

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 AT 7.30PM IN ROXWELL SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** 4 Parishioners & 8 Parish Councillors

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Green (Clerk), CBC Cllr. Mrs Nicolette Chambers, ECC Cllr. John Aldridge, PCSO Jon McDonald

## **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were taken as read and the Chairman confirmed that they were signed as a true record at the May 2008 meeting.

## **2. MATTERS ARISING**

Nothing to report.

## **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**GENERAL:-** We are now approaching the half way point in this Council's term of office.

We have had a reasonably busy second year which has seen three projects completed.

1. Replacement of the notice board situated at the Memorial Hall Car Park in October, unfortunately within a month a vehicle had reversed into the board which caused damage needing repairs and a new post which are still on-going. The driver who caused the damage came forward and is paying the repair costs.
2. Replacement doors and windows to the sports pavilion.
3. Erecting a fence around the play equipment at the Recreation Field to stop dogs fouling where children are playing

Democratic 15 minutes has seen a small number of Parishioners attend most meetings over the last twelve months.

We are awaiting works to be carried out by ECC Highways Department to sort out problems with flooding caused by blocked drains at various locations within the Parish and also works to footpaths adjacent to the Post Office and the path running alongside the Barn in Church Green. Highways have also been asked to attend to the numerous pot holes on the A1060 between The Hickerage and The Hare. We are also continuing to progress changes to the speed limits on the village approaches.

We have continued to receive a steady flow of planning applications.

The PCSO's continue to attend our meetings and keep us informed on policing matters. The village Neighbourhood Action Panel (an invited group of people) meets every three months with the PCSO's to review and discuss matters that are thought to need attention. Youth nuisance and speeding are regular items on the agenda. The Police continue to monitor speed within the 30 MPH area.

As suggested by PCSO Hilton at our January meeting I have attended recent Youth Group meetings with PCSO McDonald to speak with the children to find out what they would like to be able to do (not one of those present had ever skate boarded). It was pointed out to the children that we all want them to enjoy themselves but not in a way that is annoying to others. Talking to the youth in this way has seen marked improvement of behaviour in other parishes, I therefore feel it is worth while having dialogue which will hopefully improve the situation in Roxwell.

**FINANCE:-** At the end of our financial year we expect our funds balance to be between £8000.00 & £9000.00. The Finance Sub-Committee recommended that we precept for £13,700.00 for the 2009/10 financial year in increase of £650.00 /4.98%. Fees from the hire of the Recreation Field will be in the region of £1,700.00.

**RECREATION:-** The Recreation facilities have been well used for both football and cricket. The teams currently in residence are Writtle Manor FC one Saturday side. Durassic Park FC and Writtle Manor FC play on Sundays. Cricket is played by Roxwell Blues. Writtle Manor FC have been given a final warning as to their right to use the facilities due to several of their players taking part in an unscheduled practice on a very wet Saturday afternoon in December which caused considerable damage to the pitch.

Both the Toddler Area and Recreation Field were awarded Certificates of Merit in the Best Kept Playing Field Competition in 2008.

The Toddler Area had to be closed in the Autumn due to it having been defecated. The clean-up operation cost £350.00

During the school summer holidays we arranged with Chelmsford Borough Council for their mobile skate board ramp to be in the village, unfortunately no body turned up on the day. We will not therefore arrange this in 2009.

The summer play day run in the Memorial Hall by the Chelmsford Borough Council was well attended.

There is still a problem on the Recreation Field and around the village with dog fouling, a letter was sent to the Editor of the Recorder on the matter and has been included in the March edition.

#### **4. REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

- a. **Memorial Hall** – Nothing to report.
- b. **Footpaths** – Cllr. Page reported that it had been a very quiet year.
- c. **Roxwell Charity** – Cllr. Hatcher reported that there had been no activity this year.

#### **5. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

A vote was taken and it was agreed not to enter the competition this year.

#### **6. BEST KEPT PLAYING FIELD COMPETITION**

A vote was taken and it was agreed that the village would enter the competition again this year.

#### **7. ANY OTHER PARISH MATTERS**

A parishioner, Pat Young, enquired as to whether the Parish Council had a Parish Bus Representative. The Chairman advised that they did not and she offered to take on the position. The Chairman agreed to contact Mrs Young to talk to her about the role further. Mrs Young expressed concern at the proposed withdrawal of the No. 46 bus service. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had made representations. Cllr. Howlett had informed the Chairman about the matter and had arranged a petition. A letter had never been received from Essex County Council about the proposals but the Chairman had managed to get a copy once he found out. Cllr. Aldridge advised that Cllr. McEwen went to a meeting with County officials and there was strong representation made on the subject with parishioners wishing that the bus service is retained on the same route, The consultation continues but is looking very positive. Cllr. Aldridge advised that he made representation on behalf of Roxwell and Willingale. Cllr. Aldridge said that parishioners should be encouraged to use the buses when they can.

A parishioner, Glyn Eastman, asked what consultation there had been about the withdrawal of the bus service. The Chairman advised that he acted as soon as he heard about it and replied within 2 days. Cllr. Evans said the situation is being reviewed about the contract renewal. The Chairman advised that Essex County Council had apologised about the Parish Council not receiving the letter and in future it had been agreed that the Chairman would receive E-mails from Essex County Council. Cllr. Aldridge stated that there should have been a much more appropriate time for consultation and at the moment the consultation is a review on the contract. The review looks to see if financial arrangements are relevant.

A parishioner, Roy Cumbers, expressed concern at the amount of crime in the village. He reported that the garages in St. Michaels Drive are repeatedly being broken into and a pattern is emerging. The garages have been broken into several times in the last two years and is happening about every 6 weeks. Mr Cumbers had spoken to P.C. Brown when his garage was broken into and P.C. Brown came and visited the scene. PCSO McDonald advised that he had only had two incidents of crime reported to him since January. It was agreed that Mr Cumbers would contact PCSO McDonald to discuss the matter further and then he can keep an eye on things and patrol the area. Mr Cumbers advised that graffiti is also an issue in the village.

A parishioner, Wayne Hands, expressed his concern at the Parish Council's people skills towards user groups in the village especially with people being asked to withdraw grant applications. Mr Hands felt that this was particularly intimidating to applicants and any applicants should be given a hearing. The Chairman advised that the matter concerned involved the Pre-School and that they were advised to withdraw their application purely as a measure whilst the group applied for grant funding from other sources for the planned scheme.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**Meeting Closed 8.00pm**

**CHAIRMAN.**

**DATE**