

Minutes of CHELMONDISTON'S ANNUAL PARISH/VILLAGE MEETING

held on TUESDAY 17th MAY 2016 at 7.00pm in the VILLAGE HALL

Abbreviations: SCCllr- Suffolk County Councillor; DCllr – District Councillor;
SNT – Safer Neighbourhood Team; CC – County Council; PC – Parish Council;

Present: approximately 40 residents (including Parish Cllrs)

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all, especially the DCllr, Derek Davis and the SCCllr, Dave Wood.
2. **Apologies:** received from the SNTeam (Police); Sophie Baylor (Playing Field Cttee); Simon Brown (Pin Mill Society); Cllr A Fox; Cllr D Barwick and Fran Sewell (Parish clerk)
3. **To agree the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2015:**
Draft copies of the minutes had been on the website for several months. There were no dissenting voices, so the Chairman signed the minutes of last year's annual meeting.
4. **Reports:**
Chairman's Report – Cllr David Cordle
 - The Chairman gave a succinct overview of the Parish Council's work over the previous 12 months, mentioning the following:
 - i. *Policing on the Peninsula* is subject to considerable cuts in budget. The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting where they learnt that there would be a reduction in staff for the area from 142 to 95. The PCSO's were being reduced in number and withdrawn from area work to specialise in particular types of activity throughout the whole policing area. This means that even were we to part fund a PCSO, there is little likelihood that we would see that person any more. No one would be attending PC meetings unless there was a particular reason, and updates/crime statistics would only now be available via the Police website.
 - ii. *Ganges site* development was now awaiting the outcome of the Judicial Review requested by Woolverstone PC
 - iii. *Affordable Housing* was still subject to there being a willing landowner to offer a site, but the PC group was reviewing a short list of potential sites with BDC.
 - iv. *A telephone* is now installed in the Village Hall for emergency use.
 - v. *Recycling Centre*. The PC had been in discussion with the SCC for many months regarding financial assistance for running the centre, with an intervention by our MP fairly recently. Funding support has eventually been agreed. The Chairman publicly thanked Mr Alan Nunn, without whose volunteer work, the site could not be kept open.
 - vi. *Defibrillator*. The PC is still pursuing the possibility of acquiring a defibrillator for Chelmondiston, (one is now installed on the outside wall of Pin Mill Sailing Club for use in that part of the parish) and will be discussing the possibility of paying for this entirely if we cannot find a funding source.
 - vii. *Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Scattered Orchard Project* has provided trees for land in Pin Mill Lane for our part of this orchard. The trees are now planted and growing, and their fruit will be freely available to all of the community.
 - viii. *Shared Access* had approached the PC and Playing Field Committee with a view to considering erecting a communications mast on the Playing Field in return for financial support. They operate together with the Lawn Tennis Association and the Football Association to offer funding for flood lighting or other sporting infrastructure.

Cllr Cordle thanked his fellow councillors for their good work and support during the year. He thanked Beryl Walker, who has recently resigned, for all she has done as a councillor. He thanked the Vice Chairman for her work, and wished recorded that especial thanks are due to the Clerk, Mrs. Sewell, for her conscientious commitment and hard work, without which the Parish Council would struggle to function.

➤ **County Councillor's Report – Dave Wood**

Yet again David felt it was another year of cuts in budgets and reorganisation!

Cllr Mark Bee stood down as Leader of the County Council. Following the election of new leader, Cllr Colin Noble, several experienced members lost their place in the Cabinet and nearly all of the all-party working group were disbanded. The CC did not raise the main element of the council tax but opted for an additional 2% precept (as directed by government) to help pay for the increased demand in the community services for the elderly.

He spoke of the *devolution* deal being offered to the local authorities in Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, which if agreed would then run as a combined authority under an elected Mayor. The benefit from devolution is supposed to be more local control over the drivers of economic growth such as development, transport and training. Some £250m is promised for housing with a further £30m for the next 30 years to cover the rest. All the local councils have to ratify the agreement before the end of June. It would then go out to a wider consultation. The CC is proposing massive cuts to the *Fire Service*, which David has strongly opposed. 78% of those replying to the formal consultation said 'no' to the proposed cuts. 83% of those in Ipswich saying 'no' to the proposals for our County Town. To be debated in Cabinet on 17th May 2016. *Community Transport 'Buzzabout'* – started several years ago by Penny Clarke and David, was the first Community Transport scheme in Suffolk. It is undergoing a massive facelift with major cuts to its finances. Hadleigh Community Transport will be providing transport in our area but all providers have to sign up to a 5 year deal. Finance should be secure for the first two years. *Highway* issues are still a concern. A new director has made some substantial changes – improvements have yet to be seen.

