

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Garboldisham held in the Village Hall on Monday April 11th 2016 at 7.30 pm

Those Present: Mrs M Feakes (Chairman), Mrs J Hance, Mrs B Knowles, Mrs M Smith, Mr M Bradbury, Mr A Frost and Mr J Tottman.

Mr S Askew (Norfolk County Councillor) Mrs M Chapman-Allen (Breckland District Councillor) and Detective Sergeant Gllister (Norfolk Constabulary)

In addition: 9 members of the public.

Mrs Feakes welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies for absence: A & D Whiting

Mrs Feakes welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting April 13th 2015: Mrs Feakes read the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting of 2015. These minutes had been approved by Parish Council at their May 2015 meeting; the minutes were signed and dated as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Norfolk County Council: Mr Askew thanked Mrs Feakes for bringing him forward on the agenda as he has another meeting to attend.

Mr Askew talked about the proposed devolution, whereby the Government is working towards a deal with Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which would mean more decisions will be made locally. The majority of people he speaks to do not like the idea of an elected Mayor as it is another tier of Local Government. There was a decision today to carry on negotiating.

Mr Askew asked how the speeding sign is going, Mrs Knowles replied, it is working people are slowing down. Mr Askew commented, the Parish Partnership funding is very popular, cannot see it going away. Mrs Knowles informed all that Speed watch have put in another application, although it was thought unlikely they would get it. The speeding equipment has gone back no one came forward to join speed watch, six people were needed to run it.

There are major flooding issues in the area.

Mr Askew attended a meeting on the movement of heavy goods vehicles on the B111. As a result of East Harling and the strong public feeling, Elizabeth Truss took some public to lobby the leader. It has received full support from Mrs Jolly and Mrs Chapman-Allen. The committee will now consider ideas, there is no guarantee, but officers will come back in Autumn with recommendations. The plan is for the route to finish here at the crossroads, try to stop through traffic, suggestion that the A roads used for the majority except for access.

A discussion took place on the traffic through Hopton, two or three lorries got stuck there, at the Harling meeting it was discussed that when something serious happens something will be done about it.

Mr Askew asked if anyone had any questions: Residents were concerned about the level of Broadband in Garboldisham, various residents have had issues, at some point there is always someone with no internet. Residents asked when they can be assured that the infrastructure will be in place. Mr Askew to go back to Karen O’Kane and find out what the situation is.

A discussion took place on the BT control box in the village which is connected to BT, BT Open reach is separate and are dealing with the broadband, Mr Askew to go back and see if he can get some answers.

Police Report: Detective Sergeant Glister reported he has changed roles and moved on. Garboldisham is covered by Attleborough PCSO and the response team in Thetford. The management of response remains the same, he hoped that residents see a regular police car going round the village, although some residents had not; one commented that they have never seen a police car at Hall Farm, just lorries all the time.

Norfolk is one of the safest counties in the Country. Garboldisham is a very low crime area, live within one of the best districts in the County.

The report on the crimes from April last year to March 31st 2016 is as follows:

5 assaults of varying degree, low level domestic violence is a priority. The focus is very much on victims of crime, safeguarding is a priority.

1 criminal damage, 2 burglaries other than dwellings, 1 theft and 1 road rage. 2 offences of harassment, which is a key crime in relation to victims.

1 deception, 1 offence on bribery act 2004 offence dogs on field, never had before.

No crimes relating to house burglary. A question was asked, if it is such a good area do we not get the police patrols, DS Glister clarified that resources must concentrate on particular areas, have put out targeted patrols in areas of rural crime. The police are about, it is still a 24/7 service. Farmers do have issues with rural crime, we do try and support although it is difficult with the land and distance.

A resident asked if there is any difference since the A11 was opened. DS Glister replied, there has been a lot of investment in IT over the last year, Norfolk and Suffolk collaborate frequently which has benefited both forces. Millions have been cut, by re looking, re managing and looking regionally across forces, offenders are travelling, but, keeping pace with it, crime is still reducing.

DS Glister was asked how Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) working, he replied he is not allowed to make any comments on PCC’s.

DS Glister was asked what proportion of the budget has been cut to provide a PCC, he didn’t know

A resident expressed concern, he is against speeding, used to be PC in Harling which knows him and would telephone him, would have regular visits from the police with a speed gun on the corner, desperate to get the same.

DS Glister said the road police will always respond to queries and concerns.

Mrs Feakes thanked DS Glister for attending. DS Glister said to phone 101 for non emergencies and 999 in an emergency, the police is a service and have to provide you with a service.

