

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 MAY 2013 AT 7.00 PM IN ST PETER'S HALL WOODHALL SPA**

*There were 46 members of the public in attendance.*

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr David Clarke, introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He explained the purpose of the Annual Parish meeting and quickly ran through the order of the agenda.

### **2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mrs J Nelstrop, Mr and Mrs Knight and Mrs D Robinson.

### **3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2012 AND THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

It was proposed by Mr M Harness and seconded by Mr D Hill that the minutes from the 2012 Annual Parish meeting be signed as a correct record. This was confirmed by a show of hands and the Chairman signed the minutes.

It was proposed by Mr R Sanderson and seconded by Mr R Webb that the minutes from the Parish meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November be signed as a correct record. This was confirmed by a show of hands and the Chairman signed the minutes.

### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that there were no matters arising from last year's meeting, or from the parish meeting held in November 2012.

The Chairman introduced the Parish Councillors and spoke about the Committees and Working Groups which carry out the work of the Council; he also gave details of the Council's association with other groups within the village

The Chairman spoke about the highlights of 2012/13 which included setting up a Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group to assist with the development of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the village, gaining the General Power of Competence, and the Chairman explained what this was and how it benefited the Council by having it. Winning the Best Kept Village competition for a second year in a row, employing an assistant to help the Clerk with her ever increasing workload, adopting a new Parish Council logo, carrying out repairs to the village clock, working on updating the two village map boards, refurbishing many of the benches within the village; and working with HSBC to provide an ATM in the village, in a purpose built pod, which would also house the Parish Council notice board and village map board. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Council had supported the need for affordable housing in the village, and in particular had supported an application to build affordable homes on the piece of land at the end of Alexandra Road, which had unfortunately not been supported by all residents, many of which had wished to retain the land as open space, and had applied for Village Green status for the piece of land. Other projects which the Council had been involved with during 2012/13 were working with the Highways department to monitor and improve the issues of speeding and parking along Victoria Avenue, improving the appearance of the Garden of Remembrance at the cemetery, further development of the Snow and Ice, and Emergency plans; holding a drainage summit which was attended by all the organisation involved with

drainage for the village, except Anglian Water which unfortunately did not send a representative; and considering and responding to many planning applications. The Chairman gave details of the major planning applications which were considered by the Parish Council during 2012/13.

The Chairman gave details of grants which the Parish Council had given to community organisations last year, and he explained the grant application process and emphasised that applications needed to demonstrate a benefit to the community; and community groups within the village were encouraged to apply for a grant for any upcoming projects. Details were also given about the consultations which the Parish Council had been asked to respond to during the past twelve months.

The Chairman spoke about what the future would hold for the Parish Council and he explained the methods of communicating with the Parish Council.

The Chairman gave an update report on Jubilee Park which included the following key points:

- It had been a very successful 2012 season
- Friends of Jubilee Park (FOJP) were actively fundraising and residents were urged to take part
- The caravan site amenity block had been refurbished because it was not fit for purpose. The work had been paid for by a loan taken out by the Parish Council. Details of the work that had been carried out were given, including the additional work needed for deeper foundations. Residents were encouraged to go and take a look at the new amenity block.
- New play equipment had been installed in the play area, and Bruce Gordon was thanked for his hard work in applying for grants to make the project possible.

The Chairman spoke about plans for the Jubilee Park in 2013 onwards, which included:

- A new café with a 2 year lease, which would be a significant improvement on the previous facility.
- New (and online) booking system
- Setting up a Jubilee Park Charitable Company with a trading arm. This would bring VAT benefits, make the decision making process much easier and offer more access to grant funding. The meeting was informed that the Council was in the process of setting up a company and it was hoped that it would be done by June/July. The Chairman explained the structure of the company and explained that there would be an interim board of trustees/directors for 2013, and these would be replaced in 2014 by a new board of Directors who would be sought from the community, and the Chairman encouraged anyone with an interest in Jubilee Park to consider it. The Chairman emphasised that the Parish Council would retain ownership of the land.

The Chairman highlighted the importance of community involvement and encouraged residents to get involved with Jubilee Park in anyway that they felt that they could.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Parish Council's Financial Statement for 2012/13 was displayed. The Parish Clerk ran through the statement and explained the income, expenditure and year end balances. The Chairman provided the meeting with the facts and figures about the 2013 precept; and was told that it was not the Parish Council's intention to keep increasing the precept but due to the changes to the Government Council Tax Relief scheme the increase to the 2013 precept had appeared larger than it actually was.

## **6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

### **PCSO STUCHFIELD**

The Parish Clerk read out a list of incidents which had been reported to the Police, on behalf of PCSO Stuchfield who was not able to be present at the meeting.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Cllr Denis Hoyes was congratulated on being re-elected. Cllr Hoyes told the meeting that the main issues dealt with by the County Council during 2012/13 were flooding and potholes. He informed the meeting that he hoped that the Albany Road flooding issues would be sorted before Manor Crest started building in the area of the village; and that the County Council had been trying to keep on top of the potholes. The scheme to refurbish Kirkby Lane had been put back and was due to start within the next month or two. Cllr Hoyes answered a question from a resident as to why the County Council had wasted money resurfacing King Edward Road when there was nothing wrong with it.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Councillor Mick Harness congratulated the Parish Council on working hard and he commented that he always got a response when he contacted the Parish Council. He spoke about the changes to the Revenue Support Grant and explained that this meant that ELDC received 3 million pounds less in funding which was one of the reasons why it had decided to charge for car parking because money was very scarce due to Government cuts. He informed the meeting that all the money from the Icelandic investments would be returned to the District Council, and ELDC had succeeded in setting a budget for 2013/14 which meant that it did not have to increase the Council tax bills and this meant that ELDC had one of the lowest Council Tax rates in the East Midlands. Cllr Harness spoke about cost saving measures that had been implemented, one of which was merging 5 of the Departments at ELDC with ones at South Holland District Council, and this had saved 1 million pounds. Cllr Harness also talked about the SO Festival, the Green Waste consultation, and he gave examples of the grants that had been given from the £2,000 Community grant, and he encouraged organisations to apply.

