

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, 15th March 2011 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Eric Barnett	Chairman
Mr Julian Haywood Smith	Vice Chairman
Mr Robin Sadler	
Mr Paul Norris	
Mr John Carter-Jonas	
Mrs Sally Johnson	
Mrs Sarah Cartwright	Parish Clerk
Mr Peter Bellfield	

IN ATTENDANCE

22 members of the general public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr Emily Lynch, Mr Ken Willcox, Mr Ivan Jowers and Mr and Mrs Chestnutt

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

2. MINUTES OF 11th MAY 2010

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. THE CHAIRMAN WITH LATEST PROPOSALS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING IN BOOT STREET

The Chairman reflected on last years meeting where we had examined the possible options for slowing traffic on this stretch of road. Mr Luke Barber had given a presentation and explored all available possibilities. Subsequently he paid two more visits to the village; once at another well publicised open meeting and once to our bi-monthly Parish Council meeting. At each stage solutions for traffic calming in Boot Street that were within the Parish’s budget became clearer. The Chairman explained that the reason for this presentation today is to receive parishioners views on how to proceed. We now have two further schemes that have been detailed and generally fall within the budget. These are as follows:- 1. Use of white lining to the carriageway. 2. Solar powered automatic speed detection signage with excess speed notification. This should cost somewhere around £4,000. including a single pole, supplied by Westcotec. The positioning of the flashing sign is determined to an extent by it being solar-powered. Both the Chairman and Mr Paul Norris felt the possibility of having some white lining was a good idea - governed by the amount of available of cash and in consultation with the Highways Authority.

After a lengthy and lively discussion it was generally agreed that one flashing sign should be installed to be viewed by traffic heading towards Ipswich. The precise location would be determined after consultation with the Highways Department expert. It was also agreed to have some limited white lining; again the selection of which road sections should be defined would be done in consultation with Suffolk County Council. The Chairman and Mr Paul Norris would liase directly with the County Council.

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PETER BELLFIELD

County Councillor Peter Bellfield had emailed the Clerk a copy of his report before the meeting. This will be put on the website. In summary he reported:- **Local Government Review:-** the process of the Local Government Review has been stopped thus after more than three years of uncertainty they could start to plan ahead. **Central Government Grant:-** Last autumn the coalition announced that the grant over three years would be reduced by 28%. As a result SCC will have to reduce expenditure by between £120m and £145m over the next three years from a budget of a little under £600m per annum excluding education, which is ring fenced. They plan to do this in three steps, £40m plus in each of the first two years and £30m in the third year. This “New Strategic Direction” proposes that SCC be more of a facilitator than a provider of services. Certain areas have gone out to consultation and already they have had many expressions of interest in taking over the services, such as Suffolk Trading Services (catering, cleaning etc), parkland, libraries, crossing patrols safety camera services, highway maintenance and County Homes for the elderly. Looking to the voluntary and the private sector to provide services is not new, almost half the road maintenance at present is undertaken by them as is 80% of adult care.

Signed
Chairman

SCC is also looking at ways of coordinating the work of the two largest areas of expenditure, adult and children's services. Whilst SCC hopes that the New Strategic Direction will account for most of the savings in years two and three, it is unlikely to contribute to saving in year one (2011/12) because of the time it will take to implement the divestment of these services. Therefore, to balance the budget for this year they have had to make savings of £42m. Of this £42m over £17m is derived from lower salary and wage costs. Efficiency savings have also contributed to a substantial proportion of the balance. Regrettably the Bury Road Park and Ride in Ipswich is closing saving £200,000. Councillor Peter Bellfield was pleased to say that the weekday and Saturday services of the two major roots through his Division, 70 & 70A and 118 and 119 are almost unchanged.

Council Tax 2010/2011

Councillor Peter Bellfield was pleased to report that the Council Tax is to be held at the same level as last year.

Local Projects:- During the year he has been able to ensure finance for some traffic calming on Boot Street out of his Quality of Life budget and also give some money towards the Village Hall car park repairs from his Locality budget.

