

GT. BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

(www.greatbealings.co.uk)

The Annual Meeting of Gt. Bealings Parish Council was held in the Angela Cobbold Hall on Tuesday, 12th May 2009 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Eric Barnett	Chairman
Mr Julian Haywood-Smith	Vice Chairman
Mrs Sally Johnson	
Mr Robin Sadler	
Mr Paul Norris	
Mr John Carter-Jonas	
Mrs Emily Lynch	
Mrs Sarah Cartwright	Parish Clerk
Mr Peter Bellfield	County Councillor
Mr Ivan Jowers	District Councillor

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Norman Porter from the Benefice Newsletter
Mrs Margaret Wilson from Village Hall Management Committee

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Ken Willcox and Mr and Mrs Drake

At the commencement of the Meeting the Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. MINUTES OF 19th MAY 2008

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the discussion at that meeting. The Minutes were then put to one side to be signed by the Chairman at the end of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

Signed
Chairman

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It had been a very busy year:-

The Boundary Committee's proposals; and they are still with us; had prompted a public meeting in the Village Hall for residents of Little Bealings, Playford and Great Bealings with representatives from SCC, SCDC and IBC. Great Bealings Parish Council came to the conclusion that they wanted "No Change" but if there was to be a change it supported a single unitary authority for Suffolk. Next there was the Parish Plan which began as a joint exercise with the Steering Group comprising reps from each of the three parishes. The plan was published at the end of April 2009 with exhibitions at the Angela Cobbold Hall and Playford Village Hall. Another topic was the consultation on the Local Development Framework. Great Bealings Parish Council did not agree with the status assigned to them – Local Service Centre – and asked to have this changed to "Other Village". This impacts on the development boundary and individual bids for inclusion of potential housing sites. The outcome of the LDF consultation is yet to be determined. Then there has been the setting up of the Bealings Environmental Group led by Mrs Tabitha Jones and Mrs Jenny Cavell-Shaw. A forum in the Village Hall had been attended by approximately 50 people and a lively discussion had ensued. They are busy formalising their status and raising awareness. There had been a major application at Tuddenham for a burial site to which we raised objections; SCDC refused this application. Lastly the Chairman thanked members of the Parish Council for their involvement and support over the last 12 months. He also thanked County Councillor Peter Bellfield and District Council Ivan Jowers for their guidance and advice; thanks also to Sarah Cartwright for her contribution. Mr Julian Haywood-Smith thanked the Chairman for his work over the year.

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PETER BELLFIELD

County Councillor Peter Bellfield gave a detailed report from the County Council. He informed us that the Council tax increase is the lowest ever at 2.45% and that the Council has made savings of £60m in the last three years which has enabled them to put an extra £3.8m into safeguarding children and £1.1m into vulnerable adults. The Audit Commission reported that "the County Council is the top performing County in terms of efficiency savings, the most cost efficient council in England and the best performing council for quality service in the East of England".

The Boundary Committee has been at the forefront of everyone's mind with a decision yet to be made on whether there is one unitary council for the whole of Suffolk or a unitary for Ipswich and Felixstowe and a separate unitary for the rest of Suffolk. SCDC, St Edmundsbury and Forrest Heath have gone to the final stages and are requesting a three unitary council. If this goes to court it may well delay the consultation until after the elections in June. As it stands if elected (at the elections on 4th June) no-one knows for how long this will be.

County Councillor Peter Bellfield reminded us that money from his Locality Budget is available - £9,000 for the 26 parishes he looks after. The highways department has also introduced a new scheme for funding minor road improvements but once again this is not large as Councillor Bellfield only has £12,000. County Councillor Peter Bellfield informed us that he has been working closely with "SORR" – Save Our Rural Roads on various highway issues in particular heavy good vehicles usage of the roads. The County Council are meeting with SORR shortly.

Once again Mr Peter Bellfield said he was here to assist with any difficulties Great Bealings Parish Council might be having and would be only too happy to help anyone in the village. A copy of his full report is available on the website.

6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR IVAN JOWERS

SCDC continues to deliver one of the lowest taxes in Suffolk. Their increase in Council Tax had been just 2.9% or 8 pence per week on a band D property. With regards the planning – to date there has been no appeal against the decision on the burial ground at Tuddenham. As to the LDF; this will come into force in 2010/11. Finally Councillor Ivan Jowers informed us that he hoped the government will abandon plans to make the Boundary changes. In his view SCDC has served the communities well.

7. REPORT FROM MRS MARGARET WILSON

Mrs Margaret Wilson thanked the Parish Council for its financial support and also for the level of volunteer support, many of whom are members of the GBPC. She said that Great Bealings had been particularly supportive of the plans to refurbish the Hall. The Hall continues to be well used by the community. Seven clubs use the venue regularly. At the playing field, with Great Bealings support, they have added a Boules pitch and an extra basketball goal, a removable football goal and a picnic table. For 2009 they are focusing their efforts on external improvements to the Hall and Car Park.

8. REPORT FROM MR NORMAN PORTER

The major source of income switched from individual subscription (£3.50 per year per household). It was replaced with income from advertising and donations from Parish Councils in 2008. This had seen a slight rise in revenue. Adverts fill 4 x A5 pages with most of the space being filled most of the time (some 17/18 adverts). 2009 has seen some lost business however they have also had some new enquiries. There is also £150 surplus from last year which will help in this year of economic down turn when the Benefice Newsletter is reliant on advertising. The appearance, quality and style of the magazine has not changed. Mr Norman Porter said that they are grateful to the Parish Council and to those that deliver the magazine. He paid particular tribute to the editor Mr Geoff Bills, and Mr Tim Llewellyn who give of their time and energy for free. The Chairman said it was a very good publication and thanked all at the Benefice Newsletter.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

Signed
Chairman