

GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 13th 2014 in the Village Hall, Great Livermere.

Members present: Councillor Hartley in the chair and Councillors Benson, Coates, Johnson, King, Waterson and Williams along with four members of the public, County Councillor Hopfensperger, Borough Councillor Spicer and Mr P Ingram from the Rural Broadband BT Programmes and the Clerk (Mrs V Waples).

The meeting commenced with refreshments being served to all those present.

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** Chairman Hartley welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and welcomed Cllr. Waterson to the Parish Council. Apologies for absence were received from PCSO Cogman and PC De Jongh due to operational commitments.
2. **Mr P Ingram, Programme Director for Rural Broadband in Suffolk:** Mr Ingram was invited to submit his report in which he provided an update on the Rural Broadband Programme for Suffolk and in particular the area local to Great Livermere:
 - BT was commercially committed to the upgrade of 66% of premises across the UK by Spring 2014; for Suffolk that equated to 50% onto an optical fibre system
 - Beyond 50% there was no economic case for them to put in fibre
 - In 2010 the Government had rolled out its rural broadband programme for coverage of up to 90%. Suffolk had been successful in its bid for funds for this work and had committed £11.6million of its own funds and in turn had been granted a further £11.6million from the government.
 - 1st phase - just under 80% would be able to be connected to the optical fibre system by September 2015
 - By April 2014 30thousand premises had already been connected by April 2014.
 - 2nd round of procurement was about to begin with the aim of getting up to 95% connected by end of 2015. In this phase the fibre optic would be extended to a small remote node in hamlets or a cluster of small houses too far from the cabinet. It was aimed that this phase would concentrate on the areas where the speed was significantly lower than 15mgbs.
 - 3rd phase would be the final 5% to be connected - between 2015-2017.
 - In Great Livermere, 2 street cabinets had been identified as suitable for the upgrade. What speed you could get depended on how far you were from the cabinet.
 - Copper would stay for the telephony services as fibre would be overlaid to the cabinet and copper would be taken to the home.
 - The cost of the upgrade for individuals would generally be small. Up to 15mgbs there should be no increase in costs but over 15mgbs a small incremental cost was likely dependent upon your service provider.
3. **County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger:** Cllr Hopfensperger was invited to submit her report in which she provided a summary of the year:
 - Front-line services protected in budget savings - The council's budget for this year will achieve savings of £25million – the second part of a plan to save over £50million over two years. The savings will be achieved by reducing management and back-office costs, cutting bureaucracy and working in new, innovative and more efficient ways.
 - A secure future for Suffolk's libraries - Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the county's library services was transferred to Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) at the beginning of August last year. All Suffolk's 44 libraries and the mobile, school and prison services now come under the direct control of the IPS.
 - Education - 'Raising the Bar' was launched last summer with a conference involving secondary school head teachers, colleges and business leaders, aimed at focusing our collective energy into driving up attainment and employability of young people in Suffolk.

- Suffolk's Residential care homes to benefit from £60m investment - Proposals developed together with Care UK will see SCC's existing 16 council-run residential homes replaced by ten new state-of-the-art homes. These will deliver the very latest in design and technology, the cost to the county council of bringing the homes up to modern standards would be simply prohibitive. The new invest will see the number of specialist dementia beds increase to 680.
 - A Growth Strategy for Suffolk - In February this year, SCC, together with partners from around the county, launched the Suffolk Growth Strategy. The strategy is designed to create the fertile environment in which the private sector can develop the economic growth, jobs and increased prosperity that Suffolk needs.
 - Broadband for everyone in Suffolk is on its way - By 2015, every property in Suffolk will be guaranteed broadband speeds of at least 2 megabits per second (Mbps), with 85% receiving superfast coverage.
 - Official Start of construction of Suffolk's energy-from waste facility - In May last year, the official construction got underway of an energy-from-waste facility for Suffolk. The site will open in December 2014, diverting 252,000 tonnes of waste a year from environmentally-damaging landfill sites. The waste will be used to create enough electricity for 30,000 homes, and will save around £350million over the next 25 years.
 - Potholes - The extended cold period has played havoc with the condition of roads in parish and there has been lots of pot holes to fill in. Extra money has been allocated this year to deal with this, please do not hesitate in contacting me if you notice any.
 - VAS - it was noted that the Parish Council along with Troston were in talks centred on the sharing of their own mobile VAS as both parishes were yet to have the County owned unit deployed in their villages. Both parishes would be asking County Cllr. Hopfensperger whether she would be able to contribute to the VAS from her Locality Budget.

