

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday, 6 May, 2009 commencing at 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall.

PRESENT

Dr J Day	-	Chairman
Mrs T Hanson	-	Vice Chairman
Dr D Lewis	-	Councillor
Mr C Lofts	-	Councillor
Mrs J Gosling	-	Councillor
Mrs T Innes	-	Councillor
Mr R Herrington	-	Councillor
Mrs S Cartwright	-	Clerk/RFO
Mr P Bellfield	-	County Councillor
Mr Steven Hudson	-	District Councillor

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr E Metcalfe
Mr P Gardiner
Mrs D Gardiner
Mrs A Day
Mr T Lofts
Mrs S Herrington

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Avril Wilkinson.

At the commencement of the meeting Dr Day welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to attend. Prior to the commencement of the meeting everyone had been offered a glass of wine and nibbles.

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATED 7 MAY, 2008

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 May, 2008 were approved and signed. This was proposed by Mrs Tessa Innes and seconded by Mrs June Gosling.. The Minutes had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that it had been a peaceful year for the Parish with a number of potential developments and changes in the district which may well impact on the lives of those in the village in the future. These include Local Government Review; housing requirements over the next 10 to 15 years; and recommendations arising from the recently completed Parish Plan. Community life continues to flourish with pub evenings playing a major part in the social calendar. The Boules Team is doing well. The Chairman thanked Councillors for their hard work over the year. A copy of the full report is available on the website: www.playford.org.uk.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PETER BELLFIELD'S REPORT

County Councillor Peter Bellfield gave a detailed report from the County Council. He informed us that the Council tax increase is the lowest ever at 2.45% and that the Council has made savings of £60m in the last three years which has enabled them to put an extra £3.8m into safeguarding children and £1.1m into vulnerable adults. The Audit Commission reported that "the County Council is the top performing County in terms of efficiency savings, the most cost efficient council in England and the best performing council for quality service in the East of England".

The Boundary Committee has been at the forefront of everyone's mind with a decision yet to be made on whether there is one unitary council for the whole of Suffolk or a unitary for Ipswich and Felixstowe and a separate unitary for the rest of Suffolk. SCDC have thrown a spanner in the works by requesting a 3 unitary council. We should know by the end of August but what with elections on the 4th June no-one knows, if they are elected, for how long they are being elected.

County Councillor Peter Bellfield reminded us that money from his Locality Budget is available - £9,000 for the 26 parishes he looks after. The highways department has also introduced a new scheme for funding minor road improvements but once again this is not large as Councillor Bellfield only has £12,000.

Once again Mr Peter Bellfield said he was here to assist with any difficulties Playford Parish Council might be having and would be only too happy to help anyone in the village. A copy of his full report is available on the website.

Signed
Chairman

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEVEN HUDSON'S REPORT

District Councillor Steven Hudson said that it was important that individuals write to the Boundary Committee on their preferences for a Unitary Council. SCDC itself are considering a legal challenge as they are upset that the “three” unitary option is not being considered. Councillor Hudson informed us that this may well delay the whole procedure. On a different matter he said that he was pleased with the outcome of the Burial Ground application in Tuddenham – it says something for local democracy. With regards to the LDF Site Specific Allocation – these plots are merely a wish list – SCDC does not endorse or reject them and they have no legal standing.

6. OPEN FORUM

Mr Eric Metcalfe asked what could be done about overgrown hedges in the village along with muddy verges/edges. He said that he realised that we live in the country and that he never expected these to be as pristine as in towns however when hedges are so overgrown that it reduces visibility it becomes an issue. He asked how – as a Parish Council – we could go about this in a tactful way, rather than have Highways at SCC write to them, surely it would be better if we approached that landowner first? Mr Charles Lofts informed him that DEFRA says that hedges should only be cut every 3 years. Highways have specified that hedges can be cut in December and January. The Chairman informed Mr Metcalfe that should anything become dangerous to let him know. It was noted that there is land in the village that is not the responsibility of a landowner such as land near the railway line which has a tree growing in the middle of the bridge.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30 PM.

Signed
Chairman