

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 2011 AT 7.30PM IN ROXWELL SCHOOL**

PRESENT: 2 Parishioners & 9 Parish Councillors

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Green (Clerk), ECC Cllr. John Aldridge, PCSO Sandra Strange and PCSO Nikki Dison

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th March 2010. It was confirmed by the Chairman that they had been agreed and signed as a true record at the May 2010 meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Nothing to report.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

GENERAL:- Tonight's meetings are the last to be held before elections are held on the 5th May. During the last year the Council has had probably one of its busiest for many years. The Mineral Development Document Preferred Options Paper which came out for consultation in December 2010 with the site at Shellow Cross/Elms Farms and Newland Hall included despite the many objections that were submitted in 2009. This resulted in two public meetings, which were both very well attended, especially the second meeting on 14th December which was attended by the Essex County Council planning officers. As a result of these meetings and the input by the working party set up to put together the Councils objections, we duly submitted our document by the deadline of 17th February 2011. Special thanks must go to Cllr. Mark Page who put many hours of work into producing the final document. This document is available for viewing on the Councils Web Site. Our objections to the proposed Affordable Housing Scheme were successful in proving that at this moment in time Roxwell had no known need for Affordable Housing. We continued to receive smaller planning application on a regular basis.

Our lines of communication with Essex County Council Highways Department have been almost continuous throughout the year. We have seen several items carried out from our requests, although some of the drainage works still need further visits to sort the problems out. We continue to speak with Highways and other departments to get the works completed that remain outstanding. Obviously the restraints being put on the ECC and CBC will have some effect on when works take place, but we will persevere.

The 6 cast iron lamp posts will be painted weather permitting before the end of March.

Last April a very successful litter pick was held, with over 50 people turning out to clear the ditches and roadside throughout the Parish of rubbish. Thanks to Hugh Dibbens who co-ordinated the event on the Councils behalf. This year the litter pick has been arranged for Saturday 9th April.

The PCSO's attended most of our meetings as well as making regular visits to the village.

I would like to thank Cllr. Nicolette Chamber our Borough Councillor, and also for the last year a member of the Parish Council, and Cllr. John Aldridge our County Councillor for their help, advice and support during the year.

FINANCE:- At the end of the Councils financial year we expect our fund balance to be approx £15,250.00. The finance sub- committee recommended that the Council precept for £14,000.00 for the financial year 2011/2012, an increase of £300.00

RECREATION:- The Toddlers play area off of St Michaels Drive, and the multi play unit on the recreation field continue to be well used.

The new items of play equipment at the toddlers area (Boat and shop) were both well received.

The Recreation Field pitches are still being used by Writtle Manor FC on Saturdays and Sundays, as well as Durassic Park FC (now known as Interpostofico FC) on Sundays. Roxwell Blues CC are the senior cricket team during the summer months. Last year we also welcomed Writtle CC Under 9 colts to the ground. The total number of football matches that will be played during the 2010/2011 season will be in the region of 36. The total income from hire charges over a calendar year will be in the region of £2,300.00
The toddler play area received a certificate of merit (Sliver Award) in the annual best kept playing field competition organised by the Essex Playing Fields Association. Numerous dog owners still have to be reminded that their dogs should be kept on leads at all times whilst using the recreation field.

4. REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

- a. **Memorial Hall** – Cllr. Howlett reported that the Hall was doing a lot better than it was last year. New brochures and leaflets had been produced and the Committee were advertising the Hall. The Hall has now been approved by ECC and is on their recommended list of halls to hire. The Committee are trying to get the bookings in and are clearing space for the new fridge.
- b. **Footpaths** – Cllr. Page reported that things had been fairly quiet until last month when there had been a number of complaints about the devastating work being carried out on the bridleway between Newlands Hall and Great Newarks. Cllr. Philpot declared an interest and left the room. Cllr. Page stated that this is an exceptional Bridleway which has a coveted tunnel effect of vegetation which is a rarity in Essex and the parish were lucky to have this. Cllr. Page advised that the landowner had been carrying out fairly drastic felling and removal of the hedge line. He had reported the matter to CBC Cllr. Nicolette Chambers and ECC Cllr. John Aldridge who had pursued the issue and got the hedge protected. CBC say they indeed warrant an Emergency TPO to prevent any further felling or removal of hedgerow. Cllr. Chambers read out the Tree Officer's report and advised that the ECC Rights of Way Officer is happy with the work as the area can dry out. A Management Plan needs to be written to keep the vegetation clear and a meeting needs to be arranged with the landowner before the plan is prepared. Cllr. Page stated that it was inappropriate management and total improper management.
- c. **Roxwell Charity** – Cllr. Hatcher reported that Charles II's Chancellor was the first person to set up the Charity. There are £10k of assets which used to produce £57.00 per month it now produces 17p per month. The Charity does not pay tax as it is a registered charity. The overall movement in the Charity is nil.

5. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

A vote was taken and it was agreed that the village would not 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

It was reported that dog fouling was a problem around the village. The Chairman said that it was not too bad now on the Recreation Field.

The Chairman advised that ECC Libraries and Culture had reviewed the mobile libraries service and had advised that there would be no proposed changes to the Roxwell timetable.

A parishioner, Richard Woolley thanked the Chairman and Parish Council on behalf of the parishioners for all the work they had put in to preparing, submitting and publicising the objections to the Minerals and Waste document. He said that a very good professional job had been done and that it was very applaudable and very commendable.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting Closed 7.50pm

CHAIRMAN.

DATE