

Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, May 8th 2017 in the Village Hall, Bramfield at 7pm.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. A. Thomas (Chairman); Cllr. A. Rozkalns (Vice Chairman); Cllr. M. Bond; Cllr. D. Hughes; Cllr. A. Niven and Cllr. W. Shoote:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and one Parishioner (until 7-35pm)

1) To elect a Chair for 2017 – 2018 and receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office:

Cllr. A. Thomas was nominated unopposed and was elected Chair for 2017-2018

Proposer: Cllr. A. Rozkalns: Second: Cllr. D. Hughes:

2) To elect a Vice-Chair for 2017 - 2018:

Cllr. A. Rozkalns was nominated unopposed and was elected Vice-Chair for 2017-2018

Proposer: Cllr. A. Niven: Second: Cllr. W. Shoote:

3) To appoint a Responsible Finance Officer for 2017 - 2018:

The Clerk was nominated unopposed for 2017-2018

Proposer: Cllr. W. Shoote: Second: Cllr. M. Bond:

4) Apologies:

County Councillor Richard Smith and District Cllr. R. Catchpole:

5) To receive Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. M. Bond and Cllr. A. Rozkalns both declared a personal interest in the Village Hall.

6) Requests for dispensations:

None

7) To receive a report from the County and District Councillors:

There was no report as County Councillor R. Smith had only just been elected and District Councillor R. Catchpole was not at the meeting and had not sent a report.

Cllr. W. Shoote wondered if a Thank You card should be sent to the Former County Councillor M. Gower for all his help over the last few years. This was agreed.

The Clerk reported that there were two vacancies in Thorington.

8) Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask questions on topics on the agenda.

A Parishioner asked about the trees outside the vicarage which are getting quite large and lorries are hitting the trees. The Parishioner said that the trees needed trimming and it appears that the trees were planted by the former Bramfield Community Council in 1972. Cllr. A. Thomas said that she would find out who is responsible for cutting them back.

It was also reported that there would be a coffee morning on June 3rd to raise money for the Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund, the Bramfield Hall Garden would be open from 2-5pm on July 2nd and the Church Fete at the Old Vicarage would be held between 2 and 4-30pm on August 12th.

9) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on April 10th 2017:

The Minutes were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Bond:

Seconder: Cllr. D. Hughes:

10) Emergency Planning:

Cllr. A. Thomas gave out copies of the Cookley and Walpole Parish council Emergency Plan. It was agreed that Cllr. W. Shoote would customise it. The Clerk was asked to see if an electronic copy could be sent to Cllr. W. Shoote.

11) Mobile Phone Signal:

It was reported that the mobile telephone signal was very good at the top of the hill but not good in Central Bramfield for some networks. There was some discussion and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

12) Village Hall:

Cllr. A. Thomas said that she wanted the Parish Council to work with the Village Hall. The Councillors discussed bringing Broadband to the Village Hall. Cllr. A. Thomas said that she would contact Community Action Suffolk (CAS) for perhaps funding whilst Cllr. A. Rozkalns would talk to the Village Hall Trustees about the cost and speed available if they wished to implement it.

Cllr. A. Thomas felt that the Village Hall would benefit from some pictures and wondered if there were any old photographs of Bramfield that could be displayed in the Village Hall. Cllr. A. Rozkalns reported that the Pre-School had held their fete at the Village Hall and had raised £700.

13) Traffic Report on A144:

Cllr. A. Niven said that the forms had been sent off with the eight possible sites for the Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS) to be sited to catch drivers who are speeding. He said that he was now awaiting a reply over which sites were to be approved. Cllr. A. Niven said that each VAS cost over £3 000 to buy and it would be rotated around the villages. The VAS would collect all the information needed regarding speeding vehicles and would analyse their speeds.

14) Pitmans Grove Land:

Cllr. A. Thomas reported that she was concerned not to have heard from Flagship. She said that she would keep up the pressure on them to reply.

19) To receive information and agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday, June 12th 2017:

Cllr. A. Rozkalns gave two reports he had been given:-

Bramfield in Bloom' May 2017 Report:

Cllr. A. Rozkalns gave the 'Bramfield in Bloom' May 2017 Report. He said that they were about to install 3 new planters from tanalised timber. One will go at each Bramfield sign on the A144 and the other will go at the entrance to Pitman's Grove on the slab that used to have the September Club seat on it. Cllr. A. Rozkalns reported that so far 'Bramfield in Bloom' has volunteers to look after the one at the north end of the village and the one at Pitman's Grove.

Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that 'Bramfield in Bloom' suspect that the bottom of the planter near the bus shelter has collapsed so they will have to investigate and repair as necessary. He reported that the planter near the pub sign has somehow been moved slightly so 'Bramfield in Bloom' will try to move it back.

Finally, Cllr. A. Rozkalns reported that 'Bramfield in Bloom' would have a meeting on May 9th to finalise the summer planting which would be done in the next few weeks.

Litter picking:

Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that a team of litter pickers had picked up litter from the A12 to the railway crossing on the A144, from the Round House to the village, from Low Road as far as Old Hall Farm, from Bartholomew's Lane as far as Musk's Farm, the Gluepot, from Walpole Road as far as the Yoxford Turning, Earlsway, Bunker's Hill Road, Pitman's Grove and the Street. Cllr. A. Rozkalns reported that they had collected about the same amount of rubbish as last year which was depressing and that it is already building up again.

The Meeting ended at 9pm