4. **Borough Councillor Christopher Spicer:** Councillor Spicer was invited to submit his report in which he commented on the following items:

- i. Vision 2031 - main concern was the expansion of the urban sprawl of towns like Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. Villages needed to be protected from this expansion. There was currently a consultation on the Inspector's recommendations. Under Vision 2031 it was likely that redundant farm buildings could be converted as there could be a relaxation of the rules to allow conversion and other uses of derelict buildings - perhaps built upon with a percentage of the properties being accorded social housing status under S106 agreements. Any initiative for the relaxation of the rules in such cases must come from the Parish Councils.
- ii. Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Committee - he currently served on this committee and drew the meeting's attention to the works carried out by this committee.
- iii. St Edmundsbury Borough Council had maintained a nil percentage increase in its portion of the Council Tax - mainly due to the savings that had been obtained through Shared Services with Forest Heath.
- iv. Mere View - additional parking - he fully supported the measures being proposed by the Parish Council and hoped to see a successful outcome.
- v. Last year as a Borough Councillor as he would not be seeking re-election in 2015.

5. **St Edmundsbury Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team:** a written report had been submitted by the SNT which confirmed that for the period 2013 - 2014 there had been 11 crimes recorded with 0 crimes detected and 0% detection rate. These figures had shown an increase in overall crimes by 1 with a decrease in detection rate by 10%. Breakdown of the crimes for the village for the previous year showed 1 x burglary; 2 x theft from motor vehicle; 1 x criminal damage; 2 x other crimes; 1 x theft of motor vehicle and 4 x theft -other. There had been a number of changes in the team over the last 12 months. The SNT now consisted of PS Jay; PC Tate; PC De Jongh; PCSO Ruston; PCSO Cogman; PCSO Morton; PCSO Teakle and PCSP McDaid. PCSO Cogman and PC De Jongh were the village's dedicated officers.

6. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Acceptance of the minutes as a true and accurate record were proposed and approved unanimously by those eligible to vote and signed by the Chairman as such.
7. **Matters arising:**
 - i. Church sign – this was now in place and thanks were offered to County Cllr. Hopfensperger for assisting with its installation.
8. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the Parish Councillors and the Clerk, Victoria Waples. He thanked both Cllr. Johnson for acting as the Council's internal auditor and the Treasurer of the Village Hall for acting as the Council's Independent Internal Auditor. The Chairman provided a summary of the Council's activities over the past year and confirmed that the Council's finances were healthy at £12,561, which had allowed it to hold £5,000 in reserve for the bus shelter and £1,000 for the upkeep of the Parish's Assets. The Parish Council had taken the decision to increase the Precept by a small percentage due to the phasing out of the Parish Grant from St Edmundsbury over the next four years.. The main expenditure for the year continued to be the grass cutting for the communal areas; insurance; the Clerk's salary and ongoing maintenance for the bus shelter; play equipment, dog bins, upkeep of the War Memorial; the Book Exchange Store and seats within the village. A survey had been carried during the past year over the future of the bottle banks which had showed that the majority who responded were in favour of them remaining where they were currently located. The aim for the Parish Council was to try and keep the area as neat and tidy as possible. He confirmed that the Parish Council were still awaiting a decision on Mere View and the possibility of further parking spaces and following the cleaning of the War Memorial scheduled for later that year there would be an event to honour it.
9. **Calthorpe & Edwards Educational Trust:** the trustees met once during the past year to make grants to young people embarking on an approved course of education. As in past years, it had made a grant of around £300 per annum to young people on approved courses, with those from the inner villages formerly served by the blue coats school in Ampton being given preference and several from this village currently receive an award. Applications are invited once a year and the next opportunity will be publicised in August or early September. Rev. Tony Redman confirmed that he was still the village's representative on the Calthorpe and Edwards Trustees.
10. **Livermere Village Charities:** this was the working title for the management of a collection of funds donated over the last two hundred years for the benefit of the elderly in the village. The income supported 25 grants this year of £40 each. This varies each year according to the income from the investments. To be eligible you have to be resident in the villages of Little or Great Livermere, and to be of pensionable age. Only one grant is given per household. There were six members of the committee whose arduous task was to attend on meeting of the committee each year and to deliver the cash to those eligible who are known to the committee in December.
11. **Livermere Village Hall Management Committee:** the management committee consists of 10 village people under the chairmanship for the time being of Rev. Tony Redman. It continues to organise dances, quiz nights, coffee mornings and the fun day in the first weekend in September. Although its first purpose is to raise funds to maintain the village hall, it also sees its activities as encouraging community activities in the village and creating opportunities for people to meet each other. Approximately three fifths of its funding comes from events it puts on and two fifths from lettings. It is currently running at a small deficit, but the hall is in good shape and the committee was confident that funds would restore themselves in a year or two. The committee had welcomed one new member to the committee during the year and were always interested to hear from others who would like to join the committee or who have ideas for community events it could try.

12. **Clerk's Report:** the clerk reported on the following items:
- i. Accounts for the year 2013/2014 had been presented to full Council and had now been signed off and as the internal audit had been carried out, the Annual Return would be submitted to the Council's external auditors.
 - ii. There was a newly published Village Welcome Sheet
 - iii. The village's website could be found at: greatlivermere.onesuffolk.net/
13. **Public Session:** there were no comments from the members of the public present.

There being no further business official thanks was offered to Mrs. Coates for making and serving the refreshments and the meeting closed at 9.10pm.