

Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting of the parishes of Bramfield and Thorington held in the Village Hall, Bramfield on Monday, March 12th 2018 at 7-30pm.

Present: Cllr A. Thomas (Chairman), Cllr A. Rozkalns (Vice Chairman), Cllr M. Bond, Cllr. D. Hughes; Cllr. A. Niven, Cllr W. Shoote, six parishioners and Paul Widdowson (Clerk).

1) Apologies:

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

2) Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on March 13th 2017:

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, March 13th 2017 were read, confirmed and signed.

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

3) The Parish Council – A report from Cllr. Anne Thomas:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the attached report on the activities of Parish Council over the last twelve months.

There were no questions.

4) Report from the District Councillor Raymond Catchpole:

There was no report.

5) Report from County Councillor Richard Smith:

There was no report.

6) Bramfield Primary School:

There was no report.

7) Pre-School ‘Stepping Stones’

Cllr. A. Rozkalns reported that the Pre-School was doing well. The numbers were up and there was a new committee.

8) Tree Warden - Marie Rolfe

It was reported that 100 metres of hedging had been planted on Low Road. It was also hoped to plant another 100 metres of hedging over the coming year. It was reported that the school has become involved and that the Parish Council would be asked for funding in November. Finally everyone who has helped in the past was thanked but it was reported that volunteers were always welcome.

9) Bramfield in Bloom – Chris Collins

Chris Collins reported that Bramfield in Bloom had been very successful as they are now looking after five tubs of plants. He said that they would be moved slightly and the trees would be trimmed except for one tree that has mysteriously disappeared. Chris Collins said that support from the Parish Council had been greatly appreciated and ‘Bramfield in Bloom’ hoped that the Parish Council would continue to support them. Finally, Chris Collins reported that a recent litter pick by twenty people led to thirty black sacks of rubbish including some very interesting items.

10) Speedwatch/Vehicle Activation Signs – Cllr. Andrew Niven

Cllr. A. Niven said that Speedwatch started in 2015 and is probably the largest in the County with thirteen volunteers. He said that Speedwatch complete two sessions of one hour each a week. He said that any vehicle travelling at 35mph or more whether coming towards the speed gun or travelling away has its registration number noted by a team member.

There are seven sites for the one Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS) to record every vehicle's speed as it passes the VAS. Cllr. A. Niven said that 140 000 cars have been recorded using the A144 in both directions with the peak being between 7-9am and 4-6pm and the highest speed a vehicle has been recorded travelling through Bramfield at night has been 70-75mph.

Cllr. A. Niven said that Spexhall has a 40mph 'buffer zone' and Bramfield Parish Council was working to have a 40mph 'buffer zone' at each end of Bramfield.

The Speedwatch Report is attached to these Minutes.

11) Neale and Archer Charities

It was reported that the Charity was doing well and the income for the year is £988 whilst expenditure has been £554-50. The expenditure went on gifts for Senior Citizens (£260), School Books (£78) and a seat in memory of two parishioners (216-50). Finally it was reported that the Charity has £10 421 in investments.

The Neale and Archer Charities Report is attached to these Minutes.

12) Bramfield Village Hall

Cllr. A. Rozkalns reported that the Village Hall had no major projects or events. However it was being planned to have LED Lights. He thanked all those who use the Village Hall and reported that bookings were up especially of weddings. Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that the Village Hall had been burgled with seemingly the empty petty cash box being a main target. Finally he said that the Village Hall needed new people on the committee.

The Bramfield Parish Council Report is attached to these Minutes.

13) Community Policing - Report by the Safer Neighbourhood Team

Cllr. A. Thomas said that she had attended the most recent Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting. She said that she had raised the issue of the recent local break-ins and theft of power tools. She reported that the police had said that 25% of all crimes currently are the theft of power tools and they believe that organised crime is behind the thefts. Cllr. A. Thomas asked that everybody take photographs of their equipment and put 'Smart Water' on all their property.

14) Any questions/comments/matters of interest.

It was noted that locally some drug supply was taking place. It was believed that drug suppliers were moving out of London in search of new customers. It was asked that if anyone sees anything suspicious, please report it to the police by dialling 101 where you will be put through to the appropriate department.

The Meeting ended at 8-37pm.