

BLEASBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WEDNESDAY

22 APRIL 2015

BLEASBY VILLAGE HALL 7.30

1. To receive apologies for absence

Councillor Goodwin.

Present: 32 parishioners.

Councillors. France, Ogilvie, Sterland, Horsley, Foster.

District Councillor Roger Blaney.

2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 29 April 2014

These minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Parish Council Report

Councillor Ogilvie presented the parish council's report for the year. She started by referring to recent events concerning the proposal to put play equipment on the Glebe Field. This was a well-intended project but had raised serious concerns from a significant number of people in the village. The parish council felt that it was right to abandon the proposal so that the new council members – to be elected in May – could revisit this issue and consider the issues which had been raised by residents. It was accepted that this would be a disappointment to many in the village, but the parish council felt that it was appropriate to ensure that all aspects of this matter had been fully considered.

The parish council had been saddened by the resignation of the former Chairman of the Parish Council and also the Clerk. Cllr Ogilvie recorded the Parish Council's thanks for the contribution which both had made to the community during their time in office. Following the resignation of the former Chairman, Cllr France had been elected Chairman, and Cllr Ogilvie Vice Chair.

Turning to other matters, the defibrillator has been approved, and will be sited on the electricity box on the Glebe Field. Training will be available for potential users.

Speeding between Goverton and Thurgarton has been discussed with Thurgarton Parish Council, and Notts County Council. NCC has agreed to reduce speed limits on approaches to Thurgarton to 40 mph and has stated that the road between Thurgarton and Goverton will be included in this. It is hoped that it will be included in their budget for the year 2015/16.

A maypole is being purchased for the Glebe Field, courtesy of Cllr Jackson's divisional fund. It is hoped that this will provide a focus for community activity on the field.

The parish council was disappointed to record that the village has now lost its village shop and post office. Manor Farm Tea Shoppe is hoping to run a small shop at the tea rooms, and residents are urged to use the facility.

Drains in the village have been upgraded, and this should reduce the possibility of localised flooding and the pooling of water on the same areas of the road each time we have heavy rain.

Cllr Ogilvie referred to the very successful village festival, which was arranged primarily through the enthusiasm of James Bright. This had raised a small sum of money, which was put towards the Christmas tree and lights. This created a very festive atmosphere for the enjoyment of all residents.

The small parcel of land at the river opposite the residential home has been under the control of the parish council for more than ten years now, and it is hoped that the final stage of formally registering the land in the ownership of the parish council can be concluded in the near future.

The lengthsman scheme is still running, although not much has happened lately. This will be a matter for the new council members to reactivate.

The War Memorial has now been cleaned up, and the lettering is to be re-ledged shortly.

The train service has been improved, and Cllr Blaney was thanked for his efforts to achieve this. However, it is vitally important that residents use the train, otherwise there is the likelihood that the new services will be cut due to lack of demand.

Cllr Ogilvie thanked the many people in the village who do so much in the background to help the village amenities function well, and the village look so nice. These include the Jubilee Ponds Management Committee for their work at the ponds, the Village Hall Management Committee for ensuring that the hall remains a warm, well-run place for us all to meet, the WI ladies for their contribution to litter picking, the planting of bulbs, carol singing and their general support to the village and its residents, the people who look after our beautiful church and churchyard, and the Bleasby News editors and deliverers.

Cllr Ogilvie confirmed that she would not stand for election at the forthcoming parish council elections, and wished the new members well. She hoped that all members of the community would give the new parish council their support as they take on the various responsibilities which go with being a member of the parish council.

5. Parish Council Accounts

Presented by Councillor Ogilvie.

The excess amount in the funds was accounted for by;

- Election costs
- Lengthsman
- £300 for play equipment
- £1,000 for maypole
- Defibrillator

Mr. Brill asked whether the loan for the Glebe Field purchase could be decreased by using a sum from the account.

Mr. Shaw suggested purchasing the defibrillator from another source.

Mrs. Salter asked whether the sum of £300 give for play equipment should be returned to County Councillor Jackson.

6. District Councillor's Report.

Councillor Roger Blaney

- He has been returned unopposed
- There has been no Council tax increase for the 5th year in a row and it is now lower than it was 8 years ago
- The rail service will improve from May 13th but we must 'use it or lose it'. There are plans to extend the car park at Fiskerton
- Safer Neighbourhood Group. There has been an increase in burglaries lately involving theft of lawnmowers etc. from the local villages. Please be extra vigilant.
- Planning and waste collection. The green waste collection facility is to be expanded to the whole area. There have been 24 planning applications for Bleasby parish, including 6 for tree works, 1 for a new property, 10 miscellaneous, 2 for Broadband service.
- National Civil War Centre opens in Newark on Mayday Bank Holiday. Hopefully it will create revenue for Newark.
- The new Leisure Centre in Newark should also help to create revenue. This all helps to keep Council tax down.
- Kelham Hall has been sold. New Council offices are to be built on Council owned land near the Railway Station.
- Lower Council tax and keep costs down.
- More letter boxes for deliveries at the jetty at Hazelford have appeared and he will look into this.
- He thanked the retiring Councillors, these being France, Ogilvie and Sterland.

