

**Minutes of Playford's Annual Parish Meeting held at Playford
Village Hall at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 13th May 2015**

Present: Mrs Joan Metcalfe - Chairman
Mr Stephen Hicks - Vice-Chairman
Mr Tim Llewellyn - Councillor
Mr Ted Herrington – Councillor
Mr Adrian Melrose – Councillor
Mr Neil Tibble – Councillor
Mr Peter Bellfield –County Councillor
Mr Robert Whiting _ District Councillor (arrived 6.50pm)

In attendance:
Ms Marian Rosling - Clerk

Also present:
Mr Eric Metcalfe
Mrs Sally Herrington
The Rev Celia Cook
Mrs Kerrie Tibble

The meeting started at 6.30pm and Joan Metcalfe took the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr Bob Coppillie - Councillor
PCSO Jeanette Pithers

2. To approve the Minutes from the Meeting held on 7th May 2014

Tim Llewellyn pointed out an error in para 6 of the Minutes, which should have read “Local Plan “ not “National Plan”. The rest of the Minutes were approved by all and Tim Llewellyn proposed acceptance, seconded by Steve Hicks. The re-typed Minutes will be signed at the next meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes: None.

4. Chairman's Report

Joan Metcalfe began her report by thanking District Councillor Stephen Hudson for all his help over the recent months, despite his illness. Also huge thanks to Veronica Bunbury who has not stood for re-election. Veronica has been a very valuable member of the council and a great support to us all during her term of office. Joan then welcomed new councillors Adrian Melrose and Neil Tibbles and returning councillor Ted Herrington.

Joan gave details of developments within the village and an update on the Windfarm Project, Highways issues and various projects achieved during the year. The auction of Pocock paintings provided useful income and the Enabling Communities Fund provided us with a new bench and an extra sand bin for the Green plus the cost of renovating the notice board. The village sign was kindly refurbished for a donation to the Children's Hospice. A single

Signed

basketball stand on the playing field will also be forthcoming from the proceeds of the Outdoor Playspace Scheme, when details have been finalised.

A full copy of this report can be viewed on the website; www.playford.org.uk

In response to Joan's plea re the newly refurbished village sign, Sally Herrington kindly offered to teak oil this on a regular basis.

5. County Councillor Peter Bellfield's Report

Peter Bellfield reported that this had been a bad year for him healthwise but hoped that things would improve. He praised the NHS for their service to him over the last few months and especially his GP.

Council Tax has been static for the last five years. Savings of £130M have been made and a further £120M must be made over the next 3 years, resulting in a reduction of 47% of the workforce.

Two major operational changes have been made:

CSD services (BT) are now in house and Highways Maintenance, previously given over to Kerr MG, will in future be in house. This has worked well although the contract was not drawn up as tightly as it could have been and some staff took redundancy. Council officers were too slow in getting back to Kerr MG, progress has been made but there is still a long way to go.

There is now a new Highways Fault Reporting Tool in place online, whereby photos can be uploaded and exact locations of problems can be pinpointed by an arrow on a map. Progress can also be chased up online. This appears to be working well.

Energy from Waste: Due to very little opposition, the building of the plant at Great Blakenham went ahead unhindered, was opened on time and within budget. It is working well and supplying electricity for 30,000 homes.

£10M has been put into improving Broadband coverage (but BT will not divulge where it is going).

Young Peoples' Employment Centre (16-24 year olds) has proved to be a great success – it gives youngsters advice on producing CV's and how to conduct themselves at job interviews.

Education: Steps have been taken to remove head teachers, who were not up to standard, from their posts. There are signs of improvement and we are now up to the national average.

The Locality Budget has all been spent but Highways still needs another £15,000 to complete outstanding work.

Peter Bellfield ended by saying that he welcomes emails from parishioners giving him their views on various topics.

Signed

Questions:

Eric Metcalfe questioned the frequency that hedges and verges are trimmed by Highways department plus the efficiency of these operations and of road repairs. He said he personally would be happy to pay more if it could be guaranteed that he would receive a better service. Peter Bellfield replied that it is difficult to stipulate what is being done where but he hopes the situation will improve when Highways dept.has caught up on outstanding jobs..

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6. District Councillor Robert Whiting's report

Robert Whiting introduced himself by saying that he had been a District Councillor for 16 years and that he was very pleased to be on the newly formed Fynn Valley ward. The number of seats has been reduced to 42 of which 37 are held by Conservatives. He is chairman of the Accommodation Programme which will oversee SCDC's move to the former Girdlestone's site in the latter part of 2016 and the closure of Cedar House and various buildings in Felixstowe. The resulting savings should be around half £M and there is no increase in Council Tax for the present year. There is still £4000 left in the Enabling Communities budget from last year which can be used in Fynn Valley ward.

Questions:

Ted Herrington asked about the Council Chamber in the new building and was told that this will be a flexible room laid out with IT facilities and will be more attractive than its counterpart in the old building. There is a Communications Plan going forward which will monitor progress of the move and relay it to interested parties.

7. Police report.

PCSO Jeanette Pithers was unable to attend but her report was read out by Joan Metcalfe and is appended at end of minutes.

A full copy of this report can be viewed on the website; www.playford.org.uk

8. Open Forum.

The Revd Celia Cook asked about provisions for the youth of the parish and whether the Church could help in any way. There are currently no outlets or any movements organised for young people in Playford other than the Toddler Group and it was agreed that some thought needs to be given to this,.

9. AOB – none

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed
Chairman