

KIRTON & FALKENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

Held on Monday 15th April 2013 in the Recreation Ground Pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

10 Parish Councillors, the Clerk, Mrs P M O'Brien (County Councillor), Mrs S Harvey, Mr R Kerry (District Councillors), Christine Block (Deben Estuary Partnership) and 17 parishioners; meeting chaired by Mr D Jacobs (PC Chairman). Apologies were received from Rev Helen Davey, Mr J Beer, Mrs A Colvill and Mrs S Wardner (PTLO).

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2012 were read, approved and signed by the chairman, Mr D Jacobs.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None were raised

3. PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRMAN, DEBEN ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

Christine Block, Chairman of the Deben Estuary Partnership, gave a presentation on the group, drawing attention to its aims, composition and plans. Its remit was to retain the Deben estuary in its current form by, as far as possible, preventing further degradation of the existing river walls, which were in varying degrees of vulnerability. The group had been set up to be independent of Local Government, and free to choose its own partners. Through the efforts of local communities and land owners, particularly on the north side of the river, funding had been raised through the provision of land for the sale of new housing, and it was through such funding that the group had largely to rely. Sub groups had been set up to cover issues of access, salt marsh and environment. She outlined work that had so far been undertaken and the planned priorities for the future. A report had been commissioned from Andrew Hawes on the condition of the river walls which had highlighted some areas of urgent attention. She answered question on funding sources to which she emphasised was largely up to local communities, on the value of protecting agricultural land and managed flooding. Information literature was made available.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave the Parish Council report, firstly thanking all for their support. He noted the threats to the rural nature of the peninsular and the efforts of the PC to resist this. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations had been a great success, as had the Christmas tree lighting; despite the weather. The successful nomination of John Beer as an Olympic torch bearer was something of which to be proud. The Council had, following a accident in the region, had had a survey carried on the trees for which it is responsible, and necessary remedial work will be put in hand; the Council was grateful to SCC for assisting with the cost of this, and additional lights for the tree,

from its Locality Budget. He promoted the PC web site which had been recently set up.

5. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

a) Parish Council The Clerk presented draft accounts, recording that the accounts for 2011/12 had been successfully signed off and the audit for 2012/13 is scheduled for July the first. A slight increase in precept had been agreed by the Council to accommodate the changes in Government funding of Local Government. The Council ended the year with assets of around £31,000.

b) Charities

i) Nassau Trust Mrs Harvey for the Nassau Trust said that assistance grants had been given to 6 people in the year; income is still raised through letting allotments. There are 27 allotments rented and 2 cobs now graze the paddock; the growers give carrots to the ponies and get manure in return. The financial situation is very healthy and allows an increasing amount of help to be given.

ii) Kidd, Roddam and Webb Charities Mrs Adams reported on the Falkenham Charities; it had given Christmas grants to 4 households, no request for other help had been received.

Both charities emphasised the wide range of help that can be given.

iii) Recreation Ground Copies of the Recreation Ground accounts were made available and its chairman Mr P Barker reported on the Zip-Wire and other items of outdoor fitness equipment recently installed. Funding had also been aided from the Locality Budget. Expenditure had been incurred on renewal of emergency lights in the pavilion, the football floodlights and CCTV cameras. Regular bookings continue.

6. KIRTON & FALKENHAM YOUTH CLUB

Mrs J Shaw reported on the Youth Club; numbers were down owing to a current shortage of that age group. She paid tribute to the local helpers; funds were low and ways to raise income were being looked into, as it no longer qualifies for grants.

7. COMMUNITY SHOP

Mrs Harvey gave an update; there was a lot of enthusiasm and currently efforts were concentrating on the search for a site.

8. SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S REPORT Mr Kemp, Chairman of School Governors, reported that a new head teacher, Mr P Stock, had been appointed to start in September, only the fourth since 1940. He commented on recent Ofsted inspections, which had graded the school as satisfactory..

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs O'Brien, covered in her report the freeze in Council tax, the saving of £25m in the county's budget, the transfer of library services to Industrial and Provident Society, replacing 16

residential homes with 10 new homes and the Suffolk Growth Strategy with other authorities. She also reported on Schools re-organisation and her work as chair of the Police Committee.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Kerry (DC) explained how on a night spent with the Community Police Officers, calls in Walton and Felixstowe prevented a visit to Kirton/Falkenham, which may explain police absences from meetings. He noted that John Beer of Kirton was the only local representative on the Olympic Run through Felixstowe. Mrs Harvey (DC) spoke of the employment of 12 apprentices jointly with Waveney DC and work with the Housing Scrutiny Committee and the needs of wet rooms in bungalows. She noted that the village Community Lunch Club was 9 years old that week.

11. HISTORY RECORDERS

The History Recorders, Mrs Shaw for Falkenham and Mr Lanigan for Kirton, presented reports. The former noted the success of the jubilee exhibition, and the donation of photographs which are always welcome, changes in street scenes and types of crops being grown. Two sets of people, on the sponsored bike ride, came to trace families. The village's oldest resident had celebrated his 99th birthday and still used the FACTS bus to visit Felixstowe. The latter submitted a written report, read by the Clerk, noting the proliferation of wind turbines and the cabling past the villages for the offshore wind farm, researches into village ancestors, the receipt of copies of the stamps issued in 1978 by Felixstowe Port Internal Couriers and numerous news of residents and events. He referred to the continuing concern over the possible Innocence Farm development, and he recorded the various events staged to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

12. RESOLUTIONS

None had been received

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO BRING BEFORE THE MEETINGS

A parishioner reminded the meeting of the forthcoming Eastern Angles annual presentation in the Church Hall. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed and carried. There being no other business being brought before the Meetings, the Chairman thanked all for attending, particularly the speaker and those who given reports, and closed the proceedings at 9.45pm. The evening concluded in convivial manner with a glass of wine/fruit juice and nibbles.