

01/05
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
GLEMSFORD HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th April 2005
AT GLEMSFORD VILLAGE HALL

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

There were 9 members of the public present.

004 POLICE REPORT

The Annual report for the parish of Glemsford covers the period between the 1st April 2004 through to the 31st March 2005.

During this last year 103 crimes have been reported within the parish, this compares to 149 for the same period the previous year.

Three reports of burglary dwellings have been received during this period together with one report of distraction burglary, ten reports of burglary to other building's, the sports pavilion has been entered and damage caused a total of four times during this year, nine offences of criminal damage, twenty-eight offences of vehicle crime, 16 violent or public order offences, and 20 thefts.

Other crimes dealt with during this last year include possession of drugs, cultivation and supplying of drugs, nuisance telephone calls and letters and 1 offence involving offences committed under the sexual offences act.

Offences had dipped by a third during the past year.

005 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th April 2004

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2004 having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Watkinson

SECONDED: Cllr. Knox

006 PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

a. Glemsford 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. Knox

b. Glemsford Playing Field Committee

Mr. S. Creed presented the accounts of the committee, copy attached. A lot of money had been spent on maintenance again. Mr Creed stated that the grant given by the Parish Council had never been spent on enhancing the pavilion, it has just gone towards repairs.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Lord

SECONDED: Cllr. Gurr

007 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that after a problem in past with the skateboard park, the Parish Council ran into major difficulties and were now in discussions with Babergh District Council who have agreed their financial input plus the overspend after the Parish Council agreed to finance £9.200 of the scheme. The total cost would be over £20,000 to re-site the park and although a site had not actually been picked yet things were moving ahead albeit slowly. Babergh had proposed to site the park on the current pavilion site which would not be a problem if the plans for the community centre were to go ahead as new facilities would be incorporated for changing rooms etc.

It was hoped that the social club site would now be developed and the revenue from this will fund the village hall's alteration into a community centre. Plans are not finalised yet but it was hoped to build a structure the same size to incorporate the pavilion, social club and village hall. The funds from developing the social club site should be sufficient to undertake this work.

Crime figures had decreased with the employment of the private security company, but after the Council had agreed to relieve the company of their duties the figures had risen again so this needed to be discussed. The Chairmen felt that the increase in crime was because there were not enough police officer on the beat in the village and reiterated that the parish council would take a private prosecution out if the police had no result with their enquiries on current crimes.

The Parish council were looking into the possibility of erecting goalposts on the Recreation Ground for the youths to play football.

008 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr. Young reported that the District section of the council tax for our area was the lowest in Suffolk or East Anglia but reminded attendees that this only formed ten percent of the total bill.

Low cost housing is still a priority. Regarding the car parking charges it had been interesting to note that the people that voted for car parking charges mainly came from the east of the region.

Cllr. Thake had sent a written report which stated that the Babergh section of the council tax bill was in line with inflation and the Council felt that he next year would be its most challenging to date. The Council would be reviewing its expenditure and income options.

03/05

Babergh had been assessed as a good council by inspectors of the audit commission.

Cllr. Thake said that on a personal note he felt that Babergh would still be able to make more savings by a more robust use of their new constitution to achieve quicker and better decisions, by keeping a close eye on staffing, the use of consultants and outside venues to name but a few. Compared with the last Council the members of the present one are looking into far more ways to keep the council tax down and seem determined to achieve this end despite the reduction of grants and increased legislations by the government.

009 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Kemp had attended a meeting at Red Lodge where they are going to build 5000 houses, and had met a lady from the Suffolk Association of Youth clubs so had passed her details on to the Clerk. He had also spoken to gentleman who lives in Freckenham. The village had recently erected a new community centre and he advised that anyone who wants to discuss community centres can contact Richard and get to him via that route.

Suffolk County Council had been classified as an excellent council. During the past year administration has transferred to Endeavour House as the power company went into liquidation and SCC bought for the building for 16 million pounds. The council have come out of it with a profit after selling their old building.

Local government face huge problems with pension plans. This has arisen through poor investment returns and in 1980 experts advised not to put any more money in, but now returns have gone down drain and all are faced with a huge problem so local authorities are having to put funds in.

Suffolk County Council have listened to the views of residents and limited their council tax increase to 2.5%.

Cllr. Kemp thanked the Parish council for their support over the past year.

010 OPEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr. Watkinson felt that the war memorial should be located to a more fitting and suitable site as the present one had restrictive space, no disabled access, was a long distance from church and was overgrown and partially hidden. There was no valid reason why it should not be moved and would be a fitting tribute to the servicemen who gave their lives for their county.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed and approved
Dated
Minute No.

8pm planning meeting monday