

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Windmill Room Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 7.00pm.

Mrs Marchant chaired the meeting and welcomed 1 member of the Public, PCSO Keith Clarke, Councillors P. Bell, M. Crowe, J. Johnson, R. Condon, T. Lidstone-Scott and R. Hunt.

There were no apologies.

Election of Chairman, Mrs Marchant was proposed by M. Crowe and seconded by T. Lidstone-Scott, everyone was in favour. Election of Vice Chairman, Mr Bell was proposed by T. Lidstone-Scott and seconded by M. Crowe, everyone was in favour. All Councillors were happy to continue for another year.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2012 were approved and signed.

The Chair then reported on Parish business during the past year.

This time last year we were well into preparations for the Wood Norton Jubilee celebration, jointly organised with the PCC and Village Hall Committee, which succeeded in attracting a large number of villagers over the course of the afternoon and evening. The PC gave mugs to the 26 children in the parish under 16, a letter of congratulation was sent to the Queen, the beacon was kindly donated by Peter Bell and we were blessed with good weather for the evening of the party. We also paid for the refurbishment of the milestone on the B1110.

As usual, planning applications formed a significant part of our deliberations. We have considered 11 in total - and one that hasn't materialised yet: that of the proposed wind turbine on Bernard Matthews land on Foulsham Airfield. Acting promptly on hearing of the possibility the Parish Council held an open meeting last July, attended by 33 parishioners. Although issues were raised about the general efficiency of wind turbines and their effect upon the landscape and environment, what exercised many of those present were the motives behind the enterprise which revealed considerable hostility to the Bernard Matthews Company. The position of the Parish Council is that it is our responsibility to reflect the views of the whole community, not all of whom are hostile. To this end we have prepared ballot papers and addressed envelopes to all on the electoral roll – to be delivered once the application is received. Meanwhile we have kept in touch with Oulton Parish Council, in particular, who are now in receipt of their Bernard Matthews wind turbine planning application.

We have been asked to look into the possibility of allotments in Wood Norton. As no suitable sites were obviously available, we expressed interest in those offered by Stibbard Parish Council. However the siting of these is not ideal and we await possible further developments.

Other issues brought to our attention have been: an increase in irresponsible dog-fouling, an overabundance of gas-guns, the carving up of verges by ever larger vehicles, cars travelling too fast – and the ongoing road closure. Frustrating as this may be, it is due to work that has needed to be done for a very considerable period of time – it has been in a fragile state for over 20 years. Although privately owned, the barn opposite the church forms an iconic 'entrance' to the village which is appreciated by all. Following the Chair's resignation after 10 years' service as governor of Stibbard School, we are hoping to appoint another governor from the Wood Norton community.

The Chair concluded by thanking all those who support the Parish Council: Keith Clarke for his regular attendance and 'crime updates'; former councillor Russell Wright for attending meetings and offering his support and advice on PC matters and also those members of the public who come to our meetings. She thanked all her fellow parish councillors: Peter Bell, Vice-chair, Ros Condon, Marcus Crowe, Rosine Hunt, Jean Johnson and Tim Lidstone Scott – and all joined her in thanking our Clerk. Having had to manage without her during her recent spell of illness everyone is all the more appreciative of the work she does behind the scenes, and delighted to welcome her back!

The Chair then invited the member of the public to speak. She stated that her concerns had been addressed in the Chair's report and that she had no further comments.

The meeting concluded with an extremely interesting talk from Keith Clarke on the role of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who has now moved to the Wells area. The PCSO for this Parish will now be Jason Ford

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.26pm.

Chairman

Date