

East Tuddenham Parish Assembly

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Minutes of Meeting held 6th June 2012

1 Welcome

The meeting was opened by Ian Payter who welcomed attendees including Councillors, members of various committees due to report on their activities and, members of the public.

Ian Payter gave a brief summary of issues progressed by the Council during the year. He advised that he became a chairperson of the Council last year and expressed thanks to the retiring councillors especially Mrs Gill Hickling the retiring chairperson. He thanked the retiring clerk Les Woods and introduced Terry Eagling who has now taken over that role. He explained that the perennial issues dealt with by the local Council were dog-fouling, speeding through village and planning applications although the latter was for comment only. He advised that a disproportionate amount of his time during the last year was spent on speeding issues without very much success. Budget restraints prevented progress on matters raised by the Council in relation to speeding. Flashing speed signs were rented for three weeks but are too expensive to purchase on a permanent basis. An application to the Highways Department to move the 30 mph limit to the Church area was unsuccessful. Dog waste bins will soon be erected to try to eliminate the continuing problem of dog fouling in the Village. He advised that Village matters of concern should always be referred to him or other Councillors. He reported he had had various meetings with neighbouring Councils to coordinate thoughts on a number of processes.

2 AGM

The Clerk opened the AGM by introducing the following local Councillors, Ian Payter, Alex Leaney, Anna-Marie High, Ted Guy and Charles Barker. An apology for non attendance was received from Lynsay Barrett. He explained the vacancy for a seventh Councillor would be filled by Ms Amy Eagle during the coming weeks. He introduced Local Counsellor Brian Rose and County Councillor Bill Borrett who are invited to attend local Council meetings for their assistance, as and when they are available.

He advised that it was necessary to appoint a Parish Council Chairperson for the coming year and a vice Chairperson. Accordingly a proposal by Alex Leaney, seconded by Anna-Marie High for Ian Payter as chairperson was supported unanimously. A proposal for Lynsay Barrett as vice Chairperson was carried after a proposal by Alex Leaney, seconded by Anna-Marie High.

Ian Payter asked the clerk to present the unaudited draft accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012. Terry briefly gave details of major figures recorded in the Accounts which resulted in a balance of funds at the end of the year of £7551.79. He explained that these figures would be finalised and published after review by a local auditor and consultation with the National auditors Mazars.

Under any other business Ian thanked Bill Borrett our County Councillor and Paul Claussen and Brian Rose from Breckland for their attendance at meetings during the year and their guidance on a number of issues.

As there was no 'other business' the AGM element of the meeting was closed.

3 Minutes of meeting held 16th May 2011

These were read out to the meeting by the clerk – as there were no matters arising they were approved and signed by Ian Payter

4 Various Local Committee Reports

a **Charities Committee** – Colin Cram advised that there were five Trustees for the village charities. He continued that after spending a lot of money the Almshouses were now all modified to a reasonable standard and all were occupied. The allotments were nearly all taken. The thirty acres of grazing land was rented and the land in Church Lane was managed by English Nature.

b **Earthsea House** – there was no attendees at the meeting and no report

c **The Church** – Janet Guy reported that the major concern for the Church was the pending repairs to the roof. These may cost as much as £20,000.00 once the extent of the problem has been evaluated. She said that they would seek a grant from English Heritage for a major part of this cost and then seek local fund raising. She advised the new Vicar is due to be in place during September. In the meantime services continued as normal. Janet expressed thanks to Mr Palgrave who had taken over responsibility for grass cutting around the church.

d **Village Hall** – Ashley Ford explained he had taken over as chairperson one year ago. He advised during his time in office they had found it necessary to employ a paid accountant and had changed secretaries twice. The committee now had a clear focus and had reviewed suppliers seeking better prices, had the toilets refurbished, had the floor treated and resurfaced and had started a book club and darts. He confirmed bookings had increased and as a result a 125 year lease had been taken out on a ten metre strip of land for additional parking. He expressed thanks to Ted Hickling who had carried responsibility for more than one job for most of the year.

e **Easton School** – Mary Blathway presented a report on behalf of the school. She advised Easton was now federated with Hockering and Great Witchingham and now share one head teacher. She advised that an Ofsted visit is likely for Easton in the near future. Easton is linked with schools in Norway and staff from Norway visit Easton and vice-versa during the year. Children from the three schools visited Westminster Abbey as well as other varied outside visits. Cuts experienced in the public sector generally are taking affect leading to the necessity for further economies. The Log Cabin completed last year was proving very beneficial. The expectation of 900 new homes in the area over the next 20 to 30 years will lead to an increased number of children in coming years.

f **County Council** – Bill Borrett explained that his remit covered 18 parishes and hence meetings for 18 parishes. Therefore attendance at all meetings was not possible. He explained that his role was to act as a conduit for the 18 parishes on the environment. Parish councils can liaise with him on a number of issues including footpaths, internet problems and waste recycling. This year he had been heavily involved in the 'fair fares' which was affecting some area more adversely than others.

5 Any Other Business

A letter addressed to the Village Hall, the Charity Trustees and the Parish Council from Gill Hickling was read and debated. Basically it called for a project in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. One suggestion was for the children's playground to be gated/fenced to keep children 'in' and dogs 'out'. Considerable debate ensued as to the practicality of such a project and whether the purpose was only to avoid dog-fouling in the play area. An alternative suggestion from the floor was that dogs should be banned completely from the playing field therefore avoiding dog fouling and the necessity to fence the play area. After a few heated exchanges the chairperson suggested that this was a debate for another day.

A verbal complaint about the state of the bus shelter was noted and will be discussed at the next Parish council meeting

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.


6-6-2013