

COTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on Tuesday 13th April 2004 At the W.I. Hall, High Street, commencing at 8.00pm

Present : G. Diplock, G. Kinsey, J. Lewis, R. Chandler, Mesdames R. Darling, P. Brown, B. Smart, Dr W. Connolley, Ms N. Baumgarten, Mrs D. Wilson (Clerk, Councillor J. Hughes (South Cambs District Councillor) and 10 parishioners.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Reynolds (County Councillor).

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported the Parish Council have held 12 ordinary meetings and 4 Special Meetings and also a Precept Meeting during the year.

Many issues have been discussed over the year, some it may be thought were trivial but they were all essential and in the interests of the village.

Parishioners may have read about the Parish Plan in the Community News and this is backed by the Council. A Steering Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Mr Bob Lloyd.

New trees have been planted on Benny's Way Play Area and the poplar trees will be inspected to see if they are safe.

The condition of the roads and footpaths still cause concern but the County Council can only afford to patch them. Parking bays outside the Vicarage have been marked.

There are now bus timetables in the bus shelters , thanks to the Bus Company.

The Brook Lane crossing has been completed and the position meets all the legal requirements.

Enquiries are now being made to have the name of Major Graham Sell who was killed in the second World War added to the war memorial in the churchyard. He was the son of a former Rector of the Parish, 1930-42.

The Parish Council has also given the Village Hall Project it's full support, and financial assistance.

During the year there have been 14 Planning Applications. These were all agreed by the Parish Council with the exception of one application which was objected to. We also agreed with 4 Tree Applications

Finally he said on behalf of the Parish Council he would like to thank the Parish Clerk Mrs D. Wilson for guiding them through the year, also thanks to Councillor J. Hughes and Councillor J. Reynolds for their support and advice.

Last but not least he thanked his fellow councillors for their support during the year.

3. WORK PARTY'S REPORTS

- a) Finance After much deliberation the Parish Council set the Precept for 2004-2005 at £18,000, an increase of £2,000. This amount includes £7,500 for running the Recreation Ground, £500 annual support of the Community News and as he said in the Chairman's report, financial support for the Village Hall Project for which £5,000 has been earmarked.
- b) Footpaths Mrs Smart reported that all the paths are in good condition at present. A grant for this year has been obtained. The legal diversion of the path no4 was completed last May. There is still work to be done concerning the land near three kissing gates; this was arranged before foot and mouth disease and has recently been delayed by the illness of the contractor but this should be done shortly. The stiles on footpath No 3 were too high and have recently been modified. Waymark posts and signs have been replaced or re-erected on some paths. A contractor was engaged to cut the undergrowth on path no 9. It has been learnt that the stiles and kissing gates are the landowners responsibility and not that of the parish council. A suggestion has been made to the county and they are now looking into creating a new path to join paths nos 6 & 9. Two possible routes for the path were put forward to the county and Cambridge Preservation Society. The Cambridge Preservation Society have approved a permissive path and not a right of way on their land. The county, after visiting the site, gave preference for one of these. No decision can be made yet as the P3 Officer is not available at present and a further land owner is probably involved. A village walk was arranged on July 6th last year. The attendance was poor but it was enjoyed by the few who did the walk. Barry Pearce and Leslie Bradford, landowners, gave much historical and interesting information.
- c) Recycling Mrs Smart reported the village can now recycle a higher percentage of their waste because of the green box and the green wheelie bin. Plastic bottle banks will be available in the future at supermarkets etc. There is also a paper bank at the school and bottle banks at the Orchard and The Plough. The latest cheque received by the Parish Council was for £245. This should increase in value in the future due to the improved facilities.
- d) Allotments Dr Connolley reported the triangular piece of land has now been given back to Cambridge Preservation Society who plan to make it into a wildflower meadow.
There are some vacant allotments. Majority of let allotments are clean and tidy. There is still no water supply.

4. SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S REPORT

Dr Connolley reported There is a problem with funding at moment. Pupil numbers are down, but there is a waiting list for new pupils. 6 wish to start but school only allowed by County Council to take 17. To avoid making teacher redundant there are now 5 classes in morning and 4 ½ in afternoon- parents accepted this when it was explained in February.

He said there is a new constitution and instead of a P.C. governor there will be 2 community governors. He will complete his 4 year term and PC will be consulted nearer the end of this time.

5. COUNCILLOR REYNOLD'S REPORT

Councillor Reynolds had given apologies.

6. COUNCILLOR HUGHES' REPORT

Councillor Hughes reported – Wheelie bins – First of all the advent of the Wheelie Bins caused some consternation although she had only two complaints from Coton residents. She hoped most people were getting used to the idea now and are able to come to cope with the fortnightly collection of the black bin. The Government scientists are currently working on the addition of kitchen waste into the green bins and it is expected that the licence for this will be issued before the summer.

Airey Houses – Notice was given to tenants that there were plans to demolish the Airey Houses and rebuild them which was worrying. Coton is well down the list for this to take place. Alison Turnbull the New Village Development Officer will be talking to all the tenants within the next fortnight and a meeting has been arranged for further consultation at the beginning of June.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our bid for funding for an extension to Silverdale Close but we are still trying other means.

Coton Country and Wildlife Park – She was delighted when the ODPM awarded the money for this scheme. She was also delighted to be invited to join the Committee working on this, Hopefully we will soon see the project going forward and within the next two years will see a great benefit to the village.

She said plans may have been seen from Ashwells who are still trying to develop land, a mixture of City and Coton Parish. SCDC are still not happy about it – there has been no planning application as yet.

Move to Cambourne – She reminded everyone that South Cambs is moving to Cambourne on May 4th. She has been the Conservative Member on the Working Party working with the Officers, Developers and Contractors and fingers crossed everything will be ready on the day.

Finally she wished to thank everyone on the Parish Council for all of their help in the past year.

Councillor Hughes also reported that there will be a supply of small kitchen waste bins for issue everyone when the kitchen waste licence is issued.

7. ACCOUNTS

A summary of Accounts to 31st March 2004 was seen by all present.

A question was asked as to why the village hall needs help from village with funding as Horningsea had managed to build one with grants only, and without any money from village. This was answered by the Village Hall Chairman.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that the hedge along Grantchester Road needed cutting back in some places, and also the shrubs etc. on the corner outside the thatched cottage.

The edge of the Road at Wheatcases corner needs filling, there is a very large hole at the edge. Mr Kinsey stated that County Council are aware of this.

It was reported that the bus shelter in High Street, desperately needs cleaning – Clerk reported cleaner had given notice. Mr Burbage volunteered to do this bus shelter.

It was stated that the village sign needs repainting. There is money in budget to do this.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.00PM