Locality Fund – David has had 3 requests over the past 12 months. The Chelplin Players for stage lights; St Andrew's Church for their lighting project and the Synergy Café for help with their costs. He has also given a grant to the Rural Coffee Caravan towards the purchase of a new vehicle and to the Cancer Campaign in Suffolk to help raise awareness in Primary Schools to skin cancer.

➤ **District Councillor's report – Derek Davis**

Derek gave a quick resume of what he does and how much he has enjoyed being a representative of the local community in Berner's Ward. He particularly enjoys being able to help individuals, although the "big" issues are also important. He mentioned HMS Ganges, Affordable Housing and Tourism as issues he is very involved with, and stressed that as an Independent Cllr, he has no political axe to grind. He considers investment, not just in housing but in sustainable businesses to be important in order to keep villages on the peninsula alive. He is happy to be contacted by phone, e-mail or Facebook by any resident who feels he can assist in something. Cllr Davis left some copies of the "Shotley Peninsula" Tourist magazine recently published.

The Chairman brought forward Item 9

9. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Simon Pearce from Woolverstone PC gave an over view of the Community Speedwatch, showing some of their equipment and explaining what they do. According to recent Police surveys, 80% of vehicles were travelling through Woolverstone at over 38 mph. Police send out warning letters to those who are 'clocked'. Persistent offenders may receive a visit from the police. Woolverstone PC would be happy to share the cost and the equipment with Chelmondiston if a group could be set up under the PC auspices. The cost to Chelmondiston Parish would be around £560 if we shared with Woolverstone. Several members of the public said they would be willing to get involved, and were told that Andrew Sterling was willing to coordinate a group for this parish. Cllr Pearce said that the concerns we had had regarding insurance were unfounded as the Police covered this along with providing the training.

Simon mentioned that Woolverstone PC were progressing with a Judicial Review with regard to the Ganges site application. This would go to the High Court on 20/21st July 2016.

- **Clerk's Report:** kindly presented by Cllr Rosie Kirkup.

Finance: Copies of *Summary of Receipts & Payments* and *Bank Reconciliations* for the financial year **2015-16** were placed on chairs.

The PC sections of the Annual Return have been completed. Copies were on the table.

Total RECEIPTS - £32,945.54 of this **£24,430** was the **Precept** plus a **grant of £1,221.50**

The grant... (is not classified as part of the precept). This is from money passed down by the Government to District Councils *specifically* for Council Tax support schemes. It is supposed to help mitigate any reduction in our taxbase due to this Support Scheme. The Government expect all billing authorities to pass on this 'grant'.

Total **PAYMENTS - £29,730.39** [we came in under budget!]

All PC records are now with SALC who are acting as our *Internal Auditors*. They will complete the appropriate section of the Annual Return and will send a written report. The PC send the final documents with the Annual Return to BDO LLP, the *External Auditor*.

The PC has kept the Precept **the same as last year** but the grant from Babergh has been reduced to £610.75. Next year we get no grant.

The accounts will be made available to the public from 8th June until 19th July (a statutory requirement). Notices to advertise this will be on the notice boards and on the website.

The PC will be discussing their General Reserves in the summer. These have been kept high due to the uncertainty of referendums on increases of more than 2%; the decreasing grant and the possibility of getting more playground equipment.

Please direct any queries to the Clerk [preferably in writing].

5. **Broadband Update.** As Cllr Wood had left by this point the Chairman was unable to ask him for an update.
6. **Synergy Café.** Mrs Walker explained that the Dementia Café which had been running in Chelmondiston Village Hall could not continue because of lack of funding. However, as she and her assistant were aware of a need for this facility they have negotiated to continue by themselves at the Shipwreck in Shotley. Initially they will offer the group on the first Wednesday of each month, from 10.00am to Noon, for three months' trial. Mrs Walker also mentioned that the Methodist Church was setting up a community café and had offered to amalgamate their services, so there could be changes in the future. The Methodist Café will be available on the first and last Wednesday of each month from 10.00am to Noon. Both facilities would be available to anyone, not just those with severe memory problems.
7. **PCSOs** (See Chairman's Report)
The Chairman asked the public whether, given what they had already heard, anyone supported the idea of our PC part funding a PCSO. There was no support for this idea.
8. **Village Car Park**
A discussion took place about what (if any) rules should be in place for the users of the Village Car Park to prevent abuse of this facility. It was commented on that the car park was never intended as a long-term parking option. Other suggestions were:
*No overnight parking. *All vehicles using the car park must have a working mechanical engine.
*There should be size restrictions. *No caravans.
Comments were made about the possibility of using the BDC's car parks in Collimer Close and St Andrew's Drive for visitors'/shoppers' parking. A suggestion was made that the actual use be monitored for a period to see who is using the car park and how they are using it, and for how long on each visit.
9. **Community SpeedWatch** (See above)
10. **Community Emergency Plan**
Cllr Deacon said that the CEP group needs more volunteers for maintaining the operational ability of the plan. More offers of skills which may be of use in an emergency were requested and more people to offer themselves as area coordinators.
Cllr Deacon also mentioned the plan to use the phone box opposite Hollingsworth's as a housing for a defibrillator. Any provider would expect us to have an on-going training programme for the

