

MINUTES
Blundeston & Flixton Annual Meeting
Held on Monday 21st May 2018

1. **Present:-** Mr G Wade (Chairman), Mr S Rees (Vice-chairman), Mr J Nichols, Mrs G Soanes, Mr B Shelton, Mr P Button, K Blowers, Mr S Perks, Miss M Wright, Mr R Leach, 6 parishioners were present.
2. **Annual reports** were available from 1st Blundeston Scout Group, Art Circle, Parish Council Chairman's Report, Community Speedwatch, Blundeston Charity Trustees, Blundeston W.I., Blundeston & District Local History Society, St Mary's Church, Village Hall Management Committee, Blundeston Bowls Club, Blundeston in Bloom and District Council. Full copies of these reports are available from the clerk or on the Website.

The annual meeting closed at 7.20pm.

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3. **Present:-** Mr G Wade (Chairman), Mr S Rees (Vice Chairman), Mr J Nichols, Mr B Shelton, Mrs G Soanes, Mr P Button, Mr K Blowers, Mr S Perks, Miss M Wright, Mr R Leach, Cllr P Ashdown & 8 Parishioners were present.
4. **Election of Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson**
The Clerk took over the meeting for the election, Glenis Soanes proposed Mr Wade as Chairperson and this was seconded by Paul Button. Mr Wade said that he was happy to continue and following a unanimous vote Mr Wade was re-elected as Chairperson. John Nichols proposed Mr Rees as Vice-chair and this was seconded by Rod Leach. Mr Rees agreed to continue and following a unanimous vote he was re-elected as Vice-Chair.
5. **Apologies:** Mrs B Shaw, Keith Robinson
6. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meetings held on 16th April 2018 were approved and signed.
7. **Declaration of interests:** No interests were declared
8. **Clerks Report**
The Clerk reported that she has looked into alternatives to SALC, namely the "Norfolk Version" which is called Norfolk ALC not NALC which is the National Association of Local Councils. Norfolk ALC is considerably cheaper than SALC £246.36 versus £433.37, however SALC say we can only subscribe to them. When I spoke to Norfolk ALC they did not say that we couldn't subscribe to them, but they were not keen to step on SALC's toes and made it clear that they do not offer the same level of services eg Training Courses. Norfolk ALC also said that no other Suffolk Parishes are members. Following a discussion it was agreed to stay with SALC.

The Clerk also said that the Insurance premium this year is £925.60 which is lower than last year's figure of £1,091.23. Having signed a three year agreement last year to freeze the payment the Clerk confirmed that she had telephoned BHIB who confirmed that an additional discount had been secured and that our agreement is still in force.

The Clerk also reported that she had been asked to contact Ian Johns at WDC regarding applying for WDC CIL money to assist with the Boiler/Heating repairs at the Village Hall and whether or not it could be used for helping with the possible purchase/re-development of the Glebe Land. Mr Johns response was that it could not be used for the Village Hall heating system, however it is possible that a proposal would be approved regarding the Glebe Land although it was felt that it is currently a little early in the process and that we should consider making an application when the situation is clearer.

9. 15 Minutes for Parishioners input:

A parishioner questioned why the council spray weed killer around walls, planters and under hedges, which results in a wide strip of dead grass. Paul Ashdown said he would contact them and ask them to be more careful.

A parishioner commented on the amount of litter and dog waste on the skate park, especially as the litter bins are not being used. A discussion was held regarding all of the public areas in the village, it was agreed to put a no dogs sign on the play park and try to monitor the other areas.

A parishioner commented on the out of control Docks on the Millennium Green and suggested that another council has planted Cow Parsley instead and then mowed paths through it.

10. Other Parish Business (Parish Councillors)

Keith Blowers reported the overgrown state of the central reservation A47/Market Lane junction which is so high that visibility is restricted. This is not the first time this has been reported and felt to be very serious especially as there has already been a fatality at this junction. Many people at the meeting reported that they do not use this junction because they view it as dangerous. Paul Ashdown said he would report to Highways England and to Peter Aldous MP. Sam Perks said that if nothing was done he would take matters into his own hands.

Keith Blowers also asked permission to purchase materials required to refurbish items in the play park. Permission was granted. This work will start on Thursday 7th June at 6.30 if anyone wishes to help.

