

01/04
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
GLEMSFORD HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th April 2004
AT GLEMSFORD VILLAGE HALL

- 1** **Present** Mr. Colin Parmenter (in the chair)
 Mr. L. Young (Babergh District Councillor)
- 2** **In attendance** Mrs. S. Turner (Parish Clerk)
- 3** **Apologies** Cllr. Lay
 Cllr. Thake
 Cllr. Kemp

There were 32 members of the public present.

004 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th April 2003**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2003, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Suttle

SECONDED: Cllr. Lord

003 **PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS**

a. **Glensford United Charities**

Mr. J. Suttle presented the accounts of the charity, copy attached. It was formally proposed that the accounts be adopted.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Watkinson

SECONDED: Cllr. Young

A member of the public asked what criteria needed to be met to be able to receive an old man's gift from the charity. Mr. Suttle explained that they needed to be resident of the village and be over 65 years of age, although there were only six gifts available.

b. **Glensford Playing Field Committee**

Mr. S. Creed presented the accounts of the committee, copy attached. Mowers had been sold this year which had made revenue but this had then been spent on supplying new goals for the club.

PROPOSED: Mrs. Tonkins

SECONDED: Cllr. Watkinson

004 **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman informed the meeting that when the security guards had originally been employed the crime rate had reduced by 25%. However, due to the village being given a second beat officer, the security guard's hours had been halved and the crime had now increased by 12%

An enquiry was now underway into the events that led to the closure of the Youth Facilities Park. The Chairman said that the Parish Council had identified four original sites, three of which were deemed unsuitable due to them being in residential areas. At no time had any information been passed by Babergh District Council regarding the distance from any boundaries until after the noise abatement notice had been served. It would cost approximately £20,000 to re-site the park and the Parish Council were in the process of purchasing land to the rear of the Village Hall in order to re-site the park.

There had been pressure on both the District Council and the Parish Council to find sites on which to build houses. The Chairman felt that the site at Lees Garage that was earmarked for fourteen houses was overly ambitious.

Enquiries were being made for the re-siting of the war memorial and possible locations were Fair Green and Churchgate.

005 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr. Young advised the meeting that although people complained about Council tax bills, it should be noted that only 10% of the money from the bill actually went to Babergh District Council. Babergh District Council had recently taken over a lot of work from The Benefit Agency so had taken on thirteen staff to deal with the workload yet the Benefit Agency had managed to cull twenty five.

Low cost housing was a priority for the District Council, and this did not just apply to rented accommodation as Babergh were committed to keeping young people in the District.

Babergh had entered into a partnership with Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils for recycling. The wheeled bins were purchased in bulk therefore making them cheaper for residents. Central Government advised that 33% of rubbish needed to be recycled by 2005 but Babergh had practically reached that target already.

Cllr Young, together with Cllr. Thake, the Chairman and the Clerk had all been interviewed by the panel carrying out the enquiry into the Youth Facilities Park.

Cllr. Young was concerned about the reputation of Glemsford, as he felt the village was no worse than any others in the district. To this end, he had joined ranks with Councillor Gurr in order to promote the good points.

Cllr. Young was opposed to any car parking charges being put in place on parking facilities in the towns. After the last election nineteen new officers had been appointed and these people were more inclined to vote for the charges.

006 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Suffolk County Council were ploughing monies into Education, Services to the elderly and young persons in care. Cllr, Kemp expressed his disapproval of the lack of money available to provide resources in the County, but he was pleased that the tax level had settled at 3.8%.

007 COMMUNITY CENTRE AND OPEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A feasibility study had now been carried out. The Chairman stated that it was not possible to sell the Social Club as it was worth nothing compared to selling the land. It was hoped that the Social Club and the Village Hall would be sold for development and this money would pay for the new Community Centre. Although it was intimated that the two sites were worth in excess of £1m, a more definite price needed to be ascertained. The Community Centre would provide space for the Social Club, Village Hall, sports pavilion and Library, and would also have a games room for the younger residents. It was hoped that a caretaker would live on the premises. Residents at the meeting voiced their doubts about this and one resident said that he felt a better proposition would be to demolish the Village Hall and build the community centre on that site. The Chairman explained that the two sites would have to be sold in order to raise the money but that there would be no loss of facilities whilst building took place as the community centre would be built before the other facilities were demolished. There would be a roadway through Tower Meadow, which would be adopted and lit, and would serve residents of houses in the area plus users of the community centre. Of course in the long term money would be save, because the bills, insurance etc would be confined to one building instead of three.

A resident said that she felt vandalism may decrease after the community centre had been built and the Youth Facilities Park re-sited as it was apparent crime had increased since the Youth Facilities Park had been taken down.

Mr. Game asked who owned the land and the freehold of the Social Club and was advised that this belonged to the members who would also have a share in the community centre. The Chairman advised that because the Social Club was a charity, it as not allowed to go into debt, and would have to close with enough money to maintain and insure it, which could happen very soon. Residents felt that the Social Club was not used enough, and that junior membership should be encouraged. The Chairman sated that this had been tried, but one or two members had caused trouble. It was pointed out by Mrs. Love that she felt this unfair that youngsters were not now encouraged into the Club due to the actions of a mindless few.

Mr. Grayson said that a coffee bar would be advantageous as part of the community centre. The chairman stated that due to new rules and regulations no children would be allowed into a room containing a bar, necessitating the need for a separate games room in the new centre for children. The possibility of a security camera on site would be looked into. Mr. Grafen suggested that an office be provided for the local beat officers in the community centre.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would now ask for rough drawings to be made and then another public meeting would be called.

A resident asked if a dog bin could be placed in the Hunts Hill Area. This would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Mr. Hurrell asked if the Parish Council could make recommendations for parking spaces on planning applications. The chairman stated that they did, but they were often not taken into consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed and approved

Dated

Minute No.