

# **Newton Flotman Annual Parish Council Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Village Hall, Newton Flotman at 8.00pm.

Present: D Gibbs (Parish Council Chairman), R McKelvey (Parish Council V Chairman), R Kelf, J Peterson, A Eke (Parish Clerk), B Adams (Parish Councillor & Village Centre Management Committee), J Wilson (Parish Councillor and Church), PCSO Cook & PSCO Burgess, A Pownall (Allotments), W Adams (WI) and 3 members of the public.

**To consider apologies for absence:**

- E Domeyer (Parish Councillor and Speedwatch
- G Holmes (Pre-School) – Report Submitted
- Cllr Laura Webster (District Cllr) – Report Submitted
- J Johns (Headmaster, Primary School)
- R Smith (Tree Warden) – Report Submitted
- Cllr C Foulger (County Cllr) – Will attend PC meeting 28/5
- K Field (Football Club)
- Ms Crawshaw (Long Stratton Medical Practice)

**To confirm minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012:** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Mr D Gibbs, Chairman of the Parish Council, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

## **a. PSCO Cook**

Crime figures are well down from 45 in 2011-12 to 22 in 2012-13. There are not many issues in the Village. Villagers were asked to report any suspicious vehicles in the area, please report to the police with the registration number on the non-emergency number 101. Villagers were also asked to be more during the summer months with regard to gardens, bikes, garages and sheds, as they are more vulnerable this time of year. Police do sell security measures at the Police station in Long Stratton. They also offer a free crime reduction survey for homes, there can be booked by ringing the non-emergency number 101. From April, crime statistics will not include crimes under 'other', these include such things as family domestics and forms issued to children. The police have introduced a summer incentive for a list for places for regular patrols during the summer months. The playing field in Newton Flotman will be added to this list. Villages have been urged, however minor, to report to the police on the non-emergency number 101.

## **b. A Pownall – Newton Flotman Allotments Report**

As last year, all of the allotments have been let and are kept in reasonable condition. The original allotment size is approximately 30m x 7m (large allotments), but due to continual comments that people required something smaller, half allotments were created 13.5m x 7m (small allotments), 3m being taken off the area furthest from the track to accommodate sheds for both allotment holders. This seems to work reasonably well. At the time of writing, a large allotment has become available and as there were no names on the waiting list a short announcement in the "Partnership" magazine produced a number of enquiries from which two people will be accommodated on the large allotment, which will be halved to make two small allotments. This will mean that there will be 16 large allotments (17 last year) and 12 small allotments (10 last year).

There have been a number of allotments that have changed hands this past year; at the start of the year I had 5 people on the waiting list that have all been found an allotment.

There have been no reported incidents of fruit and vegetable theft from the allotments this last year. However, there was an incident of a number of sheds being broken into, but nothing of significance was taken, the Police were informed. The padlock on the gate that is just over one year old has been playing up, on occasions it is very difficult to close; it could be that the gate was left unlocked allowing the perpetrator easy access.

The grass on the access path is kept cut and weed killer applied to uncultivated areas.

**b. A Pownall – Newton Flotman Allotments Report continued**

All allotment holders are members of the Newton Flotman Allotment Society, affiliated to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. The membership fee was set at £2.50, of which £2.00 is passed to the National Society. The fee is collected at the same time as the rent. There are now 24 members. The AGM of the Newton Flotman Allotment Society, as previous years, will be held in the Church meeting room.

A planned barbecue on the allotments was cancelled last year due to the wet weather and the lack of people wishing to attend. It is unlikely that one will be held this year.

**c. J Wilson – St Mary’s Church Report**

2012 saw the church taking an active part in Village Hall activities – we now have a representative on the committee and took an active part in the Jubilee celebrations. We have also used the Village Hall for a “thank you” social event for all those who helped with aspects of church life – flower arrangers, Partnership deliverers and cake makers for our regular Saturday morning Coffee Stop. We also experimented with using the Village Hall for our Harvest Festival. The church was the venue, for the first time, for an ARTS concert – very successful and likely to become an annual event.

