but had been unable to owing to shift patterns. The Clerk had spoken with PC Darren Marshall who advised that PCSO Debbie Rudd would take over as representative for Bures St Mary.

Financial Statement

The Clerk presented the following report:

Balances as at 1st April 2014:

Business Instant A/C balance:	£10,561.05
Treasurers A/C balance:	<u>£ 4,329.91</u>
	£14,890.96

Parish precept to Babergh District Council for financial year 2014/2015: £26,435.00 agreed as per previous year 2013/2014.

Council Tax Grant: £1,511.25 for 2014/15 additional to the Parish Precept request.

Grant for previous year 2013/14: £2,379. The Council Tax Grant would continue to be reduced from BDC year on year until a Nil figure. The Parish Council to continue monitoring the effect of this reduction on its budget.

Parish Element of Band D Tax Rate: £73.77 for 2014/15 (£76.07 for 2013/14)

This reflected a 3.03% decrease on 2013/14.

The allocation of the Parish Budget 2014/15:

Cemetery Authority	£3500 (as per previous year)
Bures Community Centre	£200 (telephone rental) Note: Final instalment of hall improvement loan paid March 2014)
Sportsground	£7582.50 (as per previous year)

Repairs/Projects	£5,269.80
Lighting	£2,354.18
Insurance	£1,250
Training	£500
Hall hire	£300
Auditors	£300
Administration	£221
Subscriptions	£607
Clerk's salary	£3,275.38
Repairs/projects	£1500
Grounds Maintenance	£1,213
Gritting	£200
Earmarked Funds	£1500 for Elections/Referendum £404.27 Defibrillator funds
Minimum Retention Funds held	£6,608.75

The parish council had taken out a 10 year PWB Loan of £21,465 commencing on 2nd April 2013 for the upgrade of the parish street lighting. The costs were significantly lower than previously suggested by SCC. Total cost of works being £15,312.02 although the parish council had to pay a further £1,332.35 for maintenance and energy costs during the year.

The Clerk agreed to write again to SCC requesting an official adoption date for the upgraded street lighting which was required for the parish council's asset register and insurance policy.

Dorcas Bridges Trust

The terms of the Trust is that the donations are given to 'poor Widows of Bures St Mary' but the Trustees advised that they were investigating whether the terms could be amended to cover the whole village and the donations used to help the elderly. For 2013/14 the Trustees had donated £100 to the Darby and Joan Club along with 2 donations of £5 to two residents who did not attend the Club.

County Council Report

Cllr James Finch's report was circulated. He then proceeded to highlight the following main points: SCC portion of council tax to be frozen at its 2010/11 level for a fourth year. No libraries had been closed in Suffolk. Although budgets had been reduced, overall there was now a better service being delivered with buildings being utilised by other users. 70% of Suffolk schools considered as Good or Outstanding. Profile of apprenticeships being raised. Local Apprenticeship Service highlighted. SCC had sold off its last 10 care homes during 2013. SCC had made a £60 million investment in its partnership scheme with Care UK for the build of new care homes throughout the county. Funding confirmed for upgrading the A14. SCC had secured funding for the 1st and 2nd phase of its Suffolk's Better Broadband programme.

Cllr Finch proceeded to give a short summary of the proposals for an extension of the Dedham Vale AONB. A Joint Advisory Committee had put in a formal request for an extension, looking to extend south of Sudbury. Full process for an extension may continue through to 2020. The Dedham Vale press release on its application was circulated to all those present and was available online. Cllr Finch expressed his thanks for the support given to him by the Parish Council.

Questions raised to Cllr Finch:

Cllr Underwood raised his concern that there was a lack of attendance of a police representative at the parish council meetings. It was noted that PC Bala was currently on maternity leave. PCSO Debbie Rudd was to be assigned to Bures St Mary.

Cllr Underwood also raised his concerns regarding the state of the roads within the parish. Cllr Finch was to meet with Highways on the 7th May and would report back at the next parish council meeting. He also advised that he was currently following up on a VAS sign for parish share use. Cllr Underwood raised concern that parish rural issues were not being taken up by SCC. Cllr Finch gave his assurances that they were.

Cllr Finch was thanked for his contribution to the meeting.

District Council Report

Cllr Cartlidge gave a verbal report and noted that he would consider issuing a written report prior to the meetings in future.

He reported on the recent BDC housing survey which was looking at resident's needs. BDC portion of the Council Tax had been frozen. Solar panels were currently being placed on all Babergh District Council Housing properties. Cllr Cartlidge referred to the recent parish issue with BDC concerning the erection of the bollards at Tawneys Ride without prior consultation to residents. He advised the parish council that Sue Long had recently been appointed the new Locality Officer for the area and she was happy to attend a parish council meeting during the year. Cllr Jackson to follow up. Cllr Cartlidge informed the meeting that he was always happy to help address community issues on behalf of the parish council.

It was noted that parking in the parish had become a high priority matter and the members would consider the issues following the completion of Braeburn Gardens.

Chairman's Report

Cllr Jackson's full report circulated. She then proceeded to give her report highlighting the following: One of the major decisions over the past year was to proceed with a Joint Neighbourhood Plan which once adopted would give Bures residents a power in the planning decision making process. She noted that the appointment of Mrs Jenny Wright as Parish Clerk to both Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary would be vital to the success of its implementation.

Cllr Jackson thanked both District and County Councillors for all their help during the year. Highway items still being addressed: B1508 surfacing, speeding, water drainage at Cuckoo Hill and surfacing of The Croft. Meetings regularly held with Persimmon Homes to address issues arising from the building work at Braeburn Gardens. Funding still being sought from the Section 106 monies for adult exercise equipment for the sportsground. A defibrillator was now installed in the telephone kiosk at Church Square. A new Kissing Gate now in place at the end of The Croft. The roundabout was currently being restored. The parish council had recommended Mrs Josephine Robinson for a Babergh Community Achievement Award and the award had subsequently been presented to her in April.

Cllr Jackson was thanked for her work during the year as Chair of the Parish Council.

Cllr Finch noted that Cllr Ambrose had attended the naming ceremony of the County Council Chamber as 'The King Edmund Chamber' and thanked him for representing Bures St Mary.

Cllr Cartlidge noted that he recognised the daily inconvenience for those residents living in close proximity to Braeburn Gardens while the building works continued.

Questions from Parishioners

The Chairman thanked Mrs June Underwood for attending the meeting as the only member of the public present.

This concluded the business.

