

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday, 7 May, 2008 commencing at 7.30 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
Pc D Wheddon	-	Community Police Officer

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr E Metcalfe
Mr P Gardiner
Mrs D Gardiner
Mr T Llewellyn
Mrs A Llewellyn
Mrs A Day
Mr T Lofts
Mrs T Laws

Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence

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 16 MAY, 2007

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 May, 2007 were approved and signed. This was proposed by Mr Ted Herrington and seconded by Mrs Tessa Innes. The Minutes had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr Eric Metcalfe reported that he was pleased to see that the precept has gone down significantly from last year. He congratulated us on spending wisely and hoped that we would continue to examine our out-goings carefully.

The waste bin on the village “triangle” was going to be replaced with a new, more ascetically pleasing one. This was at a cost of £173 + VAT. The Clerk was waiting to hear back from Daniel Wareing at SCDC as to when they would be able to carry out the work.

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Dr John Day read out his report which covered the celebration of 200 years since the abolition of the Slave Trade, the summer fete and the reduction of the precept amongst other things. A copy of this report will be made available on the website shortly. www.playford.org.uk

4. PC DANIEL WHEDDON’S REPORT

Pc Dan Wheddon read out his report. A copy of which can be found on-line (www.playford.org.uk) There had been one reported crime in Playford which was theft of heating oil from an insecure tank in rear garden. Pc Wheddon informed us that locks for oil tanks can be purchased which will stop parishioners appearing vulnerable to this type of theft. Apparently “Elmers” supply locks for oil tanks. Another area discussed was Neighbourhood Watch. Pc Dan Wheddon was asked to contact Ben Welham direct. The Clerk would get in touch with Pc Wheddon after the meeting and give him Mr Ben Welham’s telephone number. Pc Dan Wheddon was asked if (on his rounds) he could just check on houses when residents are away. He said that if he was driving past anyway he would be happy to keep an eye open. Mr Ted Herrington thanked Pc Dan Wheddon for the work he had done throughout the year.

5. PARISH PLAN

It was noted that the Stakeholder interviews were nearly complete and the individual questionnaires were being piloted and likely to be distributed to residents, householders and young people shortly. Some examples of common concerns are listed so far included:- parking around the school, speeding, protection of the verges and the bus services. Dr John Day read out a copy of Mr Phil Holmes report. This report would be made available on the Parish Council’s website.

Signed
Chairman

6. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Parish Council had held a special meeting to discuss this. The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March were approved and signed. A copy of these minutes will be put on the website shortly. At this meeting they concluded that Area 2 was the least suitable for housing development and should if possible not be used for the following reasons:- 1) It is the smallest. 2) It has been agreed in the past that any significant development north of the A1214 should be avoided, described as it was by the Bypass enquiry as the “Lung of Kesgrave”, and should remain as countryside. 3) It can be observed from the Special Landscape area. 4) It has no local infrastructure. In comparison the most appropriate area would appear to be Area 3. However there are houses within Playford with large curtilages and areas of no agricultural value upon which it would be reasonable to allow developments. Indeed some growth within the village would be of benefit. Our conclusion on the LDF had been forwarded to Suffolk Coastal District Council.

7. PETER BELLFIELD’S REPORT

The schools reorganisation has recently been completed in the first two areas to change to the two-tier system. This has proved controversial with those associated with the middle schools however; independent advice is overwhelmingly to continue to implement the change, which SCC are doing.

The County Council has identified its preferred site at Great Blackenham for an incineration plant producing electricity. However, should one of the bidders for the PFI be able to offer a better alternative this will be considered. It is not expected that a planning application will be made before 2011. The total cost of the project over 28 years is estimated at around £640 million, a little over a third of which being the capital cost of the plant. The balance represents the operating costs of the plant over the years.

SCC had been pleasantly surprised by the amount of the grant from Central Government for the coming year. The Council received £155m, which is £10m more than last year compared with their expectations of less than £4m. This will help them to reduce the adverse effect of some of the £16m of savings, which they are having to make. Council Tax went up less than the RPI. (RPI – 4.1% and Council tax – 3.75%)

County Councillor Peter Bellfield also reported that the U-turn on the Ipswich Unitary Bid meant it was not going ahead. What the future for local government in Suffolk will be we do not know. The County Council is in favour of one unitary council for the whole of Suffolk, which they feel saves the most money and could mean the lowest future council tax. Other options which are being considered by the Boundary Committee are: 1. East Suffolk, West Suffolk & Ipswich. 2. East Suffolk and West Suffolk. 3. North Haven & North Suffolk. 4. ‘Yartoft’ – Great Yarmouth & Waveney.

Signed
Chairman

Mr Eric Metcalfe asked how often the bin and refuse collection would operate once the new bins come into operation in the village. County Councillor Peter Bellfield assured him that there would be a weekly collection of food waste.

Mrs Trish Laws thanked Mr Peter Bellfield on behalf of the Village Hall for his financial support for improving the floor in the village hall and lighting outside.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

It was felt that Parishes within Suffolk Coastal and within the Ipswich Fringe Area are worried about any Unitary plans that cause the Ipswich Town boundary to expand to encompass essentially rural communities. County Councillor Peter Bellfield said that the Boundary Committee has details of all Parish Councils in the hope that they will seek information from and consult with us. You can visit their website on:- www.boundarycommittee.org.uk .

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.05 PM.

Signed
Chairman