

# LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

12th May 2016

**PRESENT:** Parish councillors John Whitefield (Chairman), Chris Bliss, Steve Child, Chris Morley, Sue Sage, Linda Gilmour, and Stuart Crosby

**Also present:** Janet Mitson (PCC), Andy Gilmour (Village Hall), PC Darren Marshall, County Councillor Mary Evans and 1 member of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Clive Pollington and Anthony Foreman

**The meeting was chaired by Chris Bliss from the Parish Council**

### 1. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

### 2. Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

Twelve crimes were reported in Lidgate in 2015/16 an increase from 10 in 2014/15. The crimes were as follows:

- 1 burglary of a dwelling
- 1 burglary other building
- 2 vehicle crimes
- 3 incidence of theft
- 4 incidence of criminal damage
- 1 miscellaneous crime

Following the Local Policing Review St Edmundsbury Rural South SNT has merged with Haverhill Town SNT. The team consists of 5 regular police officers and 3 PCSOs. PCSOs will no longer be working past 6pm. Police attendance at parish councils meeting will no longer be routine. The Police will, however, come to meetings if there is a police issue which needs addressing.

Concerns were raised about a dangerous dog in Lidgate. PC Marshall said that this is a police matter and that any one who has had a problem should ring 101.

### 3. Report from Councillor Evans

- Lidgate Parish Council's application for locality funding for VAS brackets will be processed soon
- The new speedcam hatchback is now in operation
- Highways – the system for setting up contracts has been streamlined to make it more efficient. Suffolk County Council is hoping to reduce the number of emergency repairs which can cost up to £90 per square metre whereas planned repairs cost significantly less. Three times more surface dressing will be carried out this year compared to last year to help reduce the number of emergency repairs.
- Highways and education in Suffolk did not fare well last year, but things are slowly improving. Attainment is improving in schools.
- Children's Services have been graded as good.
- Devolution. No decisions have been made yet but concern has been raised that having an elected mayor will increase bureaucracy.
- The result of the fire service consultation has been announced. As a result of feedback from members of public some of the proposals have been revised.

Mary Evans was asked to find out about the missing street light opposite Cobbold's View. She was also asked to find out when Bury Lane will be surface dressed.

### 4. Written Report from Borough Councillor Clive Pollington

- Brown bins - The overall take up is 30%, but in some places such as Great Barton it is 65%
- There has been some confusion about the rules regarding brown waste. The rules about what can go in them are to avoid cross contamination and BSE. A new document explaining this is being produced and clerk will be given a copy when it is ready
- Has the Parish Council got any thoughts about his locality funding of £500 which is available from 1<sup>st</sup> May.

### 5. Village Hall Report

- The Irish night was a big success and raised a good sum of money for the hall
- Attendance at the table top sale was poor, though £200 was raised
- The quiz night had to be cancelled due to a lack of support.
- The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations will take place in June. There is a shortage of residents willing to commit to attend.

- The Saturday coffee morning continues but numbers are dwindling.
- There will be a race night in October.
- There have been a number of bookings for parties and the elections
- They are waiting for quotes back for the two remaining windows.
- The jubilee tree is starting to cause problems and may have to be felled.

**6. PCC Report**

- There will be a farm walk in May.
- St Mary’s continues to hold services once a month which are reasonably well supported
- Volunteers are desperately needed to help run the PCC
- There have been two funerals and one baptism this year
- Howard, their organist died recently and will be buried in Lidgate
- A roof alarm has been installed thanks to a number of donations
- Leon Hall is the new treasurer
- A lot of maintenance work needs to be carried out in the church but this will not be possible without more funds.
- Fundraising events are always well supported. They had a farm walk, cheese and wine and cycle ride.

**7. Chairman’s Report**

- Following the resignation of Cameron Wade, Stuart Crosby joined the Parish Council. Chris Bliss thanked Cameron Wade for his contributions both as councillor and chairman.
- Achievements during the year included the purchase of a speed gun for Community Speedwatch, sharing a VAS with other villages, the Sport’s Relief mile and working with Ousden and Dalham to produce a footpath leaflet.
- Chris Bliss thanked Linda Gilmour and the CSW group for all their hard work, Chris Morley and his team for their work on the footpath map and Cameron Wade, Graham Flux and all the volunteers who helped organise the Sports Relief Mile.
- The Parish Council is now looking for a new project. Suggestions include bulb planting throughout the village, communal fruit trees, welcome packs for new arrivals, a leaflet to promote the nationally important graffiti recently discovered in the church.
- The village playing field has proved to be a big success and is regularly used by children and families from the village and beyond. The field is cut by volunteers, mainly Chris Bliss and John Whitefield. New volunteers are needed to help spread the load. Chris Bliss thanked John Whitefield for his help cutting the grass and Graham Flux and his team for storing and servicing the mower.
- He thanked Chris and Marilyn Morley for producing the newsletter.

**8. Financial Report**

The clerk presented the Council’s financial report. No questions were asked.

**9. Any other issues or concerns which residents would like to bring to the attention of the Council**

The Parish Council has received an e-mail from Anthony Foreman about his new book. The suggestion was made to include it as part of the village welcome pack. The clerk agreed to add this to the next agenda. She also agreed to let Anthony know and to offer the Parish Council’s help, for example in publicising on the website.

**10. Ceremonial locking of the village hall gate**

The meeting closed at 9.17pm

Signed .....

Dated.....