

Newton Flotman Annual Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2012 at the Village Hall, Newton Flotman at 7.30pm.

Present: D Gibbs (Parish Council Chairman), R McKelvey (Parish Council V Chairman), R Kelf, J Peterson, E Domeyer, A Eke (Parish Clerk), B Adams (Parish Councillor & Village Centre Management Committee), J Wilson (Parish Councillor, WI and Church), Lesley Kelly (Newton Flotman Football Club), Cllr Laura Webster (District Cllr), A Pownall (Allotments), and 3 members of the public.

To consider apologies for absence: G Holmes (Pre-School) – Report Submitted
J Johns (Primary School)
PC J Squires
R Smith (Tree Warden) – Report Submitted

To confirm minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 24th May 2011: 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. Lesley Kelly, Welfare Officer for Newton Flotman Football Club

We have at the moment two adult teams, one under 14's (these will become under 15's at the start of the season), we have an under 8's team and we are in the process of gaining an under 10's/11's and an under 9's.

They will be holding their Bunny Day on 7th July, which is a sponsored event in remembrance of a young adult who passed away. The Bunny Day consists of the adult teams playing against other local teams for the Bunny Cup. The under 14's will play against their Dad's and the Under 8's will show off their skills plus play a football match and there will be other side shows. This is a charity event and will raise money for Leukaemia Care just as the Fun Run did.

They would like to advertise the club more in the Village. They have started to use the Partnership magazine and have contact with the School. It was asked if the sign on the A140 could be improved to advertise the football club. DG did point out that this would not be a possibility.

It was asked if a link could be added to the Parish Council Website.

The Football Club is not near the capacity they can run. There could be 4-5 teams on a Saturday and Sunday and training throughout the week.

b. A Pownall – Newton Flotman Allotments Report

As last year, all of the allotments have been let and are kept in reasonable condition. There are 16 full allotments of the original size of approximately 30m x 7m and 12 half allotments of 13.5m x 7m (3m being taken off the area furthest from the track to accommodate sheds for both allotment holders. This seems to work reasonably well.

Despite the creation of half allotments there are still 5 names on the waiting list of people wanting an allotment. There have been a number of allotments that have changed hands in the past year; at the start of the year I had 7 names on the list.

There is still a problem with "horse tail" growing on the land at the top of the site despite repeated applications of weed killer; it is getting under control, but I fear that it will never be eradicated.

There have been no reported incidents of theft from the allotments this last year. However, a new lock and chain for the gate was purchased by the Allotment Society as the original lock failed to work; this could have been due to wear and tear, but as it was just over one year old it could have been vandalised – there is evidence of it being hit by a hard object.

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

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 25 members. The AGM of The Newton Flotman Allotment Society, as previous years, will be held in the Church meeting room.

b. A Pownall – Newton Flotman Allotments Report continued

A barbecue was again held on the allotments last year that proved to be successful despite the torrential rain that we had in the morning. We had 20 or so people huddle round a table full of homemade food under a large tent that I rapidly erected for the occasion. The event will probably be repeated this year. I have been unable to attend the quarterly meetings of the Norfolk Federation of Allotment and Leisure gardeners due to other commitments and to the expense of travelling to the far flung places such as King's Lynn and Thetford for the meetings. However, the Federation has now closed due to the lack of support, but may start up again if a new Chair and Secretary can be found.

c. J Wilson – St Mary's Church Report

The pattern of services, traditional and modern is now well established. The average number attending on an ordinary Sunday has increased slightly. The special services for Easter and Christmas and those for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and the Benefice one for remembering loved ones are always well attended. Alongside these we have our Sunday School (Special Agents) and meetings on Sunday and Monday evenings for 11-14's and older teenagers.

The take-up from the youngsters is very encouraging and we shall have to find more adult helpers after the summer when we lose Hannah our Youth worker and Chris, our Benefice curate leave.

We still have constant support for Baby Mice and Church Mice meetings for toddlers and Mums during the week.

Our Youth Band have been very successful in playing at services and special occasions – here also there will be changes with youngsters moving on to University etc.

Special Events – Flower workshop organized by Sandra and The Flower Club and Sale of Harvest Gifts by Auction.

In December we had a very successful ANGEL festival – this was much acclaimed by local press and radio – many local businesses and organisations sponsored or supplied angels of all sizes.

We have had collections for various charities, RBL, Samaritan's Purse (shoe boxes), Children's Society, Christian Aid and support the previous Head teacher in his work in a school in Africa. Carol singing round the Village raised £300 for EACH.

Recently the Church hosted a very successful ARTS concert – 2 performances and the Church and the Church room full to the brim!

Our regular Coffee Stop held in the Church Room has just celebrated its 5th birthday and is proving an asset in many ways.

Eve3ry quarter at Coffee Stop we have a "Give and Take" session a very useful way of recycling household and children's bits.

