



WEST ACRE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING HELD on MONDAY APRIL 29th 2013
at the VILLAGE HALL
(ANNUAL PARISH MEETING)

A meeting of West Acre Parish Council, which was also the Annual Parish Meeting, was held on Monday April 29th 2013 at 7pm at the Village Hall. Those present were Sally Bridle (chair) Henry Birkbeck, Jeremy Cameron, Lorraine Copeman, Colin Filer, Ralph Sliwa, (Councillors) and Sue Filer (Parish Clerk).

Also present were Janet Murphy (County Councillor), Clive Hadfield (WAFL), Belinda Bush, Brian Wright, Brian Cawston, Antonia Fraser, Isobel Smith, Andy Naylor and Ann Durrant.

Minute 1 To receive apologies - there were apologies from Stuart Nairn (Rector), Jim Moriarty (Borough Councillor), Phillip Welham and Deborah Pearson (PCSO).

Minute 2 To accept the minutes of the previous meeting - these were approved and signed.

Minute 3 To elect officers for the next year - Colin proposed that Sally Bridle should continue as chairperson, (seconded by Ralph) and Sally proposed that Henry Birkbeck should remain as treasurer, which was seconded by Ralph. The motions were passed unanimously.

Minute 4 To suspend the meeting to hear reports from groups working in the village

a) Church - Unfortunately Stuart was unable to be with us and therefore Sally presented his report, which is in the folder attached to these minutes.

b) Borough and County Council Sue presented a brief note sent by Jim who was unable to be at the meeting stating that his main interest at the moment focuses on the new recycling and waste disposal service.

Janet presented what will be her last report as our County Councillor, which is in the folder attached to the minutes. She was thanked by Sally for the work she has done on our behalf and was wished well for the future.

c) Theatre Clive Hadfield presented his report on the Theatre's year and on-going development. A copy of the report is in the folder.

d) Police - Our PCSO Deborah Pearson was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting but had sent her report to the Parish Clerk, who read it to the meeting. The report can be found in the folder.

e) Parish Council - The chairman read her report for the year, which can be found in the folder.

f) Village Hall - As chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Henry again reported on the Village Hall. Ralph then reported on the progress of the Joint Village Hall/Parish Council Committee in progressing the proposed New Village Hall. The report is filed with the minutes.

g) Billiards Club - As Phillip Welham was unable to attend, Colin read the report that Phillip had written. This is also filed, with the other reports, with the minutes.

h) Carpet Bowls Club - Belinda Bush read her report, which is also filed with the minutes.

i) Youth Club - Lorraine reported on the Youth Club's year. Her report is filed with the others. Henry then reported on the attempt to find someone to continue the work of the Youth Club since Lorraine's resignation in February. Sally thanked Lorraine for her sterling work when she ran the Youth Club.

j) Art Club - Ralph Sliwa reported on the Art Club's activities for 2012-2013. His report is filed with the others.

Minute 5 To invite comments from the audience - Nothing was forthcoming.

Minute 6 To reconvene the meeting to hear reports of On-going Issues

a) Parish Plan

i) Speeding, road narrowing and signage - Sally reported that these matters were low on Highways' agenda as most of the available money will be spent on repairing potholes when the weather becomes warmer. Our PCSO told us prior to the meeting that an accident along the Castle Acre to East Walton Road within our village may help the cause of getting a 40mph speed limit there and that there will be frequent checks on speeding in the village. (Since the meeting our PCSO, Deborah, has told us she has submitted an application to Highways for the 40mph speed limit to be put in place.)

Action - Deborah to keep the Parish Council updated on progress with this matter.

ii) Bench & play equipment - Lorraine reported that the bench for the Village Green had arrived and that it had been viewed by the Parish Councillors, prior to the meeting. The siting of the bench had been determined and the bench should be in place, embedded in concrete, in the near future.

As regards to extra play equipment for the Village Green, Lorraine has distributed catalogues to seven parents and four have formed a sub committee to make a decision at a meeting to be held shortly.

Action - Lorraine to report back at next PC meeting.

iii) New bin and waste collection system - Colin reported that all now seemed OK in regard to this. He had been to the Council Offices in King's Lynn and ordered a box of 50 rolls of compostable bags for the kitchen caddies so that residents could access these more easily and at less cost. They will be on sale, during office hours, at the Estate Office for £1-15 per roll and it is advisable not to stockpile these as, being compostable, they will turn to dust in time! Anyone experiencing problems with the system should contact Colin on 01760 755610.

Action - Colin to continue overseeing this matter.

iv) Activities in the theatre - at present, due to the building work in progress, Sally has not pushed this matter.

v) Other activities - Sue reported that despite asking people to contact her if they were interested in arranging other activities, no-one had been in touch. Both Henry and Isobel Smith have offered tables for table-tennis and 5 people at the meeting showed interest.

Action - Colin is to pursue this matter.

vi) Village footpath map - Henry is yet to finish this and have it printed. He plans to make signs and perhaps sell the maps for Village Hall funds.

Action - Henry to continue with this project.

vii) Joint village hall committee and parish council meeting - this took place and committees to deal with various aspects of planning a new village hall have been formed.

viii) Village website - Ralph is near to completing this but is still waiting for snapshots of some Parish Councillors.

ix) Emergency plans - Jeremy is having problems researching this but will continue to do so.

x) Local housing policy - Janet reported that we are now officially a hamlet. She agreed with Sally's findings there can be no further building at all at present in West Acre.

xi) Village transport system - despite indicating in the questionnaire, which was anonymous, that some people could do with help, again no-one replied to the Parish Clerk's request, in the Nar Valley News, to do so.

Minute 7 To discuss matters of finance -

a) To receive the precept - Sue reported that she'd received a cheque for the £750 precept from the Borough Council and had paid it to the Treasurer.

b) To receive and approve the Parish Clerk's expenses. Expenses of £35.23 were approved and a cheque for that amount given to the clerk.

c) To receive the Chairman's invoice of £14.53 for stationery for the Parish Plan. This was approved and paid.

d) To receive Colin's invoice of £6.00 for Bin Bags. This was again approved and has been paid.

e) To authorise the Treasurer to pay Ralph the balance of the costs for the West Acre Book (out of sales and grant moneys received). This was so done. (Details in folder with the minutes.)

b) To receive and approve the Annual Return - A draft Annual Return was read out and discussed. (Copy with the minutes)

Action - Henry to produce the Annual Return for signing at the next PCM.

Minute 8 To Discuss the Casual Vacancy on Parish Council

One resident came forward to consider filling this vacancy.

Action - Sue to send details of this post to Antonia Fraser for consideration.

Minute 9 To report on the request for email addresses

Sue reported that no-one had volunteered their email address as a way of making communication to residents easier, despite a request in the Nar Valley News.

Minute 10 To view correspondence - This was displayed at the back of the room.

Minute 11 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting. -

This was confirmed as Monday 5th August 2013 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Action - All matters for inclusion on the Agenda should reach Sue by Monday July 22nd 2013