A resident asked for Cllr Harness to provide information at next year's Annual Parish Meeting on the amount of profit that had been generated from the car parking charges in Woodhall Spa.

District Councillor Craig Leyland congratulated the Parish Council on all the enabling things that it did. Cllr Leyland spoke about the financial challenges ahead and he informed the meeting that both District Councillors would work hard for the village. He commented that Woodhall Spa was a great place to live and he was very fortunate to be representing this village.

The Parish Council Chairman thanked the District and County Councillors for their support.

## **7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

### **WARTIME WOODHALL**

Graham Keegan gave a presentation and spoke about the project which was to highlight and inform residents and visitors of Woodhall Spa's role in World War II. Mr Keegan gave details of the ways in which this would be done, and he spoke about the funding of the project which had not yet been secured. He explained that the next step was to consult with the community to demonstrate the need and support for the project, so that grant funding could be applied for.

### **WOODHALL SPA IN BLOOM**

Graham Keegan explained that the aim of the Woodhall Spa in Bloom project was to try and make the village look good for residents and visitors. The planters had helped the village win the Best Kept Village competition, and grants from the Parish Council, District Council and local businesses had helped make the project possible. Mr Keegan gave a special mention to Stuart Holmes for watering the plants throughout the summer, and he spoke about the displays that would be planted for this year. He encouraged residents to get involved and explained how they could do this.

### **HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

Michael Czjakowski spoke about the aims of the Committee and the history behind it. He gave details of the work that the Committee had done over the past year. Mr Czjakowski gave details of what an Article 4 Direction was and why it was needed in Woodhall Spa, and he explained that new legislation from Government had slowed the process down. Mr Czjakowski spoke about the Spa Baths and Heritage leaflets; and he encouraged residents to join the Heritage Committee and he thanked the current members for all their hard work.

### **COTTAGE MUSEUM**

Jackie Goodall thanked the District Councillors and Parish Council for their very generous support towards the Cottage Museum, and she told the meeting that the Capital project was almost completed thanks to a major Heritage Lottery grant and the support from residents and volunteers who had dedicated their valuable time to the project. Residents were encouraged to visit the Cottage Museum.

### **SNOW AND ICE PLAN**

Rich Sanderson informed the meeting that the Snow and Ice plan which had been formally set up in 2010 was now being reviewed by a working group to assess what had been achieved and what improvements could be made. Volunteers who helped with the plan were thanked, in particular Stuart Holmes for all his hard work with snow clearance. Residents were encouraged to volunteer to clear snow in the village because the entire village could not be cleared with only a handful of volunteers.

### **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN**

Rich Sanderson explained why a Community Emergency Plan was needed and he thanked the District Councillors for their grant to provide storage facilities in Jubilee Park to store

sand bags if flooding occurred. Mr Sanderson explained that the Parish Council was trying to improve the situation so that sandbags could be distributed more quickly in the event of flooding and he told the meeting that the Parish Council now had a trailer to do this. Residents were asked to volunteer and informed that the plan had just been revised and should be on the website within the next couple of months.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NHDP)**

James Cardwell explained the concept of a NHDP and told the meeting that the plan once adopted would take on legal status within the ELDC planning system. He explained that a steering Group had been set up to produce the plan which consisted of volunteers, parish councillors and officers from ELDC who provided advice. A questionnaire had been produced which would be delivered to every household and business by the end of May and every resident was encouraged to complete the questionnaire and attend the consultation events which were planned. Everyone at the meeting was asked to get involved in this and have a say on the development of the village.

#### **YOUNG UNION AT THE HUB**

Tim Peacock informed the meeting that it had been a successful year for the Youth Club. He thanked the volunteer leaders, trustees of Coronation Hall, and the Parish Council for giving funds to ensure that the group was financially sustainable. Mr Peacock spoke about the activities at the club and explained that they were trying to make the club accessible to more young people, and they were looking for adult volunteers to help with the club.

#### **FRIENDS OF JUBILEE PARK (FOJP)**

Kim Barr spoke about the Junior Committee which was raising money for a new inflatable. She also told the meeting that the canopy at the swimming pool needed extending and FOJP were aiming to raise funds to do this. Mrs Barr spoke about the achievements of FOJP over the past 12 months and she thanked all volunteers and local businesses for their support. Residents were encouraged to join the FOJP lottery and support the park.

#### **8. TO RECEIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR 2014/15 BUDGET**

It was explained that the Parish Council started preparing its budget in October/November and residents were asked to contact the Parish Clerk with any ideas for projects that should be included in next year's budget.

#### **9. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

- A resident told the meeting that the gutters in Grove Drive needed sweeping. The Parish Clerk would contact ELDC and ask for this to be done.

- A resident queried why the ELDC Street Sweeper had disappeared, and the Clerk was asked to check if ELDC were still providing this service.

- A resident expressed concern that cars parking at the corner of Cromwell Avenue near St Hugh's School would cause an accident.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.46pm.