There are 3 new ventures this year; a permanent church member on the Village Centre Committee, collections for the Food Bank and monthly Friday Film nights at their Primary School.

All of these efforts have helped our Tower Fund and we hope once all the paperwork is finally completed to have the exterior repaired this year. Hopefully then we can sort out the tower interior and have a flag flying as well as Wi-Fi.

We, as a church, are very grateful to the Parish Council for their continued support to help us with the printing, etc. of Partnership and maintain the Church yard.

d. G Holmes – Leading Childcare Practitioner - Pre-School Report

We are nearing the end of the academic year 2011/2012. At the moment every one of our nine sessions per week is full. We offer flexible sessions including all day. The children bring a packed lunch and eat it at Pre-School. These sessions are very popular and at the moment up to 24 children are staying for lunches.

On June 10th last year we had an unannounced visit from Ofsted. We are very proud of the outstanding rating she gave us. Amongst the many complimentary quotes she said "The setting was very well organised to meet the needs of all the children"

We are continuing to develop our outside space, and are in the process of extending the canopy over the patio to cover the whole area. Hopefully it will be erected before the end of the summer term. We are currently awaiting a reply from South Norfolk District Council regarding planning permission.

e. J Wilson – Newton Flotman & District Women’s Institute

We are very pleased that we have recently gained some new members and now total 33. We have a good and varied selection of topics from good speakers from our monthly meetings. For example, we have just had a talk (with very good slides) on moths and butterflies and this was followed by one on Asian cookery (with tastings and demonstration) and next month the topic is Amber Jewellery.

We continue to enjoy our monthly pub lunches and our theatre outings. We play an active part in the various activities and responsibilities of the Village Centre committee.

We have supported the Angel Festival and the Flower workshop at the church and the planning of the forthcoming jubilee “Party in the Park”.

We gave 2 donations from the proceeds of our annual Christmas Market. One was to a school for several handicapped children in Norwich and the other was to Flordon Church to help with their re-ordering.

We also give money regularly to ACWW to sponsor projects that enable women living overseas (who do most of the work!) to become self-sufficient.

We also support our Norfolk Federation in many ways – on sub committees – volunteers in the front office and our WI house in Norwich – taking part in the work on National resolutions and we now have 2 members, who have been awarded up to date certificates in Food and Hygiene.

In fact, we enjoy ourselves and support each other if problems arise.

f. B Adams – Chairman, Village Hall Committee

2011 has been another successful year for the Village Centre.

The Hall continues to be supported by regular and individual bookings. This year has seen the introduction of twice weekly Zumba classes which are proving very popular. We have agreed new terms for use of the pitches and changing facilities with the Football club and look forward to further development of the youth teams within the club.

The possibility of providing a skate park was considered but was not progressed as the cost was prohibitive and had limited support from the Village residents.

As part of the Queens Jubilee celebrations we have planted daffodil bulbs, kindly donated by the Parish Council, along both sides of the access road. A Jubilee party is also planned in June involving all organisations within the village.

We have unfortunately lost two members of our Committee due to work commitments.

This does leave us with reduced numbers and we are looking to recruit additional members.

The cost of energy, oil and electricity, has seen a sharp increase and we will need to review the Hall booking fees at the 2012 AGM.

Thanks should go to all members of the committee for their continuing support and to the Parish Council for their contribution to the grass cutting.

g. R Smith – Tree Warden

There is nothing of consequence to report in respect of activities during the past 12 months.

In fact, with the majority of trees in the village being the responsibility of the local authority there is very little to do as, to the best of my knowledge, the only trees which the Parish Council has control over are the few on the Common adjacent to the A140 all of which, apart from the copper beech planted 10 years ago, are mature and require no care.

During the early years of the beech tree’s existence some nurturing was required, but it is now well established and perhaps, therefore, consideration could be given for the present security of wire and posts to be removed. However, I foresee that when the new oak sapling is planted in the near future, I will no doubt be required to take steps to ensure its success.

h. L Webster – District Councillor

Finances: SNC has adopted a balanced budget and has frozen council tax (4th time in 5 years). At a time of uncertainty we have made a prudent increase in reserves. We have used capital resources to get the economy moving - building new office space in Poringland and Long Stratton. We have business space in Loddon and Diss. The Community Grants Fund continues. And there has been a meaningful delegation of services to neighbourhoods. We have been making savings by shared services, from April 2012 we have been in partnership with NPLaw. We have also updated our IT (the first upgrade since 10 years).

Local Plan: Over the last year we have ran a consultation on site-specifics, currently the preferred options are being worked out at the council. Community Infrastructure Levy was also consulted on. Currently the Norfolk place-making guide is being consulted on, this ends on the 6th of June. GNDP Legal Challenge - the judge ruled that the Broadland part of the Norwich Policy Area need to do a fundamental review of their housing distribution - in South Norfolk this does not apply.

