

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 19th of April 2011

Chairman, Mr Rodger Aves opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed members of the public

Present:

Councillors Mr D Hodges, Dr A Kinnear-King, Mr R W Bartrum, Mr D Craggs, Mrs S Craggs, Mrs E Handy, Mr I Cattermole, District Councillor, Mr K Weeks, a number of representatives from village groups, Mrs J Harvey and the Clerk Mr M Mortimer.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from The Rev Mellowship, Mr N Morley, County Councillor Spratt and Mrs Daphne Hamilton.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 20th of April 2010

Copies had been made available at the meeting and the minutes were approved and signed

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

4. Annual Report of the Parish Council

The Chairman reported continued concern with the condition of the roads and the ongoing situation regarding parking at the school. On a more positive note he welcomed the establishment of a new Parent and Toddler group.

Most of the planning applications submitted had gone through with little comment with the notable exception of the duck rearing sheds at Fersfield. Whilst the application had been withdrawn Mr Aves anticipated another in the near future. He expressed satisfaction at the way the allotments were being taken up and confirmed that the improvements to the roadway had been agreed.

5. Statement of Accounts for the year to 31st March 2011

The Parish Clerk presented a statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year to 31st March 2011. A copy of the statement is included in the minute book.
Mr Cattermole expressed the view that £14,000 was too much for a small council to hold.

6. Reports from Charities

Town Lands Charity - Cllr Kinnear-King reported that there was £5887.92 in the current account and £10,712.02 in the deposit account. He thanked Mrs Handy for her generous donation of £450. £250 had been donated to the Parent and Toddler Group.

Fuel Allotments Charity – Councillor Rodger Aves reported that during the year it had received £333.66. He expressed difficulty in establishing who should be the beneficiaries of the allowances and a view that it would be helpful to combine the Parish's charities into one. A report is in the minute book.

Elizabeth Barker Charity – Mrs Burroughes read a report from The Reverend Mellowship. The main account was holding £1811.85, the Church Account, £1127.49 and the School Account, £101.19. A report is in the minute book.

Clay Allotments Charity – Councillor Aves informed the meeting that there had been no activity during the year.

The Ellingham Charity - The Reverend Mellowship's report stated that income for the year was £1300. A report is in the minute book.

7. Reports from Parish Organizations:

Reports were given by:

Fersfield PCC

A report was provided by the Reverend Mellowship and was read by Mrs Burroughes. It stated that the roof of St Andrew's had been replaced at a cost of £70,000. He thanked those who had given to the appeal, and the Parish Council for the grant towards the maintenance of the burial ground. A report is in the minute book.

Bressingham PCC

A report was provided by the Reverend Mellowship and read by Mrs Burroughes. He said Mrs Burroughes and Mr Aves should be highly commended for the work they did for the church and the village. He thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the maintenance of the burial ground. Mrs Burroughes also gave a report as Church Warden and thanked a number of people for their efforts. The full report is in the minute book.

Bressingham Village Drama Group

Mrs Webb gave a report on the 25 year history of the group of which she had been a part since shortly after its establishment. The production this year had been Beauty and the Beast with a modern slant and had raised £1600.

A Summer Event was planned for July. A report is in the minute book.

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Bressingham and Fersfield Village Hall and Recreation Association

Mr Byrne, as Chairman, gave a report. He expressed a view that groups using the hall should get more involved in the running of the Association and pointed out that it was about to lose two valuable members of the committee in Mark Shepherd and Adrian Kinnear-King. He appealed to the Parish Council to find a replacement for Dr Kinnear-King. The full report is in the Minute Book.

Bressingham & Fersfield Parent & Toddler Group

A representative of the group thanked the Parish Council for its financial support and reported growing interest in the group. She said there had been 29 children at the Christmas Party.

The Allotment Association,

The Chair of the Association, Michelle Lanchester, gave a report on a tough but successful year including a publicity event at Blooms Garden Centre. It was the Association's aim to push on in trying to fill all the vacant plots. She appealed for the work on the roadway to be started as soon as possible.

Bressingham & District Ladies' Club

Daphne Hamilton provided a report describing a number of talks and events including a guided walk around Diss. A report is in the minute book.

8. The Parish Plan

The final results of the survey have been analysed and the plan is awaiting printing.

9. Report from Norfolk County Council

Councillor Spratt sent his apologies.

10. Report from South Norfolk District Council

District Councillor Weeks reported that the Council had saved three quarters of a million pounds in the last year and was hoping to make further efficiencies by working with Great Yarmouth and sharing officers. Referring to long term strategies he assured the meeting that new housing in small parishes like Bressingham and Fersfield would be limited. Councillor Weeks described some of the work of the Council's many committees and his part in them as Chairman or member.

11. Any Other Business

There was a discussion about the sign for the Chequers pub which seemed to have reverted to the chequers board rather than the chequers tree. Mr Aves said he would be contacting the owners. Mrs Burroughes announced the church's intention to return to church grounds the human remains, a skeleton, found in the pub during the renovation.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.