Glenis Soanes reported that she has received 4 quotes for the repair of the heating system at the Village Hall all being in the region of £5,000. She confirmed that she has completed a grant application form from Suffolk Community Foundation which if successful could provide up to £4,000 and asked if the Parish Council would make up the shortfall.

It was agreed to let Keith Blowers have a copy of the specification and that Glenis would check that the grant if awarded can be paid retrospectively. It was agreed that a final decision would be made at the June meeting.

Brian Shelton reported that Simon Walker had not responded to his request to inspect the play park equipment. Paul Ashdown said he would speak to Simon. Brian reported that the Slide Complex, Spring lamb, See Saw, Musical Activity all needed attention and reported that the dash board of the Tractor had been defaced.

Brian Shelton also reported that he had had some success with issuing letters regarding overgrown hedges in the village but asked the Clerk to provide him with another general letter with no date for future use.

Brian Shelton also reported that the Speed Indicator had been deployed in Pound Lane.

Melanie Wright reported that the hedge at Peto's corner was again above the agreed height. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Paul Johnson of Somerleyton Estates.

Paul Button confirmed that he had attended a meeting with Matt Taylor of Ian Holdsworth Chartered Surveyors and Andy Parks from the gas contractors regarding the gas apparatus on Parish Council land behind Queensway. The result of the meeting was that new equipment is going to be placed on Keith Cooper's land and the old equipment on Parish Council land will be decommissioned.

Barbara Shaw wanted the following mentioned in her absence. Her annual Brain Tumour Research Coffee Morning is on Saturday 2nd June 10.00 -12.30. Peter Aldous has always attended and all being well will be at the Village Hall on that day. So far people attending these events have helped Barbara to raise almost £9,000! AND of course the Church will be holding the Annual Flower Festival and Teddy Parachute jumping on 9th and 10th June. The theme this year is celebrating 100 years of the RAF, Votes for Women and the end of WW1.

11. District Councillors Report: (Cllr P Ashdown)

Paul Ashdown confirmed that the Waveney Local Plan has been send off to Inspectors for soundness. He also reported that Waveney Norse have employed a member of staff whose specific responsibility is to investigate/prosecute fly tippers. Paul was asked to provide the Clerk with his contact details.

Paul Ashdown also confirmed that Waveney District Council will become East Suffolk next May and that the Boundary Commission have started work on the new wards. The Boundary Commission are holding a meeting at Riverside offices on 21st June if anyone would like to attend.

Steven Rees asked Paul if he could relay disappointment at the lack of road sweeping and grass cutting in the village.

12. County Councillors Report: (Cllr James Reeder, Cllr Keith Robinson)

No report available,

13. Planning:

The following application was recommended for approval:

K Jones, 21 Orchard Close – TPO rear garden 1 x Holly reduce & shape

14. Funds from Telecoms Mast

Nothing to report at this meeting.

15. Approval of Accounts for Annual Audit

The Clerk confirmed that Melanie Wright has audited the accounts and confirmed that the final figures were as stated at the previous meeting. The accounts were approved by those present and will now be forwarded for external audit. The Clerk thanked Melanie for completing the Audit.

16. Finances:

Expenditure:- BHIB Insurance - £925.60

SALC - £433.73

Receipts:- Precept - £4,457.22

17. Data Protection Legislation

The Clerk confirmed that the requirement to employ a Data Protection Officer had now been removed from the legislation, however she said that we still need to comply with the new

legislation and if any of the councillors receive personal information they should be careful how it is treated/stored and should speak to the Clerk if clarification is required.

20. Correspondence

E-mail Tim Passmore – “Your Police Your Say” Meetings
 SCC – Maintenance of yellow lines in Blundeston & Corton
 SALC – Update on GDPR and Data Protection Bill
 WDC - Local Government Boundary Commission : Presentation
 to Parish Councils
 SCC - Draft Proposed Diversion of Flixton Public Footpaths No 4
 (Part) and No 10 (Part)
 Lowestoft Town Council - Parishes' Voice on the Local Plan
 meeting 11 May 13:30 – Riverside
 WDC - Community Infrastructure Levy (Parish and Town
 Councils)
 Police Connect Link
 Peter Aldous MP – Rural Broadband
 SCC – Post 16 – 2018 Travel consultation

21. Any other Business

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 18th June 2018.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm