

**LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Lidgate Village Hall at 8.00p.m.

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**Parish councillors present:** C Bliss (Chairman), C Wade, J Whitefield, S Child, S Sage and L Gilmour

**Also present:** J Ince (clerk), K Hogan (Neighbourhood Watch), J Mitson (PCC), A Gilmour (Village Hall Management Committee) and 5 members of the public

Apologies were received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and County Councillor Mary Evans.

The Chairman welcomed everyone present. The minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were approved and signed as correct by the Chairman.

**1. Safer Neighbourhood Team**

The Safer Neighbourhood Team reported that there have been two crimes in Lidgate in the last year:

- The theft of a small amount of fuel in a rural location, this took place at 01.00 on the 22/09/14 which disturbed the home owner.
- Theft of a sheep which took place between the 01/10/14 and the 14/10/14.

One resident raised the issue of the Police 101 number which has an automated system when you ring it, which she feels will deter people from using it. The clerk agreed to feed this back to the SNT.

**2. Neighbourhood Watch**

Most people get their information by e-mail now, so there is very little to report.

**3. PCC report**

Janet Mitson thanked all those in the village who support the church. The church struggles on without a church warden, but there is now a new treasurer which is a great help. The parish share is over £6,000 and it is a struggle to find the money. Last year there was a shortfall of £3,000 which had to be paid from a Benefice emergency fund.

**4. Cricket club**

John Whitefield spoke a bit about the cricket club which is the only remaining club in the village. New members are being sought. Men and women are both welcome. There was a discussion about whether or not the club should continue, but the decision has been made to carry on for another year. Nine matches are scheduled this year.

**5. A Gilmour (Village Hall Management Committee)**

There is one new committee member who is making a positive contribution. The village hall relies on social events to raise funds. An Irish night is planned. Last year's village fete was successful. A quiz night and barbecue are planned for June. Some of the money raised has been used to purchase two new windows, the exterior of the village hall has been redecorated and new kitchen flooring has been laid.

The VHMC has run a free coffee morning once a month as a pilot scheme. These are likely to continue. Regular donations have been received of up to £40 a session. Bookings are up, mainly as a result of the coffee mornings.

**6. Chairman's Annual Report by Chris Bliss**

The Parish Council's main achievement was the completion of the Lidgate playing field. The Chairman thanked everyone who helped with this project. The village now has a safe recreational area which is well used. He also thanked Richard Archer for maintaining the village mower, Graham Flux for storing it and the volunteers who cut the grass. The Parish Council is looking for more volunteers to join the grass cutting rota.

Another big achievement is the setting up of Community Speedwatch scheme. The driving force behind it has been Linda Gilmour. The authorities have done very little over the years to tackle the problem of speeding and it is down to individual communities to do something.

Chris Bliss thanked the parish councillors in particular his deputy John Whitefield, the Parish Clerk, District Councillor, Derek Redhead and County Councillor Mary Evans for all their support. He wished Derek Redhead well in his retirement. He has been a great supporter of Lidgate over the years and will be missed. He also thanked Chris Morley for producing the newsletter.

The Parish Council continues to give financial support to the VHMC, Lidgate PCC and the Friends of Lidgate Churchyard.

The Parish Council is here to represent the community and everyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

**7. Update on Community Speedwatch (CSW) by Linda Gilmour**

The scheme has been running for almost a year now. It started with 12 volunteers and in the last 8 months they have reported 100 motorists travelling in excess of 35mph. The fastest vehicle to date was driving 47mph. The worst times for speeding are 7 - 9am and 5 - 6pm.

At present they share equipment with Withersfield and Great Bradley so Lidgate only has access to the equipment 2 weeks in six. This is a shame as speeding declines significantly when checks are being carried out.

A formal request was made to the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council to look into ways of raising funds so that Lidgate can purchase its own speed gun and associated equipment along with a VAS unit.

Linda Gilmour invited comments from Suffolk County Council about the noticeable lack of traffic calming measures in Lidgate compared to villages in Cambridgeshire. She also said it has been a long time since there has been a police presence in Lidgate to carry out speed checks and she feels it is imperative that the CSW volunteers feel supported.

**8. Possible future purchase of additional play equipment for the playing field**

This would require further fund raising. It was agreed that speeding should be prioritised first. The suggestion was made to move the swing from behind the Village Hall. The Parish Council agreed to discuss this at their next meeting.

**9. Housing questionnaire**

The Chairman explained the purpose of the Housing questionnaire and encouraged residents to fill them in. Councillors will collect them after approximately 3 weeks.

**10. Other village issues**

One resident has carried out an unofficial litter pick near the Newmarket entrance to Lidgate and collected a large amount of litter. She asked if the village litter pick could be revived next spring. The Chairman agreed to add this to the Parish Council's agenda for January 2016.

A Foreman is continuing to promote Lidgate interests through U3A and other organisations.

One resident asked about dog fouling. The Chairman agreed to add this to the next Parish Council agenda.

Another resident asked if the Parish Council is looking for new volunteers. Chris Bliss said some of the current councillors would like to stand if anyone is willing to come forward.

**11. Ceremonial locking of the village gate**

J Whitefield and S Sage carried out the ceremonial locking of the village gate.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.07p.m.

Signed .....

Dated.....