We maintain strong links with Newton Flotman Primary School – the church is used for the end of term services and we help with the organising of the monthly Film Fun Fridays – popular with both parents and children.

Other work with children includes the youth cells that have social activities and outings, Special agents (our Sunday School), Church Mice and Baby Mice.

December saw the repairs to the exterior of the Church Tower finally completed and we also updated the external signage covering the 3 entrance paths.

Charity Support – Christian Aid and special collection for Children’s Society, Samaritan’s Purse and the Royal British Legion. Carol service collections went to the Tower Fund and Carol singing round the village raised £200 for EACH. A new venture was out monthly food box to the Norwich Food bank.

We just about managed our finances to cover the maintenance of our 15<sup>th</sup> century building and we are very grateful to the Parish Council for their support for the upkeep of the graveyard and Partnership.

**d. G Holmes – Leading Childcare Practitioner**

We are approaching the end of the academic year 2012/2013 and once again all our sessions are full. We are proud of our inclusive ethos and have trained staff who are very knowledgeable and able to meet a range of diverse needs.

Changes last year to our Early Years curriculum meant that there was more focus on the use of both the outdoor and indoors.

Parents are always very complimentary about our free flow approach. We have managed to use the outside area every day, even on the coldest of winter days. The extension of the canopy has helped and now we have complete protection from sun and rain. The children have enjoyed the covering over the sandpit during the recent warm days.

We have recently had some committee changes, but as always we have been well supported by them. We have just had a sponsored event and a trip to Banham zoo, which were both successful.

**e. W Adams – President of Newton Flotman & District Women’s Institute**

Newton Flotman & District WI had another busy and enjoyable year.

We have over 30 members and a varied programme of meetings and events.

We have had our usual varied selection of speakers on topics ranging from the history and manufacture of soap to amber jewellery to Pan Asian cuisine.

**e. W Adams – President of Newton Flotman & District Women’s Institute continued**

Our Summer Party was very well attended with lots of visitors from other Institutes, who joined us for good food and entertainment on the history of the davenport family magic business.

We celebrated our 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday with a meal at Caistor Hall in March.

Teams entered the inter WI 10 bowling competition and the Col Cator Cup, which is a team event involving various crafts and cookery items, held in conjunction with the Norfolk Horticultural Society Spring Show. Unfortunately, the darts team has disbanded for various reasons.

Members supported other events in Newton Flotman, Flordon and Swainsthorpe.

In December the Christmas Market was again a great success and a donation from the proceeds were given to the charity Nelson’s Journey, which supports bereaved children in Norfolk.

Members continue to be involved with the Norfolk Federation of the WI’s, 1 member is on the Board of Trustees and 2 are on sub-committees, some act as volunteers in the shop and at the Royal Norfolk Show. Several members attended the Federation AGM in St Andrews Hall and the Autumn Meetings held around the county.

We have a full programme for the rest of this year and look forward to continued success.

**f. J Johns – Head Master of Newton Flotman V C C of E School**

He has been the head for 2½ years and in that time the outstanding ofsted has been maintained, demonstrating excellent progress. There has also been a lot of growth from 120 children to 140 children and they have expanded to 5 classes this year with on single year class and expecting another single year class in foundation next year. During the summer holidays County will be putting in an additional 2 mobiles on site, which is much needed.

They are a Food for Life school, making connections with a farm, Relish and have a garden on site – learning where food comes from to cooking it with whole school cooking assemblies, most recently Spaghetti Bolognese.

Also the school has regular topic weeks, looking at lines of enquiry. J Wilson recently came in when the topic was a proposed wind farm looking at how local democracy works and also the company involved with a project at Hempnall came in.

Creative work is also very important and looking in the future to become more involved more widely, currently children from the school take part in the Football Club and go to Olive House. The school also works closely with the Pre-school and the Church.

The school are looking for the community to get more involved with the school with gardening, reading, lunchtime games and becoming a governor, especially for Foundation. A new community governor has recently been appointed.

