

GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2015 in the Village Hall, Great Livermere commencing at 7.00pm.

Members present: Councillor Hartley in the chair and Councillors Coates and Johnson along with County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger, Borough Councillor Simon Brown and PCSO Jade Morton 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.
2. **County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger:** Cllr Hopfensperger was invited to submit her report in which she commented on the following:
 - Council made savings of £38.2m in this financial year which is year two of four years of savings of £156m
 - Highways have taken up most of her time with regards to SCC and she looked forward to helping the Parish Council resolve the flooding issues along Mere View
 - She repeated her offer to assist with the costs in purchasing a shared Vehicle Activated Sign with Troston.
 - Council had invested £1.5m into creating 5,000 new apprenticeships by 2019.
 - Council had moved up from 137th place to 125 out of 151 local authorities in national league table for GCSE results although this was still not good enough for the children in Suffolk but it should be noted that this was moving in the right direction.
 - The Energy from Waste Facility in Great Blakenham was delivered on time and on budget and the council now takes 40,000t of waste from Norfolk to assist with their landfill waste.
 - The West Suffolk Operational Hub which is a joint project with St Edmundsbury Borough Council to combine the depot from behind West Suffolk House, Household Waste Recycling from Rougham Hill and a new Waste Transfer Station. The proposed site was at Hollow Road Farm in Fornham St Martin and a lot of concerns had been expressed with regards to the appropriateness of this site. Following this the officers had been tasked to look at the business case and present some feasibility studies over alternatives sites whilst taking into account the responses to the consultation. Further information on this was awaited.
3. **Borough Councillor Simon Brown:** Councillor Brown was invited to submit his report in which he commented on the following items:
 - i. As he had only been in post for a matter of weeks there was very little outstanding as far as he was concerned relating to St Edmundsbury.
 - ii. He was very keen to work closely with the community and asked that he be informed of any issues relating to Great Livermere with which he might be able to help.
 - iii. When questioned he agreed to investigate and report back as to what facilities were in place for the clearance of roadside litter. It was suggested that money could be ring fenced for a mobile vehicle to collect the rubbish on a regular basis.
4. **St Edmundsbury Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team:** a report was presented in which it was confirmed that for the period 2014 - 2015 there had been 11 crimes recorded with 15 crimes detected, 2 crimes detected with a 13% detection rate. Breakdown of the crimes for the village for the previous year showed 2 x Burglary – other building; 3 x Criminal Damage – vehicle; 3 x Theft – other; 1 x Criminal Damage – dwelling; 3 x Theft – from motor vehicle; 3 x other. There had been a number of changes in the team over the last 12 months. The SNT now consisted of PC 1639 Andre De Jongh; PCSO 3232 Ken Ruston; PCSO 3267 Jade Morton; PCSO 3268 Claire Teakle and PCSO 3314 Rebecca McDaid. It was reported that Burglary offences were continuing to occur throughout the county. We'd like to take this opportunity to share some advice and tips on securing your

home as well as outbuildings. Most burglaries are committed by opportunist criminals who happen to see insecure premises where they can help themselves to the property inside. In most cases the burglary could have been prevented. By following a few simple precautions, you can reduce the chance of you becoming a victim of burglary. We also receive regular complaints regarding speeding across our villages. Speeding is a Safer Neighbourhood Team Priority. All members of the team conduct speeds checks as and when we can however there are certain regulations which we must follow which determine where we are able to conduct the checks. Unfortunately, this means that we are unable to do speed checks in certain locations. We will continue to prioritise speeding and conduct speed checks regularly

5. **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.
6. **Matters arising:** there were none arising.
7. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated his two fellow Councillors on being elected to the post of Councillor. 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. It was noted that this year has seen a number of resignations from the Council which now had 4 vacancies. The Chairman provided an summary of the Council's activities over the past year. He confirmed that the upgraded BT box along The Street was able to provide faster broadband to those who wished to subscribe and that the Parish Council was pressing for the installation of the new bus shelter now that the old one had been removed. It was questioned as to why there was a ramp on one side of the road and not the other and the Clerk confirmed that the order to rectify this had only just been placed by SCC. He confirmed that the Parish Council was actively chasing for a solution to the parking issues at Mere View; that a number of trees had been pollard along Mere View although not No. 5.; that the Parish owned BT phonebox was still being regularly used and was kept neat and tidy by a parishioner and that the War Memorial had been cleaned. He had been pleased to attend the Meet and Greet event and had taken part in the Litter Picking event that had been organised by a parishioner.
8. **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.
9. **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 had supported 24 grants this year of £45 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.
10. **Livermere Village Hall Management Committee:** the management committee at the current time consists of 8 village people having lost 4 with 2 being replaced. It continues to organise dances, quiz nights and coffee mornings although bookings had been down over the past year. The driveway had been redone during the past year along with repairs to the hall floor. Thanks were offered to past Borough Councillor Christopher Spicer for his assistance with sourcing funds for this work.

11. **Clerk's Report:** the clerk reported on the following items:
- i. Accounts for the year 2014/2015 had been presented to full Council and had now been signed off. As the internal audit had been carried out, the Annual Return would be submitted to the Council's external auditors, BDO LLP by the due date.
 - ii. The village's website could be found at: greatlivermere.onesuffolk.net/. This was being updated on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Transparency Code which came into force on 1 April 2015 and applied to those smaller councils with annual income under £25,000.
12. **Public Session:** there were no 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 7.30pm.

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