Localism Act: has been passed, a major focus is on increased localism which this council is doing through the Neighbourhood Boards.

Neighbourhood Boards: have been set up. These will run at least 2 social action projects a year and will give grants to revenue funding (SNC grants and loans panel will grant money to 'capital' projects)

Other notices: many grants were approved for the Jubilee celebrations, My South Norfolk on our website is now up and running (able to type in your postcode and be shown planning proposals close to you, councillor information, and bin collection dates for example. For the last year I have been the Champion for Young People at the Council which has meant being involved in several activities and events; Local Democracy Week was a great event held at SNC in which school children from over South Norfolk came to a day (3 over the course of a week) to learn more about local democracy and the activities of the Council.

Newton Flotman Youth Activities: Over the last year I have been researching the possibility of setting up a youth club and have all the information on what needs to be done to set one up, after Christmas I sent round a letter to about half the village - the response was limited but we do have two volunteers. Thus the survey (an online link) will be in the upcoming parish magazine, and a copy has been given to Newton Flotman Primary School for each pupil to be taken home - this should hopefully bring forward more volunteers, or at least a response which can be used for grants etc, if we are still short of volunteers other activities/clubs can be considered that are less intense.

i. E Doyemer - Speedwatch

The Speedwatch operations for 1 hour a week. They had 26 sessions last year. There were 4 non-reported, 20 booked doing 37mph+, which resulted in 20 letters being sent out but with 2 of those not being traced.

They will increase the sessions next year utilising requests from concerned residents.

j. Notes

It was asked if the Village were aware of the Mounted Policeman in the Village. In the absence of a police representative it could not be confirmed.

Cllr Webster was asked for some further information regarding the Youth Club. Firstly, what age range would it be? Ages 9 to 14. How are off is this project? A core of people is needed, there are 2 at the moment with another 2 being required.

Cllr Webster was also asked about the planning preferred options coming out in August. Although the judgement by Broadland had been challenged there are no changes to be made to the South Norfolk Housing order.

DG confirmed that he had written to Cllr Herbert as he had seen the information come out and asked to consider the Village in Neighbourhood Plan

k. D Gibbs – Chairman – Parish Council

Parish Notes are published in Partnership and of course the full minutes are available on the Parish Council website but to pick out a few items of special note:-

To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, daffodil bulbs have been planted around trees on King's Green and on the access road to the Village Centre. Some were generously donated by the Hethersett and District Lions and supplemented by the Parish Council. Our thanks to Bob Mckelvey, Bob Kelf and Barry Adams who organised/did the planting.

k. D Gibbs – Chairman – Parish Council continued

To Mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee a 'Royal Oak' is also being planted on King's Green at 2.00pm on Sunday 20 May to which you are invited to attend. (A copper beech was planted to mark the occasion of the Queen's Golden Jubilee).

It was decided to re-roof the bus shelter which was in urgent need of attention as there was a potential risk from falling tiles which had become dislodged over the years due to vandalism. (This was originally built some 60 years ago to mark the Queen's Coronation)

Unfortunately, we have had no success in our attempts to have the Flordon Road/A140 junction reviewed prior to the large scale development proposed for Long Stratton although we have placed on record our concerns. We did propose that the A140 through the village should be reduced from a 40mph to a 30mph limit to ease access/egress to this busy road but with no success. On a positive note we have however secured a 'speed activated sign' which is positioned on the A140 to the South of the village.

Thanks to Eve Domeyer who recruited and organised the 'Speed Watch' team which have been operating on Flordon Road since July last year. The team has, on average, undertaken one survey a week and a number of motorists exceeding the speed limit have been sent notices by the police.

All Parish land has now been registered and the various documents are being placed in the archives at County Hall.

The Parish Plan undertaken in 2008 was reviewed and no further action was deemed necessary although we are currently considering whether we should embark on a 'Big Society Neighbourhood Plan' project.

I am pleased to advise that the Oil Economy Group (currently administered by Bob McGibbin) which originated from the Parish Plan is still active and saving residents money.

This year we have had to budget for an increase in the precept to meet additional costs. In addition to ground care maintenance which is our major expense (grass cutting at the Village Centre and on King's Green) there is also the major cost of renewing the bus shelter roof. The Newton Flotman Parish precept for 2001/13 for a Band D property is £16.90. Although this is a 5% increase on last year, this compares favourably with surrounding parishes - Saxlingham Nethergate - £30.20, Swainsthorpe - £37.41, Flordon - £26.91.

Newton Flotman Charities

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

The charity has approximately £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, in addition to her Council duties, is attending a training course to enable us to become 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, 29 May at 7.30pm.

I. R McKelvey – Vice Chairman – Parish Council

R McK thanked DG on behalf of the Parish Council. He congratulated DG on his tireless work on many issues, never giving up to get the job completed.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Andrea Eke
Parish Clerk