

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday, 2 March 2011 commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

PRESENT

Dr J Day	-	Chairman
Mrs T Hanson	-	Vice Chairman
Mr R Coppillie	-	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

Mrs Sally Herrington
Mrs Anne Day

Apologies for Absence

None

At the commencement of the meeting Dr Day welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATED 5 MAY 2010

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 May 2010 were approved and signed. 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 Playford has enjoyed a peaceful and safe year and that the Probation Team continued to do a very good job cutting the grass and maintaining the kerbsides. The WI had been busy keeping the village free of litter and the bore site up from Brook Lane and owned by Anglian Water has been tidied up. He reported that the Highway Department have been maintaining the roads and had done a good job keeping them open during December with heavy snowfall. Planning applications; – there had been several most of which were uncontroversial. The AMG have made much progress in implementing change recommended in the Parish Plan. The Chairman reported that much of the achievement in this regard is down to the dedication and hard work of Phil Holmes and Carol Ramsden who he would like to thank. Finally the Chairman thanked Sarah Cartwright, the Clerk of the Parish Council for her hard work and fellow councillors and all those who have contributed to the maintenance of the quality of life in the Parish. For a full copy of the Chairman’s report please go to www.playford.org.uk/parishcouncil .

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PETER BELLFIELD’S REPORT

Cllr Peter Bellfield had produced a written report for the year 2010/11 which had been emailed to the Clerk prior to the meeting. A copy of his report can be viewed at www.playford.org.uk/parishcouncil . In summary he reported that the process of the Local Government Review has been stopped thus after more than three years of uncertainty they could start to plan ahead. Last autumn the coalition announced that the grant over three years would be reduced by 28%. As a result SCC will have to reduce expenditure by between £120m and 145m over the next three years from a budget of a little under £600m per annum excluding education, which is ring fenced. They plan to do this in three steps, £40m plus in each of the first two years and £30m in the third year. This “New Strategic Direction” proposes that SCC be more of a facilitator than a provider of services. Certain areas have gone out to consultation and already they have had many expressions of interest in taking over the services, such as Suffolk Traded Services (catering, cleaning etc), parkland, libraries, crossing patrols safety camera services, highway maintenance and County Homes for the elderly. Looking to the voluntary and the private sector to provide services is not new, almost half the road maintenance at present is undertaken by them as is 80% of adult care.

Signed
Chairman

The thinking behind this is that the voluntary/private sector can do this more cheaply. SCC is also looking at ways of coordinating the work of the two largest areas of expenditure, adult and children's services. Whilst SCC hopes that the New Strategic Direction will account for most of the savings in years two and three, it is unlikely to contribute to saving in year one (2011/12) because of the time it will take to implement the divestment of these services. Therefore, to balance the budget for this year they have had to make savings of £42m. Of this £42m over £17m is derived from lower salary and wage costs. Efficiency savings have also contributed to a substantial proportion of the balance. Regrettably the Burry Road Park and Ride is closing saving £200,000 and a charge is now made to senior citizen bus card holders who will also not be able to travel free on ordinary buses before 9.30 am. Councillor Peter Bellfield was pleased to report that the Council Tax is to be held at the same level as last year. Other areas Councillor Peter Bellfield covered in his report were the bad winter weather, Council Performance and the Pension Fund. Should anyone wish to contact Councillor Peter Bellfield he is happy to help where he can.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEVEN HUDSON'S REPORT

Cllr Steven Hudson reported that SCDC was continuing to explore methods of reducing costs. He reported that the merger of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils' management structures has contributed to efficiency savings by reducing management overheads. The controversial saga of the Local Development Framework continues - watch this space! For a full copy of Councillor Steven Hudson's report please see the website: www.playford.org.uk/parishcouncil .

6. OPEN FORUM

The footpath that runs from Church Road through to Butts Road needs to be explored.
ACTION: John Day

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.20 pm

Signed

Chairman