

North Lopham Annual Parish Open Meeting

Draft minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 12th May 2010 in the Methodist Schoolroom, North Lopham

1. **Attendance and Apologies:** Present were Brian Frith (Chair), Jan Tate (Vice-Chair), Mike McManus, Val Garnham, Heather Potter, John Barwick, Robert Carley and Mike Cox (Clerk), Peter Coster (Chair of South Lopham PC), Willam Nunn (County and District Councillor). There were 20 members of the public in attendance. Apologies received from Jennie Vere, Tracey Umfreville and Joe Bernard.
2. **Minutes of last Annual Open Meeting 13th May 2009:** Minutes of last Open meeting read, approved and signed as correct.
3. **Matters arising:** No matters arising.
4. **Reports:** Below are summaries of reports presented. Full report available form Clerk.
 - School – Brian Frith read a summary compiled by Tracey Umfreville, Chair of the Governors. Mrs Dawe, a 'County Head' had been appointed after the departure of Simon East. Arrangements now in place for appointment of permanent replacement. Much activity with building and grounds improvements and continued success of the collaborative arrangements with Bressingham.
 - Church – no report available.
 - Chapel – Val Garnham reported on past and current events which included a display of historical documents relating to the 200 years of the Chapel in the village.
 - Village Hall – Tim Colyer gave a report on current state of the Lottery and Farmers Market. All invited to attend the AGM to be held on 21st May 2010.
 - Charities – Mike Cox reported that investments had proved more fruitful than most, resulting in extra money distributed to different groups. Thanks to Walter Vernon.
 - Pre-School – Mike Cox read a resume of a report supplied by Joe Bernard, which showed 14 children on the roll with 9 leaving in September. Hopefully numbers will increase soon in what is a perennial problem.
 - Lophams Ramblers – Jackie Brown reported yet another increase in numbers on what are very enjoyable walks.
 - Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council – William Nunn reported on the problems being experienced with funding of road repairs, the new 'roof tax' which will provide funds for community use as new houses are built, the reasons for collaboration with South Norfolk on provision of services and the latest steps in the Local Development Framework consultations..
 - Parish Council – Brian Frith reported on a very busy year and thanked fellow Councillors, Clerk and residents. He also announced his resignation forced by a geographical move rendering him unable to remain. Comprehensive report available from the Clerk.
 - South Lopham Parish Council – Peter Coster gave a brief report of proceedings for the past year and thanked Brian Frith for his close cooperation throughout his term of office.
5. **Financial report:** A breakdown of the finances for 2009/2010 was circulated at the meeting. Chris Stringfield was thanked for his prompt 'internal' audit.
6. **Any other items:**
 - Donna Potter raised an issue with road safety in mind. Parents are encouraged to take children to School on foot as much as possible to alleviate parking problems but a lack of footpaths together with speeding traffic makes this difficult. The Chair pointed out that this was an issue that would be addressed at the AGM. Mr Cosh updated the meeting regarding correspondence with various agencies including Police over the parking and speeding issues near the School. Further discussion would be undertaken during the Parish Council meeting
 - Donna Potter also raised the issue of a Play Area in the village or at the Village Hall. It was pointed out that this issue is expected to come up at the Village Hall AGM and any interested parties were encouraged to attend.
 - The Clerk expressed his personal gratitude to Brian Frith for support as Chair and for his efforts in relation to the Letchmere, the noticeboard, sewage scheme and footpaths.

The meeting closed at 20.05pm and the Parish Council AGM started at 8.10pm.