Mr. Cast; thanked Councillor Blaney for his contributions to the village.

Mrs. Cast; asked about the installation of the new full barrier at the level crossing. It was scheduled for Nov.2015-Feb 2016 but has now been rescheduled for summer 2016. Bleasby and Lowdham will be dealt with first, followed by Rolleston, Fiskerton and Morton. They will be operated from a control centre in Derby.

Mr. Bennett; mentioned that the Cattle Market roundabout near Newark is becoming more congested. Plans are afoot to complete the dual carriageway link between Farndon and the A1. The design work has already been completed.

Mrs. Belton; asked about the fate of Kelham Hall. It has been purchased and will become a hotel, wedding venue and conference centre.

7. Village Hall Management Committee

Mrs Cast, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee presented her report. She started her report by giving an outline history of the hall. The management committee has met on six occasions during the preceding year, and has organised some very successful fund-raising event, with further events being planned for the next year. Maintenance of the building during the year had included reroofing the storeroom .The management committee intended to upgrade the heating system in the hall during the next year.

The hall is well used with regular weekly bookings, and occasional bookings. Finances remain sound. Mrs Cast thanked the members of the VHMC who contributed so much during the year. She mentioned especially Mrs Jean McMeeking who had retired from the committee after over 40 years' service, many of which were as Chairman.

8. Jubilee Ponds Management Committee Report

Councillor France presented the Jubilee Ponds Management Committee report. She started by thanking Brian Fellows for his many years of dedicated volunteering at the ponds, including managing the work parties. Brian and his wife, Lesley, are leaving the village and the members of the ponds committee wished them well in their new life in Kent.

The committee receives many favourable comments from residents who are seeing the benefit of the ten year plan to improve the ponds area. The reseeded meadow produced some wonderful flowers in the spring and this should continue to improve with even more flowers in the coming year. Sadly, yet again the cygnets were taken by predators. The Centenary Dowager Oak Wood was planted with the help of several parishioners. Thanks were due to the volunteers who got involved in this project, to the Jubilee Ponds work parties, and volunteers from Experian who did much of the groundwork, and especially to Peter Cast for his meticulous work and organisation on the plans for planting.

Some new people have joined the work parties, and this has enabled the Duke of Edinburgh students to again have the opportunity of working towards their award by volunteering at the ponds.

The fishing syndicate has undertaken considerable repairs to banks which were eroding, and are very willing to provide additional manpower to work parties when needed.

9. Bleasby Church of England Primary School Report

Mr Peter Cast, Governor, presented this report. He started by saying that the school is in 'good heart', and is a very popular school, which leads to oversubscription. The school retains its 'outstanding' OFSTED status, and provides a broad and balanced education. Children are encouraged to take responsibility and become involved in the management of the school. Likewise, many parents are actively involved in the school, often through Bleasby School Friends Association fundraising, which has provided significant sums for the school. The school has been reroofed, and the drive improved. The school has also benefitted from improvement to the school field sporting facilities, playground expansion, games equipment and play activities.

Mrs. Temperley reminded us that the school is designated as Church of England and the Parish Church is keen to involve the pupils in visits to St. Mary's and to promote relations with it, especially at Christmas and Easter times.

10. Flood Action Group Report

Councillor France presented the flood group report. Thankfully the village did not experience any flooding this year, but the flood group continues its activities to ensure that we can be as resilient as possible should flooding occur. The work which has been undertaken on drains in the village should make a significant improvement. Cllr France said that she still hears of people having difficulty with insurance because of the NG14 postcode. Her advice is to visit the Government website 'Flood Re' or contact the environment agency.

11. County Councillor's Report

Councillor Roger Jackson was absent.

12. Any Other Matters

Ms. B. Kinsey; questioned procedures regarding the recent LIS (Local Improvement Scheme) application for funding for play equipment on the Glebe Field. She stated that;

- Agenda minutes etc. must be published 3 days before a meeting
- From 1 April all papers must be available on-line on an independent Parish Council website (Transparency Code)
- At which meeting did the Parish Council view the LIS application and who signed this off ?
- The Public did not have sight of it, it was not seen by all members of the Parish Council and did not appear as an Agenda Item or before the Glebe Field Advisory Group. It was, however, on view at the Open Day for the proposal regarding play equipment on the Glebe Field.
- At the Parish Council meeting of 13 April, County Councillor Jackson stated that the LIS application would have been successful if it had not been withdrawn. How could this have been the case when proper procedures were not followed? He was not present at this instant, and so could not respond to this, as Councillor Ogilvie pointed out.

Councillor France responded that it was accepted that the LIS application had not followed Bleasby Parish Council procedure.

Mrs. B. Cast; offered thanks to those Councillors standing down i.e. Councillors France, Ogilvie and Sterland.

Mr. K. Ogilvie; requested that the New Parish Council should consider options to solve the parking problems in the village near the school and railway station

Mrs. J. Whitman requested that the grass outside the Glebe Field, which had been disturbed by the recent road works, should be restored.

Mr. R. Bennett; requested that the Lengthsman should be able to work on other tasks outside the Parish Council remit.