They have good links with the High School in Long Stratton and the other schools in the cluster and Mulbarton School. Also with Wymondham Rugby Club, which meant working with the Leicester Tigers.

Through the Church they have a fundraising project with a school in Uganda and currently working towards a student coming from Uganda to Newton Flotman for a year.

There are many current projects.

They are engaging with all parents in the school via workshops to show how they and we can help. They are raising money for a new minibus, which is used for school trips, by scouts, for sport, by the Church and other schools.

The government are giving money to schools for sport and they are looking at links locally to see if this can happen at the school.

They are looking to update the audio-visual equipment in the Hall.

**g. Cllr Webster – District Councillor**

We are proud to have frozen Council Tax again this year for an unprecedented fifth time in six years at a time when household budgets are under greatest pressure. When RPI inflation is taken into account Council Tax has fallen in real terms by 17.7% since May 2007.

Looking ahead the Council is focused on four main themes for the coming year to help build the economy and protect our quality of life and is setting aside at least £20m over three years to invest heavily in our services and economy →

**We'll be growing the economy to generate wealth and prosperity for local residents and businesses**

We'll be investing in new Commercial Property to give space for local businesses to set-up and grow by maximising the value of the assets we already own at Poringland & Long Stratton. This helps create local jobs and reduces the need for people to commute to Norwich to find work.

We're a key part of the Government's "City Deal", which features the Norwich area and which will transform the economic potential of the research park near the University and Hospital.

We're support our existing businesses and attract inward investment by working with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership

**We'll be supporting the economic vitality our Market Towns to help them contribute to our distinctive quality of life directly funded from the New Homes Bonus**

We're trying to customise Council services to reflect the distinctive character of each market town and Initiatives include

Keeping the place neat & tidy with three new ride-on street sweepers

An investment in tourism including 24-hour automated touch-screen kiosks that integrate into our website and mobile apps in conjunction with Visit Norwich

A complete refurbishments of our public lavatories

\* Support at least ten Social Action Projects where the Council provides expertise, machinery and materials to help volunteers enhance our environment or surroundings

Building on our successful Pub-of-the-Year competition to develop new events like the Waveney Valley Food Festival that celebrate small rural business and help them thrive.

**We'll continue to look after those that need the most help**

Community Car Schemes

Home handyman services

Affordable Housing Capital Grants of £462k

Increasing the bar-taking threshold so our sporting clubs continue to fall outside business rates

**We'll enhance and improve existing services**

Our mySouthNorfolk webservice allows every house to have a customised view of all Council Services including listing planning applications near them or being alerted when new proposals are received. We have plans to make sure our Leisure Centres are fit for purpose and to consider new leisure provision in areas like Poringland, which are growing rapidly in size but lack facilities enjoyed by other areas.

We're investing in our Building Control service, which is an essential part of public safety and we now operate this commercially for three other councils, the surplus from which helps keep Council Tax down

We're using £20m of reserves to grow the economy and our own long-term income without raising fees and charges. We're focused on raising our quality of life whilst continuing our policy of freezing council tax.

#### **h. R Smith – Tree & Litter Warden**

As far as the Tree Warden position is concerned, with the majority of the trees coming under the jurisdiction of Saffron, there is little to do in this respect. I have, however, been keeping an eye on the Royal Oak sapling on the green and although I am not totally convinced that it is still alive, comparing it with the established oaks on the green which are only just beginning to bud out, there may be a chance of life yet. Time will tell.

On litter picking, most of you will probably have seen the article in the EDP recently about my activities. I regularly tour the main village roads, usually weekly covering two areas alternately. Normally there is not a lot of litter caused by the village residents although there is more to be found on the approach roads where inconsiderate motorists tend to throw rubbish out of their cars as they pass through. I am required by CPRE to keep a record of my collections and have to advise them annually with the results. I am pleased to report that there continues to be virtually no dog fouling in the areas I cover although I do occasionally come across a bag which the dog's owner has thrown into the undergrowth rather than carrying it to the nearest disposal point.