community in how to use the machine. Sara Hopkinson was qualified to offer this type of training which the PC would coordinate.

The Chairman suggested a break so everyone stopped for tea!

11. Various concerns were raised by members of the public:

- Hedges overgrowing pavements. The Chairman pointed out that this is not the business of the PC to ensure that pavements are unobstructed, but said that we had written in the past to home owners asking them to cut back hedges, and could do so again.
- The footway (pavement) along the Main Road by the school field was reported as very bumpy, becoming full of puddles when it rains, as was the footpath by Orwell Stores (although this had recently been resurfaced). The PC was asked to inform the relevant parties that something should be done.
- A complaint was made about the state of the upper end of FP 40 (running from the N end of Rectory Fields towards Pin Mill). This path has a slurry dump on one side and a bonfire site on the other, meaning that in wet weather it becomes very slimy. The complainant was advised to have a word with the landowner.
- Many concerns were raised about the poor Broadband service. The Chairman pointed out that the PC had been working for a long time on trying to urge the relevant parties to improve our service.
- A complaint was made about a resident's use of the grassy area at the Main Road end of Woodlands as a sales site for used vehicles, which was distracting and dangerous to passing drivers. The PC has asked the Police to follow this up on previous occasions, but it is neither illegal nor within our remit. The owners of the land would need to pursue this (SCC).
- Cllr Hawkins mentioned his disappointment at the poor support given by the public for the Annual Litter Pick.

12. Shared Access (See Chairman's report)

13. Future Play Equipment

Cllr Hawkins asked the public to consider what they and their families would like to see by way of new equipment and to get in touch with the Playing Field Committee or the PC. He mentioned that the table tennis had been extremely popular, and mainly well looked after. He urged parents to ensure that their children replaced the bats and balls in the table when they finish as he sometimes finds these strewn around.

14. Local Groups

- *Village Hall:* Patrick Mann presented an overview of the Village Hall finances and maintenance.
- *Chelpin Players:* Pat Lakey reported on the progress and changes since the group was formed in 1972. Their next production has been written for them by Ian Scrivener: "September Avenue", September 24th, 25th, 26th. Help needed for Front of House.
- *Women's Institute:* Pat Lakey reported the change in President since last November, Val Mann's visit to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, recent 90th year celebration, and some of the ways the WI supports community events and lobbies government.
- *Chelpin Projects:* Graham Pink described the aims of the group to produce village events and support local groups. He explained that the Chelpin magazine will now be produced twice a year. Events to come: 10th June picnic at Pin Mill for Queen's 90th birthday celebrations with High Watermark 5.30pm onwards.
Firework night was at risk of cancellation for want of new volunteers. Mr Pink urged people to get in touch to volunteer or to put in requests for support for their group.
- *Chelpin Tennis Club:* Graham Pink reported that the tennis club is in need of more active members to help with running it.
- *Pin Mill Sailing Club:* Malcolm Harding gave an overview of the club's membership and activities both on and off the water, and invited interested parties to visit with a view to joining.
- *Carpet Bowls:* Patrick Mann reported that the club was flourishing, had received new kit financed by Chelpin Projects and meets on Monday evenings and Friday afternoons.

- *Over 60's Club*: Mike Rutherford reported that the group was well attended, had 30+ members, although lost 2 last year – one of whom was 99.
- *Good Neighbours*: Brian Wyatt explained the purpose of the scheme and some of the tasks volunteers are willing to help with, although most requests are for transport. He thanked Mike Castle and Alan Storey for their hard work helping to run the scheme.
- *Horticultural Club*: Enid Funnel recounted a very successful year of activities, with a change of venue for the annual meal to the Red Lion. Anyone wishing to join would be welcome, annual subscription is still only £5.
- *Pin Mill Society*: There was no report
- *Mothers' Union*: Rosie Kirkup read out the report submitted by Christine Ward who was unable to attend. She summarised the history and aims of the group, in particular their support for "Away from it all Holiday" which enables families who would otherwise not have a holiday to go away together.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Signed

Date