

# **East Tuddenham Parish Council**

## **Parish Assembly - Minutes of the Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

### **1 Welcome**

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm by Ian Payter who welcomed attendees including Councillors, members of various committees to report on their activities and members of the public.

Ian Payter introduced himself as Chair for the past four years and Chantal Childs as the Clerk.

### **2 Minutes of meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

There were no matters arising from minutes of 2014 so they were approved and signed by Ian Payter.

### **3 Chairman's Annual Report**

Ian advised that from the Parish Council elections, the new Parish Council consists of himself, Lynsay Barrett, Anna High, Charles Barker, Alex Leaney and Sarah Mugford. There is also a vacancy on the Council. Ian thanked Ted Guy who retired from the Parish Council earlier this year and has given many years of great service to East Tuddenham

Ian gave a brief Chairman's report of issues progressed by the Council during the year. He advised that during the year the main issues discussed at meetings were Highways problems, speeding through the village, planning applications and dog fouling.

- We own our own flashing speed signs in conjunction with Hockering Weston Longville, Ringland and Honingham. The law requires the sensors to be running for 3 weeks at a time and then not again for another 8 weeks. This will mean they will be used 2-3 times a year when shared with the other 4 parishes rather than every 3 years if they were loaned from Highways. The signs have been up twice and they reduce speeding however 75% still exceed the limit.
- The A11 has been dualled at Elvedon, the A47 is due to be dualled between Dereham and Easton and the NDR has the go ahead. This will mean various planning applications to infill areas.
- For planning applications, the parish council can only comment and the final decision is always with Breckland Council Planning Manager
- The two new dog waste bins are being used and the number of complaints have dropped significant since being installed. The Parish Council encourages people to exercise their dogs and use the footpaths but to also clean up afterwards.
- The Pump and Village Sign have both been renovated and restored and Ian thanked those who carried out this work.
- The Village Fete was held last Saturday, which had good weather and was well attended raising funds for the Church and Village Hall.
- Parish Council meetings minutes are on the website with a summary published in the Parish Pump.
- Ian Payter urged attendees and parishioners to contact himself or any other Councillors with any matters that need bringing to the attention of the Parish Council. Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 7:30pm except August and December.
- Ian Payter advised that following the Elections, Bill Borrett is Vice Chairman of Breckland Council and the District Councillors are Paul Claussen and Pablo Dimoglou
- Ian thanked his fellow Parish Councillors, the support of Bill Borrett and Paul Claussen. A special thank you went to Brian Rose who has retired from being our District Councillor after 12 years of support, knowledge and expertise.

### **4 Presentation of Parish Council Accounts**

An accounts balance sheet was presented by the Clerk. This recorded an income of £5,210.82 and details of expenditure totalling £2,831.58. Parish council funds at the end of the year increased to £7,676.19.

### **5 Other Reports**

**Charities Committee** – East Tuddenham Charities is an umbrella charity for several small charities including 8 almshouses and several parcels of land which are managed by volunteer trustees.

*Janet Guy advised that during the last 12-18 months, the Riverside Meadow has Public access and was fenced with a Grant from English Nature so animals could be introduced as part of herbage management. The wire fence has been cut in several places, someone has removed gate fasteners and drilled holes in an irrigation pipe. A sign asking dog walkers to keep dogs on a lead whilst cattle are grazing has been removed.*

*Church Lane Meadow was taken back in hand 18 months ago and plans drawn up from field management. The field is infested with thistles and Ragwort which is to be removed, the signs stating herbicide spraying has taken place have been removed, a new gate was installed on the road entrance to the field costing £300 plus. This was stolen and a new wooden gate fixed in its place which has been broken. Fly tipping has taken place on three occasions. Two walnut trees were planted on the north boundary but were broken off. A pond has been dug at the eastern end to provide water for livestock. The sign advising walkers to keep off the public footpath for repair works to the path near the pond was removed and the state of the path was complained about.*

*A heated attack on how the Charities was run occurred but was stopped by the Chairman when this became abusive and personal.*

### ***Childhood First – Earthsea House & Merrywood – Andy Lamb***

*Andy explained that they opened in 1999 as a residential care home for children who can't live in family settings. Earthsea is wholly owned now by Childhood First from October with a service level agreement. There are 9 children, 6 boys and 3 girls ranging from 6-12 years. Referrals come from Local Authorities. Children can experience trauma from different foster placements so Earthsea gives stability, forms relationships and trust for foster care to then be successful. Residential homes are different to the picture painted in the media. Earthsea is an example of modern residential care. Ofsted have rated it as outstanding as Merrywood as good. A Family Support Worker works with parents so that they can return back to parent families or go into foster care. There have been 7 new children over the past year. They remain for 2-3 years, attend Earthsea school which is a short stay academy providing clubs, outside activities, cinema etc.*

***The Church*** – Janet Guy thanked the Village Hall for its use whilst the church was closed. Works are nearing completion. There are church services every Sunday at 10:30am where everyone is welcome.

### ***Easton School – St Peter's Church of England, Voluntary Aided Primary School***

- *Mary Blathwayt reported the school has remained popular, peaking at 154, staffing has been increased and two new smart classrooms have met the children's needs. The reception class is full but there are vacancies in all other school years.*
- *Mary explained the school is part of the Trinity Federation where three church schools work together with the same values and vision. The Outstanding grading by Ofsted in 2012 is still appropriate.*
- *The three schools (Easton, Great Witchingham and Hockering) have one Governing Body, one Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher and increasingly more staff work across the federation.*
- *Easton has trained a SNIT student who has been offered employment. Training is also given to UEA students*
- *The curriculum is planned taking into account interests, national events and requirements. Experiences and outdoor learning are used to promote life skills and life-long learning.*
- *Six children from Easton have participated in a Brilliant Club visiting Kings College in Cambridge, working with a PHD tutor, writing an dissertation and graduating at UEA.*
- *The new school garden is flourishing with a new polytunnel full of plants*
- *The school is in liaison with the Local Authority regarding future expansion of the school to provide places for children from the proposed new housing developments in the village*
- *There are close links with the church and diocese and Collective Worship is led every Monday. Children visit the Cathedral for activities, attend services at St Peter's Church and have been involved in annual Prayer Stations. The children have also raised money for different charities.*
- *Children have been involved in a wide variety of sports and competitions. Friends of the school organise school fairs, discos and support school visits/trips through funding*
- *The school has important partnerships with parents, the community and Easton College*
- *The Headteacher is now well again and is signed off from having check ups for two more years.*

### ***Any Other Business***