Breckland District Council:

Mrs Marion Chapman-Allen thanked the Chairman and Councillors.

A discussion took place on recycling and the high costs of taking rubbish to Thetford. Snetterton recycling centre was due to be closed, because of support it will be open until 2019.

Mrs Feakes congratulated Mrs Chapman-Allen on her son becoming Deputy Leader.

Mrs Chapman-Allen reported on the public sector funding cuts which have affected Breckland District council. Because of prudent financial management we have a balanced budget for 2017/17 and are able to protect frontline services. Expect to maintain a balanced budget in future years. Despite a very small increase Breckland still has the lowest council tax in the country.

Breckland are still in discussions with UK Power on how to deliver the additional power needed to Snetterton business park. It is hoped to bring power from Attleborough to Snetterton to allow the site to grow.

Thetford Bridge Anchor site is well under way, on time and on budget. There will be a 3 screen cinema, a 62 bed hotel and five restaurants/food units on the ground floor. This 8 million project is one of the first being delivered by Breckland Bridge a joint venture between Breckland and Land Group PLC.

There are new tenants in Elizabeth House, the Department for Works and Pensions. Customers might find parking a bit tricky as there are more cars in the parking lot now.

Cabinet have released £950k to support the broadland programme. Many areas have benefited, there are still some areas that suffer appalling speeds. Mrs Chapman-Allen has been lobbying hard to get parishes and houses included. It was noted that broadband is very bad in Garboldisham and very erratic.

The new draft Local Plan reached an important milestone when the consultation closed on 22nd February. The **plan** will shape future growth and development in the district and will allow Breckland to identify a 5 year land housing supply and will give the Council greater control over where development happens.

There is a pot of £310,000 sport and play area funding for parish councils and local groups to bid for. The bids will be managed by Norfolk community Foundation on behalf of Breckland Council. The funding must be used to enhance existing play areas, sports facilities, pavilions,

changing facilities or parking related to these facilities. Log onto Norfolk Community Foundation Breckland Play.

The Right Royal tidy up for the Queens' birthday has been a great success. There have been many applications including Garboldishams primary school, thanks to Mrs Feakes for applying.

Breckland have a new website up and running as part of a transformation of services and commitment to "go digital." It enables you to add the exact location when reporting issues.

Forget me not grants help people living with dementia to maintain suitable and safe homes by providing grants up to £1,000 to make adaptations and improvements to homes. Full cost will be paid if applicants or on means tested benefits, 50% of cost up to £1,000 if not on means tested benefits.

Breckland supplies a superior service for stray dogs and it has paid off earning Breckland the **RSPCA's** Gold Stray Dog Footprint Award. Their dog warden provides a superior service which includes a dog fouling reporting line, dog training classes and micro chipping events. They have taken an active part in providing free chips to vets in the district.

Mrs Chapman –Allen has had the pleasure of judging school children's pictures to encourage parents and adults to respect smoke free zones. Town Councils have agreed to put the winning pictures outside their play areas and winners will receive a mini Ipad.

We have a new Leader William Nunn and a new Deputy Leader Sam Chapman-Allen at Breckland.

Mrs Feakes thanked Mrs Chapman-Allen.

Residents said, that pot holes have been reported, there is a map where you can pinpoint the area, pot holes were reported and sorted within a week, thanks to be passed on. Residents were asked to report pot holes themselves online.

Litter picking for the Queens' birthday was discussed and the litter picking of the laybys. The amount of litter was noted, particularly in the regular stopping place for lorries. Highways Rangers can be asked to clear the litter.

A resident was concerned about his electric buggy, he gets to Thomas Bole close and then has to get off of his buggy. It was explained that the road up to Thomas Bole was not adopted by anybody and the Parish Council have reported it several times.

DS Glister expressed concern over the poor state of roads, footpaths in the village. He reported that the footpath down by Hopton Road, front of Thomas Bole and the Old Police House is deteriorating, the Highway Rangers can be asked to work on it. There is a problem with flooding, there have been numerous conversations with Highways, who wouldn't acknowledge there was a problem, the pipes are smashed to pieces, the gullies are full of silt. Gary Overland (Highways) has been out to look but couldn't see because the road was flooded, will be revisiting the site. Mrs Chapman-Allen and Mrs Feakes are working on it.

The grass verges on the triangle were discussed vehicles are continuously causing damage to the verges. The grass verges in Back Street are also becoming tatty, more people are

moving into bungalows, parking cars, cars going onto the verges, there are no garage facilities, nowhere else for cars to go.

