

**0MINUTES OF THE OLD BUCKENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015 AT OLD BUCKENHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

**Present.** Cllr S Milner – Chairman of Old Buckenham Parish Council and Mr J M Watling – Parish Clerk.

**Also Present.** Julie Kennealy Breckland Council Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ian Whithington Breckland Council Planning Policy team leader. 24 members of the public.

**Welcome by Parish Council Chairman.** Cllr Milner welcomed everyone to the meeting which he said was an important one as feedback is wanted by Parish Council regarding development of the village in the future and also the new Chapel Road School.

**Confirm Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting of March 19<sup>th</sup> 2014.** These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Matters arising from the minutes.** Resident asked if minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting could be referred to prior to the meeting enabling residents to refresh their memories.

**Greater Attleborough Development Plan.** Mrs Kennealy gave a brief overview of her duties with Breckland Council. She then went on to explain that there is no GADP, there has just been informal discussions regarding Attleborough. It was called GADP because experience tell us that when you have an area of land planned growth discussions have to take place. Infrastructures like Schools, roads, health need to be considered and section 106 payments are for this purpose. Growth usually goes outside boundaries of proposed development and therefore nearby communities can be affected and therefore discussions should take place in terms of what infrastructure will be required in support of large scale development. Collective views are best put forward in group form and not individual groups on their own. Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council, Health Authorities, Highway's Agency and Local Enterprise Partnerships all these bodies should have input into any proposed large development. Discussions in Attleborough were difficult due to long standing relationships between Town and Parish Councils with District Council. Attleborough Town Council have gone a long way to develop their own Neighbourhood Plan. GADP does not exist and Town & Parish Councils will still develop their own Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr Milner thanked Mrs Kennealy for coming to the meeting and then she took questions from the members of the public. She advised the meeting that grants were available up to £16,000 and Neighbourhood Plans could work within a place based plan.

**Neighbourhood Plan.** Parish Councillor J Kemp gave a brief overview of past discussions which a Parish Council Working Party had over 4 meetings during February and March regarding the possible need for a Neighbourhood Plan for Old Buckenham. 4 main areas were considered and they were Why, How, Cost and what support is available. Sarah Hornbrook a member of the working party explained the reasoning for a neighbourhood plan for Old Buckenham. It gives villagers a voice to influence development in the village for the foreseeable future in conjunction with BDC Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan could not set strategic policies but can set the details of the strategic policies within Breckland's Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan could not be used to stop development but would look to control development to suit local needs. There are certain financial benefits to having a Neighbourhood Plan if and when Breckland introduce Community Infrastructure Levies. Parish Councillor Adrian Joel also a member of the working party said it was a long process to develop a Neighbourhood Plan as it looks at what will happen in 20 years time in terms of development. This will involve consultation with residents in the village to produce a vision statement along with a map to be submitted to BDC, the vision statement cannot be turned down by Breckland but the map can. Breckland will then vote on what the village has submitted. If successful then the whole process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan can go ahead and when this is done a Local Referendum by villagers takes place and if a majority of the voters approve the plan it then becomes a legal document. Cost for producing a Neighbourhood plan varies greatly from other examples of Parish Councils it would cost between £4,500 to possibly £20,000. Mr Withington of Breckland Council said his main role in BDC was to bring forward the BDC Local Plan and any Neighbourhood Plan had to conform to the Local Plan which is still emerging in terms of core strategies. Any Neighbourhood Plan would have to be considered against national and district policies. Cllr Milner thanked all concerned with the Neighbourhood Plan for all the work they have done so far on

the project. Various members of the public asked questions. Cllr Milner asked for a show of hands from residents if they thought Old Buckenham should have a Neighbourhood Plan, there was almost a unanimous show of support for one.

**Chapel Road School.** Dr Linder a governor of the school read a prepared statement on the matter of the estate of the late Mr Alston and the legality of the transfer of the land to Norfolk County Council and some possible effects on the timetable of construction of the school. Questions were raised on matter of access roads to the site and whether construction had already started. Cllr Milner said no construction worked had started and the working currently being done was purely archaeological.

**Parish Chairman's report.** Cllr Milner reported it had been an interesting year with the new school on the way and continued efforts to improve road safety in the village. The amenities and facilities within in the village continue to grow and improve. Chapel Road School had been given a guarded welcome, a group has visited the site to see the work they do and he felt good that the village is helping to improve facilities for the children to help them acquire the tools to face their future. There are still concerns about infrastructure and so Parish Council is working with the school to ensure the relocation has a minimal negative impact. On road safety, speeds of cars and inconsiderate driving are a major concern. The speed watch group continues to work to report speeding motorists. We now have flashing 20 mph speed signs for busy crossing points at peak times. Also today Parish Council have been informed we have been successful in getting 50% funding for a SAM speed sign. Our primary school pupils are designing posters to help launch a give way campaign. The Parish Council has to finance some of the projects but feel it worthwhile to pay for increased road safety especially for children but also residents of the village. With regard to parking in the village the simple truth is there are too many cars and we have to accept that fact but we have to work to reduce it's impact. Increased road safety should give parents confidence to alternative methods to go to and from school with their children. Unfortunately parking spaces near the church have not worked out and the Village Hall car park's controlled use by parents that meets requirements of all. Big thanks to Sally Honour and VHMC. We are currently looking to add 50 more parking spaces but this is in it's infancy but is looking good. The facilities of Old Buckenham which includes a village hall, active village shop, 3 excellent schools, a restaurant, thriving village pubs, a village green that is seeing increased activities and a church with it's restored tower and windows. All these are the envy of many neighbouring villages. We have to consider how we manage development in Old Buckenham, do we do it informally or in a more structured manner. There are elections due in May for The Parish Council and some of our existing councillors are retiring so we need people to come forward to fill these vacancies. Final cut off date for submitting application to Breckland Council is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Parish Clerk's Report.** The Precept Meeting for Financial year 2015/16 was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and the precept was set at £20,246.23 this was an increase on the previous year, the Parish Council awarded grants to local organizations of £4,330. There may be changes to how Breckland Council will fund future precepts due to changes being discussed. The Parish Council are fully aware of the difficult economic times for a large part of the villagers who are on fixed incomes. The Parish Council will therefore ensure strict financial and monetary controls are effected at all times and that all expenditure is within budgetary limits. Expenditure for the year up to March 2015 total approx £17,290 net of VAT from a total income of £20,910. All figures are subject to audit as the financial year end has not yet arrived. We have during the current financial year been able to acquire 20mph flashing speed signs from accumulated surpluses over previous years for £3,148 with NCC paying 50% of the total cost. The Parish Council have, due to changes in legislation drafted and adopted new Standing Orders, new Financial Regulations, new Financial Risk Assessment, new Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures and new Transparency Policy. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Parish Councillors for their hard work and commitment to their responsibilities as Parish Councillors and for the support they have given me and the Parish Council over the past year.

**Open Session.** Resident raised question of duck house on pond, he was informed it was a matter for OBGRP's and they were dealing with it to have it replaced. Resident commented on poor turn out for the meeting and wondered if it was due to timing and suggested having the meeting in April next year.

**Meeting Closed at 9.33pm as there was no more business.**