Other areas Councillor Peter Bellfield covered in his report and which can be viewed at www.greatbealings.co.uk/parishcouncil :- **the bad winter weather, Council Performance and the Pension Fund.**

Lastly he reminded parishioners that he is always available should anyone have a problem or need help with the County Council.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that much of the discussion over the past year has revolved around Boot Street and traffic calming measures. The Highways Authority had resurfaced Boot Street which has been somewhat of a disaster but they have made a commitment to redo it. There have been three planning applications – none controversial. On the policy front the Local Development Framework issued by SCDC is in a state of limbo. As far as Great Bealings are concerned instead of being a "Local Service Centre" they have been down graded to "Other Village". On the question of speed limits the Parish Council is still pursuing the County Council on having a speed limit on Hall Farm Road. Other news is that there was a very successful event last year on the playing field – Suffolk Open Weekend. This was largely thanks to the hard work and commitment of Mr Julian Haywood Smith. It was part funded by a grant and although a non profit making event they raised £400+. The Rural Coffee Caravan had visited the village and will be returning at the end of March. The budget has been maintained at £3,500 for sometime though this year the Parish Council have decided that it will be increased by £200 to cover the cost of a new grit bin for Lower Street/Hall Farm Road. A large part of the expenditure is the clerk's salary and contributions are also made to the Village Hall and Benefice Newsletter. Other items include insurance, SALC membership, hire of the Committee Room and charitable donations. The Chairman thanked all the Parish Councillors and Clerk and asked if anyone had any questions.

Signed

Chairman

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR IVAN JOWERS

Cllr Ivan Jowers report commented that Council Tax remains unchanged for 2011/2012 and that SCDC was continuing to explore methods of reducing costs. His report can be viewed at:- www.greatbealings.co.uk/parishcouncil.

8. MRS JENNY SHAW ON THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs Jenny Shaw, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee introduced herself and reported that improvements on the car park and village hall are on going and any spare income they have is being ploughed into the Hall and car park. Insulation is being put in place in the Village Hall by the Community Pay Back team and once this has been done they are then going to redecorate the whole hall. There should be a newly decorated hall by May 2011! As Mr Peter Bellfield mentioned they have had some money from him and some work has been done on the car park which will hopefully reduce the likelihood of further pot holes. A sign has also been put up in the car park which should help cars to park more efficiently (the car park should hold 28 cars). Mrs Jenny Shaw reported that they have a lot of volunteers helping them but more help is always welcome. The Playing Field is maintained by Suffolk Coastal District Council however the Community Pay Back team are also doing work there. Hopefully by the end of the year it will be upgraded. Subscribers to the sports facilities are down to 30 this year and more would be welcomed. Mr Julian Haywood Smith paid thanks to Jenny for her enormous amount of work.

9. MR PHIL HOLMES ON THE PARISH PLAN

Mr Phil Holmes reported on the "Action Monitoring Group". Consisting of two people from each Parish its remit is to ensure the action points from the Parish Plan are followed up. The highlight for this year is that they have over £1,000 from the Parish Plan funding split three ways between the Parish Councils. Great and Little Bealings handed their share over to the Village Hall Management Committee for lighting outside the Village Hall and Playford used their share for grit bins. Other points raised were the poor mobile phone coverage in the village. Mr Phil Holmes reported that he had been in touch with OFCOM. Also the Bealings mailing list Googlemail is used to circulate news to over 150 people, a film club has been set up and they have paid a visit to Wattisham to discuss helicopters and why they fly so low. He is still working with school parking which is proving tricky to resolve. In essence no one is in charge of parking and no one will volunteer to fund parking. On the Parish Plan Mr Phil Holmes reported that they now consider everything is done. He recommended that the Parish Council should wind up the AMG since its original terms of reference were for 2 years life. We would be looking to review the Parish Plan in 2013/14 so the Parish Council should start thinking about it in 2012; it would be much more focussed having in mind the experience gained.

Signed
Chairman

10. REPORT FROM BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

Mr Norman Porter had given the Chairman a copy of his report. This will be put on the website.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Adrian Melrose introduced himself. He has volunteered to be the driving force behind the Suffolk Open Weekend event that Mr Julian Haywood Smith organised last year. He said that he would welcome offers to help and asked residents for ideas.

The meeting ended at 20.05 pm

Signed
Chairman