There was concern expressed over the verges at the Smallworth end, residents were asked to take name and number and report it. Lorries, tractors should not be going up there and accessing Harbour Lane from the Smallworth end. Putting posts all along was discussed, it has been tried in Thetford, didn't help. There is no funding, to be put on the parish council agenda.

A resident commented on dog walkers, need a place to walk dogs **accessing from Elm Grove to** Harbour Lane is not far away, it is not officially a footpath, but no one has ever been asked to move. About five years ago Highways made a gravel track, will ask highways if they will consider doing it.

Chairman's Report: Mrs Feakes read out her report:

Ladies and Gentlemen, honoured guests and fellow councillors. On behalf of Garboldisham Parish Council may I welcome you to our Annual Parish Meeting for 2016. As always, your parish council continues to meet in our three meeting venues each month, apart from August, meetings to which all members of the public are invited to participate at the public discussion forum.

Your Council continues to try to consider the needs of the Parish wherever possible, and, as we all live in the village, are on hand to speak with those parishioners who have problems or comments to make outside meetings. We are very ably supported by our County councillor Stephen and our District councillor Marion who provide considered and useful assistance to us when we feel a matter is beyond our sphere of knowledge, for which I thank them both.

During the past year your Council has had to consider the latest- in what appears to be a continuous revision of the Local development Plan for Breckland. This is a lengthy document which will have implications for our Parish and beyond for many years to come (until it is revised again!). In this document, it is proposed that Garboldisham become a local service centre, a proposition which your Council has strongly rebutted, as we feel that Garboldisham does not have the infrastructure to accommodate some of the implications this designation would confer, such as perhaps larger numbers of additional housing. Your Council is in favour of small scale development within the village, but this must be considered carefully and sensitively. It is important that villages do not stagnate and more important that younger families are encouraged into our community to keep it vibrant, but your Council is ever vigilant to the prospect of larger developments, as some villages are having to accept, through National Government initiatives.

As in many parts of the country, this year seems to have brought more and more problems with our road infrastructure. Generally down to a lack of funding and therefore a lack of maintenance of the roads has led to an epidemic of pot holes, a subject your Councillors are reporting at each meeting to Highways. In addition the lack of maintenance on drains has caused many instances of roads flooding after rain. Your Council continues to press Highways to rectify these problems. In addition your Council has been working with East Harling, Roudham and other villages affected by the B111 to try to get some restrictions on the amount of traffic, in particular heavy goods lorries which find the corner at East Harling

so difficult to negotiate, or a change of preferred route. Stephen Askew, our County Councillor has been working closely with this group and arranged meetings in County Hall for this to be discussed.

With the recent downturn in house building, planning applications have been fewer, but every application received is considered carefully by your Council. The question of the Fox Public House is regularly discussed, your Council being instrumental in retaining this building on The Asset Register with Breckland Council. After many years as Chairman Janet Hance has stepped back from the Fox Committee and passed on the mantle to Peter Smith, whose reports you have seen in recent editions of the Garboldisham and Blo Norton news. Rumours about the buildings future abound, but until a sold board appears, nothing concrete can be reported.

Your Council has been active, along with all other Parish Councils in the catchment area for the Surgery at Hopton in trying to resolve the problem of the removal of the surgery facilities to Stanton, and all the implications that brings for patients. Meetings have been held with County and District Councillors, and the Patients Advice Council, in addition to the Practice Manager, to try to secure a long term commitment to reinstating a Doctors Surgery and Pharmacy in Hopton. Plans are already in for a new Surgery to be built behind Hopton Village Hall within a development of some 30 houses, but currently the existing practice has not committed to building.

Whilst your Council was sorry to learn of the disbanding of the Sped watch group, so ably organised by Robin Knowles and his team, the installation of the 40mph signs on the A1066 is to be applauded, and your Council has ring fenced remaining capital from the GIRSA group in the hope of obtaining similar on the B1111 in the future.

Finally I would like to offer my thanks to our Clerk, Mandy, who ensures that we obtain the information we require, and my fellow Councillors who give up their time voluntarily to try to keep Garboldisham the thriving community which we enjoy and love.

Mrs Feakes was thanked by Councillors for the work she had done on the feedback for the Local Plan. Mrs Feakes outlined the Local Plan and the feedback from the Parish Council, she advised residents to attend Parish council meetings to make representations.

A resident asked a question about the number of children from the village in the school, there are about a third of 108 children, without these children the school would be in jeopardy, there are insufficient children in Garboldisham itself, agenda's are on the notice boards.

Public Participation: none

Mrs Feakes thanked all for attending, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.14pm

Mrs Feakes invited the meeting to stay to an illustrated talk on the development of flint knapping