I have taken it upon myself to be active in other roles in a "community friendly" way. I have reported to the appropriate authorities pot holes and underground water leakages. I pestered the county council to put back the road sign it removed some months ago from the small green opposite the bus shelter; it had been left leaning against the ARTS fence most of the winter. I have also arranged for the grass encroachment onto the St Mary's Close footpath to be cut back and this is scheduled for this month.

I hope that my activities will be viewed as an asset to the appearance of the village and I will continue for as long as I can to carry them out to the best of my ability.

#### **i. D Gibbs – Chairman of Parish Council**

Parish Notes are published in Partnership and of course the full minutes are available on the Parish Council website. I would encourage those who have not done so to register via the site so they are notified when new items are posted. (We have recently added high definition maps of the village)

##### **Expenditure for 2012-13**

Some 60% of costs for this year relate to grass cutting and maintenance (including Dog Bin servicing and a one off cost for the Bus Shelter). General Administration including the Clerk, Auditors, Insurance, National Association of Local Councils, Rural Community Council accounts for a further 28%. Support for the production of Partnership and maintenance of the village Church yard takes up 11%. and the remaining 1% on miscellaneous issues.

These are rather broad percentages however the full accounts are available to view each year after audit on the Parish Council website.

The major expense of the bus shelter roof substantially depleted our resources so we have had to increase the Parish Precept for the coming year meet our commitments to the village however, this is still one of the lowest Precepts in the region. This will of course be reviewed for the following year in the light of anticipated budgets.

##### **General**

SNDC have asked a representative from the Mancroft Advice Project (MAP) to carry out some youth work in the village. Our District Councillor (Laura Webster) will be involved bearing in mind her previous unsuccessful attempt to generate interest and support from volunteers.

We will continue to press for improvements to the Flordon Road/A14 junction in the light of the proposed Long Stratton Bypass which will add to the difficulty of accessing this busy road.

Speed Watch on Flordon Road is proving successful in reminding motorists to adhere to the speed limit. Eve Domeyer would still like to have more volunteers (471033)

Decorative tree guards have been purchased for erection around the commemorative trees on the green.

It is intended to complete the refurbishment of the bus shelter by arranging for the barge boards to be repainted when the weather permits.

We will be reviewing the need for additional Bins be it grit or dog waste!

**i. D Gibbs – Chairman of Parish Council continued**

**This is a very brief report but please do visit the Parish Website which contains far more detailed information.**

**Newton Flotman Charities**

Formed from three charities; John Pye (1647), Thomas Clabburn (1815) and John Sewell (1931). Assets are shares held by COIF from which income is derived.

The charity has just over £1,500 available to assist with the cost of extra school activities for local children of less well-off parents. No requests have been received during the last financial year.

**Thank You.**

Thanks must go to all the Parish Councillors and to those who undertake activities on the Council's behalf namely, Andy Pownall (Allotments) and, Richard Smith (Tree Warden and 'litter picker'). In addition, a 'thank you' to all those who organise activities for the benefit of Newton Flotman, it really is appreciated.

A special 'thank you' to our Parish Clerk (Andrea) who has achieved examination success and now holds the Certificate in Local Government Administration. This will enable us to work towards accreditation as a Quality Council.

Finally on your behalf, thank you to Sandra for the refreshments and of course to you for attending the Parish Meeting.

You are of course welcome to attend the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 28 May at 7.30pm.

**Notes**

The Parish Council was asked about further grit bins. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Parish Council was asked about the position of the Bus Stop as it is getting very hazardous for people emerging out of St Marys Close. DG responded that when the homes were built in Alan Avenue, junction improvements were put forward as part of the development, but these were not carried out. This will also become more of an issue when Long Stratton gets its bypass.

The Post Office at Tasburgh has now closed, the Parish Council was asked if there could be anything provided in the Village. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**j. R McKelvey – Vice Chairman – Parish Council**

He thanked DG on behalf of the Parish Council. Last year was a very hard year. Some Chairmen have resigned due to all the work involved and the lack of funds to work with. DG works very hard and with all the battles ahead we couldn't have a better Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Andrea Eke  
Parish Clerk