

DALHAM PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the Dalham Annual Parish Meeting**

Held on Thursday 16th April 2015 in Dalham Village Hall at 7.p.m.

- PRESENT:** Councillors Isobel Aylott (Chairman), Rachael Padman (Vice-chairman), Jay McCully, Karine Ferrin and Jackie Bolton
- ALSO PRESENT:** Joanne Ince (Clerk), District Councillor Carol Lynch, County Councillor Lisa Chambers, Rachel Mack Smith, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee and three members of the public
- APOLOGIES:** No apologies were received

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

1. **Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 29th April 2014**
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Report from District Councillor, Carol Lynch**
Councillor Lynch spoke about the following:
 - Forest Heath District Council has said that Council Tax will be frozen for next 4 years.
 - A planning issue at the Mill in Dalham
 - Planning in Forest Heath especially the Hatchfield Development in Newmarket
3. **Village Hall Report**
Rachel Mack Smith Chairman of the Village Hall Committee spoke about the following:
 - The village hall is used regularly providing a good source of income. More parties also being held.
 - The crockery and cutlery has been replaced thanks to the support of Carol Lynch who provided some of the funding
 - The application for an Awards for All grant for filming equipment was successful and the equipment has been purchased. Three film nights have already been held. Laptops will also be able to be connected to the big screen. The license terms have changed so there is no charge for films but a condition is that they cannot be advertised outside of the village hall. Films are normally shown on the last Saturday of each month.
 - The Village Hall Committee has planned a number of successful events. Their current project is to produce a 2016 calendar of Dalham so residents are asked to submit photos.
 - The running of hall is very much a team effort and Rachel thanked the committee for their support.
4. **Report from County Councillor Lisa Chamber**
Councillor Chambers spoke about:
 - The freezing of the Council Tax for the 5th year in a row, despite significant budget deficits. Savings of £130 million have already been made, with another £120 million still to find.
 - Suffolk schools are not where they should be in national league tables, but have moved up 12 places to 125th. There has been a big improvements in KS1 results
 - The Better Broadband project. The aim is to extend coverage of fibre broadband to 95% of Suffolk homes and businesses. The second contract is being prepared but there is no confirmed date yet. Dalham is part of phase two.
 - Suffolk County Council's aspiration to create 5000 new apprenticeships to address skills shortages
 - The youth employment centre which has opened in Ipswich (The MyGo Centre).
 - The Energy from Waste project in Suffolk. The facility is now taking waste from Norfolk as well.

A question was raised about Adult and Social Care. Lisa Chambers said that this is a huge challenge. There are still savings targets to meet. The services are being redesigned and streamlined. A good rural broadband service is vital to enable social workers to be mobile and work out of the office and SCC is working on improving IT.
5. **Report by Isobel Aylott, Chairman of Dalham Parish Council**
I Aylott spoke about the following:
 - She thanked everyone who attends meetings and the clerk for her work investigating the historical background of Brookside.
 - She thanked the new councillors for joining the Council
 - Highways. The Council still has outstanding Highways issues due to poor response times by Highways when things are reported.
 - Trees and hedges continue to be a concern to residents.
 - She thanked those who took part in the village spring clean
 - The ownership of Brookside which is still being investigated
 - Rural crime which continues in particular thefts from sheds and outbuildings
 - New legislation has come into force for parish council finances
 - Dalham Parish Council has updated its Freedom of Information policy.

- A number of planning issues have arisen in the village in the last year.

I Aylott asked if there were any questions about the Council's Financial Report which was given out at the start of the meeting. No questions were asked.

6. Ownership of Brookside

The Council has produced a document of evidence about the ownership of Brookside. The properties along Brookside started to be sold off in the 1960's. It would appear that Brookside was not sold on to the Dalham Estate when it was purchased by Sheik Mohammed and it seems likely that Brookside is owned by the trustees of the Hon. J P Philipps 1970 Settlement.

The Affleck Arms had to apply to the Estate for permission to site the benches (probably in the 1970's). A question was asked as to whether the onus is on the pub to ensure that the tree is safe?

One resident said the Estate couldn't prove title to the deeds when she bought her farm in 1992 from Dalham Hall Estate.

One question was asked about whose responsibility it is to gather evidence about Brookside. Is it the responsibility of the Parish Council or the residents of Brookside. How much time should the Parish Council commit to finding out about a private road?

The Parish Council agreed to collate all the evidence and discuss the way forward further at next meeting.

7. Other issues or concerns which residents would like to raise

One resident asked about dog fouling and the lack of dog bins. There is a reluctance in Dalham to increase the amount of street furniture, however it would be possible to raise awareness of the problem of dog fouling via the newsletter and possibly a flyer. If this does not improve the situation, further options could then be considered.

The meeting closed at 8p.m

Signed

Dated.....