

GT. BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL
(www.greatbealings.co.uk)

The Annual Parish Meeting of Gt. Bealings was held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.00pm at Bealings Village Hall

Present: Sue Prentice (Chairman) (SP), Colin Hedgley (CH) John Carter-Jonas (JCJ) Regan Scott (RS), Trevor Harris (TH)

In attendance: Dee Knights, Clerk to the Council (DPK), Elaine Bryce– Suffolk County Councillor, Peter Prentice -Bealings Village Hall Trust, Anthony Sheppard, Geoff Drake, Rita Drake

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sally Johnson, Norman Porter, Caroline Saunders

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 10th May 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

4. Councillor Reports:

- (a) **County Councillor** – The Chairman allowed EB to present her report to this meeting instead of the subsequent Annual PC Meeting, as she had another meeting to attend. EB summarised her Annual Report which will be circulated to all Cllrs and is attached to these minutes on the website. She specifically mentioned SCC funding to support the Suffolk Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, and to plant approx.200,000 trees across Suffolk. An extended mobile number plate recognition system (ANPR) will be rolled out across Suffolk. There will be additional funding for children and young people with SEND, and a project to replace all street lights with LED is nearing completion. SCC aims to boost electric vehicle charging across Suffolk and has successfully applied for £1.3m funding from the Dept. of Transport. A question was asked if there will be ANPR in Gt Bealings – EB will investigate this and liaise with Colin Hedgley (CH).
- (b) **District Councillor** – The Chairman congratulated CH on his re-election. CH's report had been circulated and is attached to these minutes on the website. He summarised the results of the recent elections at which he was successfully re-elected together with Dan Clery of the Green Party. He reported that since the cost of living crisis, over 500 applications have been made across Suffolk for financial assistance. Council Tax for ESC has been increased by 2.8%. CH said that he would be interested to hear of any constituent's experiences and opinions about the requirement for photographic voter ID at the elections. He explained that he will not have access to his Enabling Fund until the full Council have met.

5. Chairman's Report - Review of Year

SP confirmed that the number of Parish Cllrs has now been reduced to seven and all were re-appointed this month. She said that during the financial year 2022/23, 10 new Planning Applications were received of which 5 were supported and permitted, 3 were opposed of which 1 was withdrawn and 2 permitted. The other 2 are still outstanding. ESC have served an enforcement notice on the owner of the water meadow in Lower Street due to inappropriate use. SP provided an update on the timetable for the revised Neighbourhood Plan. There are no fundamental changes to the Plan, more to terminology. She reported that

the PC has affiliated to the East Suffolk Planning Alliance which is a group of like-minded individuals who can co-ordinate to challenge ESC. The very dry summer had an adverse impact on the trees that were planted and discussions have taken place with local landowners as to the feasibility of planting more trees. The main obstacle is the problem of future ownership once they have matured. Water monitoring is continuing in the River Lark in conjunction with Grundisburgh PC. SP thanked the Speedwatch team for their continuing commitment. She also thanked Lt Bealings PC and Nigel Rolph for their involvement in re-confirming the permissive footpath to the south of Lodge Road, and to SCC for their prompt re-instatement of the footbridge. The Coronation event on 7th May was very successful and approx. £350 was raised for the Village Hall. SP thanked the helpers and organisers and said there has been a suggestion for an Annual Fete so she will liaise with the Chairman of Lt Bealings PC. Due to the current financial constraints, the PC maintained an unchanged precept for 2023/24 which contributed to the decision not to increase any of the grant funding to the Village Hall and FLN. The full report is on the PC's website.

6. Community Reports

(a) Village Hall – Peter Prentice presented a report for the Bealings Village Hall Trust. This was a busy year for renovation which included new guttering, downpipes, soffits and fascias, new LED emergency exit lights and a new defibrillator battery and software update. New basketball backboards were installed on the sports court and much work was done on the Playing Field, together with tree work around the car park. Applications have been submitted for grant funding for replacement of the leaking roof and the rotting wooden doors. CH enquired about the timeline for completion of the roof and PP explained that planning approval is required first so it will probably take until early next year. Appreciation was expressed from the Trustees for the donations from the two Parish Councils. The full report is on the PC's website.

(b) Fynn-Lark News Report – The Clerk read the report which had been submitted by Norman Porter. A comparison was made between the income for 2008 and 2022 during which time costs had increased by a factor of 2.5 and the magazine had grown in size often exceeding 40 pages. A successful appeal for funding was made and the current financial situation is stable for this year. Grateful thanks were expressed to advertisers and donors and the Parish Councils for their financial support, and to the commitment and efficiency of the present team of workers with the magazine. The full report is on the PC's website.

7. Any Other Business - none

8. Questions

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Signature..... Chairman