

BURSTON AND SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

16th April 2019 at 7.30pm, St. Mary's Church, Burston

Present:

Nigel Frankland

Chairman

Ali Wakeham

Vice-Chairman & RFO

Lindsey Bilston

Christine Stephens

Lindsey Bilston

Jim Rudd

Keith Cowley

Isobel Pugh

Ann Baker

Clerk to the Council

Members of the public:

22 residents of the parish attended

Action

1. **Welcome & introduction by the Chairman** - the Chair explained the reason for such a meeting - by law the Parish Council must facilitate a meeting for parishioners to discuss any topic amongst themselves; Cllr. Frankland then introduced members of Parish Council to those present and thanked them for their contributions throughout the year
2. **Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council** - Cllr. Frankland presented his Annual Report, a copy is included in the file, included were: an outline of various activities that had occurred throughout the year, projects completed or on-going, the different consultations that were carried out throughout the year were mentioned and thanks were extended to those 'invisible volunteers' who help all around the village – report included
3. **Opportunity to questions, comment raise issues relating to the Parish:**
 - The water that is constantly standing at bus shelter – Cllr. Frankland answered that Anglian Water had carried out inspection, which indicated it was from a main further up Mill Road, as far as he was aware it had now been solved;
 - The forth coming elections, there was not to be a Polling Station at Burston Strike School - the Chair stated that a strongly worded letter had been sent to SNC and County Hall – previous staff users had reported that it was muddy, there was no designated parking for disabled, access difficult for electric wheelchairs, and as a consequence SNC had designated Gissing Hall as the Polling Station – it was noted that there were similar conditions at Gissing; it was noted that the Strike School had laid reinforced grass mesh, there was access along concrete drives and paths and there are French doors to enter the School. SNC replied that assessments were made by the polling staff, uncommonly wet weather had contributed; a Polling Station review included in the Boundary changes, with a lack of response from the area added to the decision. There will be a further review later in the year; the mark of Dickleburgh and Shimpling was a Post Office issue; Further letters of complaints had been sent from residents – further points were raised – Gissing Hall is not accessible for many villagers to walk to, the bus only goes one way; SNC replied that postal votes and proxy votes were available. The

Approved _____ Date _____

Parish Council offered free transport to anyone who contacted them; it is hoped to move the process forward in near future, further encouragement to the residents to contact SNC – the disenfranchising of residents and the alternative buildings within the village

- Interested in a war memorial – as result of consultation there will be a committee set-up to further investigate
 - Back Lane, Shimpling – the Chair gave a brief overview of BOAT 36 - in the 1980's the Secretary of State took into account that this was a road, thus it should be BOAT, advising an alternative would be a RTO; the track was bollarded to allow the surface to repair, it has subsequently recovered well; recently a4x4 club asked for a legal decision – the Parish Council has provided copies of decisions indicating that NCC should have made it into an RTO, due to lack of funds this is not in NCC remit - the Parish Council has managed to raise £5,000, to support this. The position is now that a Public Notice appeared in the national papers, the site notices have been erected, and the period expires on 30th April. A goodly number of local residents written letters or emails to support the case, after which a decision will be taken;
 - 5th May closure – there will be a road closure for the Beer & Bikes event at The Crown to take place; a resident has offered the use of his yard for additional parking
- 4. Community Action Team report:** Cllr. Frankland explained the events that are organised - the two Shimpling Church services, bbq before the Strike School Rally etc. but due to poor attendance, the group has become a working group of the Parish Council – the funds have been split between the youth groups, with the remainder being managed for future events by the Parish Council
- 5. Presentations from local organizations & reports from County Cllr. & District Cllrs. - Dist. Cllr. Stones' report was read** - a copy of the report is included in the file
- Residents presentations:
- Bee Keeping by Brian Norman – this group includes residents in Gissing and Burston, there are evening and day time meetings, training is provided; currently there are few local bees and research to breeding bees is being carried out; a connection has been made with Walthamstow group; links have been established with the School – introducing a honey bee that children can handle - fliers left with contact details for anyone interested
 - Pastor Sam at the Chapel – the earliest records are from 1825, when it was part of Diss Methodist circuit result of Joh Wesley; now there are trustees, it is a self-running free church, with two services on a Sunday; Jamie's Gang runs for youngsters, there is a pool of 35 young people, 15/25 regularly attend the weekly sessions - parents drop children off then pop for a drink at The Crown, the 'school-gate' effect supports the local economy and social events; within the parishioners are those that visit elderly requiring support;
 - BARNs – this high speed broadband is still gaining momentum, a signup sheet and information cards are available – the broadband comes in at 100mgb, is £30 a month; with a 'not for profit group,' the work is carried out for and by community; for those who can invest it is paying 1% interest; businesses being encourage to sign-up.
 - The Chair indicated that the photos on display had been taken around the Parish and invited all to guess where are were.

- Also on display were graphical results from the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation, along with information on the 'Call for Sites.'

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Residents were thanked for the concerns that had been raised, where appropriate the Parish Council will look into these matters or pass the concerns on to the relevant authority. Those who had reported were thanked for the updates on the projects around the villages.

6. **Burston & Shimpling Oil Buying group, appointment of Co-ordinator:** this runs along on its own, there are leaflets available, it is a county wide conglomerate purchasing large quantity of oil monthly; it was resolved to appoint Cllr. Frankland as co-ordinator – all in agreement

7. **Report regarding the progress of the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan:** due to membership issues not much has been happening for a number of months, however the issues are now resolved and the group are starting to write the policies; as the area is part of the Greater Norwich Local Plan there will be a number of houses built, the Neighbourhood Plan will help to define where and how many of those homes are built in the locality – it will be important to consider where, what and how many should be built in Burston and Shimpling during the coming months

8. **Presentation: The Don Swanton Award** - Cllr. Pugh began by saying what a privilege it was to present an award that is about the people who live here, in memory of Don Swanton - the unsung hero of the village; a number of nominations had been received from villagers, the recipient is described as being an angel in disguise, willing to help, nursing, offering support to families, checking in cold weather those in need, running in marathons, creating wooden poppies for the Remembrance commemoration, a Teaching Assistant at the school above who goes beyond the call of duty, she is worthy winner - Julie Botwright – Julie thanked everyone profusely for the recognition and the Award.

9. **Chairman's closing remarks** – Cllr. Frankland thanked all for coming, for their good support, their points of view, the Councillors for their hard work, and finally the residents for their unnoticed work which helps support the village in so many ways.
The meeting closed at 8. 26 pm