

DALHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 18th May 2017

PRESENT: Parish councillors Isobel Aylott (Chairman) and Rachael Padman

Also present: District Councillor Roger Ricker, Joanne Kirk (clerk) and 4 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Jackie Bolton and Karine Ferrin.

The meeting was chaired by Isobel Aylott

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2016 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

2. Report by County Councillor Robin Millar

No report was received.

3. Report by District Councillor Roger Dicker

Roger Dicker spoke about the following:

- The Council Tax increase which he felt was too high.
- Housing development in Forest Heath and in Kentford which will impact on the road infrastructure.
- Planning issues

4. Police Report

No report was received.

5. Village Hall Report

- The village hall has continued to be used on a regular basis for Pilates, Zumba and Yoga, all of which provide the main source of income for the village hall. There has also been an increase in the number of 'ad hoc' bookings as word of mouth spreads about the village hall being an excellent venue for parties.
- The film nights have proved popular and a great way to get villagers together. A wide range of films has been shown from the African Queen to the BFG. The hope is to attract larger audiences in 2017.
- The main project last year was the production and sale of the 2016 Dalham calendar. A 2018 calendar is now being planned. The deadline for submissions is 31st May with the final selection being made at the coffee morning on Saturday July 1st.
- The Event Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis. The annual quiz night held in November was well attended. A tea party was held on 12th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and there was a very successful Christmas Fayre in December which raised £550.00 for Homestart.
- Running the hall is very much a team effort with valuable contributions from each committee member.

6. Chairman's Report

Isobel Aylott spoke about the Parish Council's last year including:

- It has been a difficult year due to low councillor numbers but despite this quite a lot has been achieved. The village now has a defibrillator with 11 people being given training. She thanked everyone who donated
- The bridges in Dalham and the phone box have been painted
- The Vehicle Activated Sign is now installed
- Dalham PC has been Working in collaboration with Ousden and Lidgate to produce a footpath leaflet. A 'Three Villages' walk is planned for 29th May.
- Residents have experienced problems with broadband.
- It has been difficult to function as a council with only three councillors. The question has now been asked as to whether or not the village wants a parish council.

7. Financial Report

The parish clerk presented the Council's financial report. The full report is available on the parish council website at www.dalham.onesuffolk.net

8. The future of the Parish Council

If no volunteers come forward the Parish Council will be contacting Forest Heath District Council and saying that it can no longer run as only two reliable councillors remain. As a result of the article in the last newsletter, feedback has been supportive of keeping a parish council and two volunteers have come forward already who are willing to join. Another two residents agreed to join at the APM.

9. The new Vehicle Activated Sign

Five hundred vehicles a day are coming through the village in one direction each day. The average speed is 30mph. The 85% speed is 37 mph. There is one vehicle which comes through the village at 55mph.

One question was asked about the cost of the VAS as it seems quite expensive. The clerk explained that the sign cost £3,100 but a grant of £3,000 was received from County Councillor Robin Millar.

10. The new defibrillator and the possibility of organising additional training

Isobel Aylott explained that training is available for residents who would like some. She also explained that the Parish Council is considering purchasing an emergency phone to use with it in the absence of a reliable mobile phone signal.

11. Village issues

One question was asked about Broadband. The chairman said that the proposed date for fibre broadband is the latter part of 2018.

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

No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed

Dated.....