

**GLEMSFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND NORMAL MEETING HELD ON  
8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008**

<b>Present</b>	Len Young	Lucy Knox
	Neil Gurr	Neil Searle
	Sid Watkinson	Colin Parmenter
	Lynn Bloomfield	John Suttle
	Rex Thake	

**In attendance** Sara Sunderland  
Richard Kemp

There was one member of public present.

120. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She informed the meeting that the biggest success of the past year was the sports club which had gone from strength to strength. With over 40 members registered, at least 20 children attended each week. The main activity was samba soccer with the second hour of the session devoted to learning new skills in athletics, basketball, rounders and javelin to name but a few. Courses have also been run in the holidays which have been very well received. The sports club is run by four coaches who a few weeks ago received community achievement awards for their efforts.

The Village Hall now had regular bookings each weekday evening. Due to this success, the kitchen equipment has been updated, and also the old heavy and awkward tables and chairs, which have been replaced with lightweight tables and trolleys.

The Parish Council had again reduced the precept for the coming year. The council are always conscious that the precept has a knock-on effect on council tax for residents and were of the opinion that they wanted this to remain as static as possible.

On a negative note, a number of street lights are affected by the G39 status. These can not be repaired for health and safety reasons due to their proximity to overhead cables. Some of the poles can not be moved due to their siting within the conservation area. The estimate for work to be undertaken was £23,000 which would of course affect council tax, therefore a phased repair programme was planned.

A number of positive media stories had been written about the community over the past year and the Chairman felt that much had been done to repair the reputation of the village.

The Glemsford Gossip newsletter has been successful. It appears that parishioners like to know what is going on, rather than having to attend meetings or read the minutes.

The aim for the next year is to move the Village Hall extension project a few steps forward and talks were currently underway with the Social Club. In the meantime

the council embraced the challenges of the next year and will do all that they can to ensure that the village continues to go from strength to strength.

121. **POLICE REPORT**

During this last year 143 crimes have been reported within the parish, this compares to 135 for the same period the previous year.

122. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous annual parish meeting, held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007, having previously been circulated, were adopted and signed.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Young

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Gurr

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008, having previously been circulated, were adopted and signed.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Thake

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Parmenter

123. **PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS**

a. Glemsford United Charities

Cllr. Suttle presented the accounts for the previous year (copy attached). These were adopted and signed.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Parmenter

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Young

124. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

a. **Mr. R. Thake**

Babergh had tried to keep council tax increases within the rate of inflation.

The District Council had continued to extract efficiency savings through both new ways of working and via joint procurement initiatives.

Babergh had increased its involvement in initiatives aimed at addressing anti-social behaviour.

Recycling rates in the district continued to improve.

Babergh had made significant contributions to hitting the target of 700 new affordable homes by 2009/2010.

Be Active continued to be promoted throughout the district, with over 500 young people attending council run sports events.

Nearly 300 routine inspections of food premises had been carried out over the past year. 50 complaints about food businesses had been dealt with and nearly 40 complaints about health and safety issues.

**b. Mr. L. Young**

Babergh had expressed their views on post office closures.

Babergh had backed proposals for a single unitary council.

125. **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Kemp had received an application for locality money for the Glemsford Good Neighbour scheme and would be giving the cause £500.

The County Council had set a council tax of 3.75% for 2008-2009.

The Government announced in December that only 5 of the 9 unitary bids had met all criteria and that Suffolk would be subject to a Boundary review.

At a full council meeting, the County council put a motion through council which suggested that the county only investigate a Single Unitary solution for Suffolk.

Suffolk County Council's Administration continued with its plan to review the organisation of schools in Suffolk, moving to an all two-tier system.

County Council had agreed to take a lead in persuading both retailers and consumers that Suffolk should be free of plastic bags.

126. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A resident asked about the siting of a new litter bin near the old police station. The Clerk would speak to Joanna Hart about this and take photographs of suitable locations.

A resident reported bags of rubbish in a hedge near the old police station. The Clerk would ask the street cleaners to dispose of these.

Cllr. Searle asked if it was possible to obtain an inventory of dog and litter bins currently in the parish. The clerk would email these through.

Discussions were held about the frequency of road sweeping in the village. The Clerk would write to Malcolm firth and ask for Babergh's policy on road sweeping as the gulleys and gutters were in desperate need of a clean up.

127. **Clerks Report**

Following discussions about street lighting maintenance and G39s at the previous meeting, the clerk had made further investigations since the last meeting. Suffolk County Council were prepared to take on the contract for energy and maintenance. Although the work would still be carried out by Alfred McAlpine and EDF, the County Council would add more weight and the work would be completed in a more expedient manner. They would also take on the G39 issues.

As part of the contract there were two levels of maintenance and the Clerk had been advised that the basic maintenance would be sufficient.

The charges would be invoiced six monthly in advance and six monthly in arrears.

At present the charges for a contract with Suffolk County Council were at 6.243 per unit although this would increase during the next month. As an estimation the parish would save approximately £2-3,000 per annum by switching the contract. The parts would be obtained more cheaply via Suffolk County Council.

It may take a while to change contracts as currently Suffolk County Council have 86 parishes and districts.

Council agreed that the Clerk should go ahead and switch contracts.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Thake

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Bloomfield

The Clerk had sent a letter to EDF asking if they would be prepared to turn lights off during the summer time for essential maintenance to be undertaken. They agreed that this proposal was acceptable.

An email had been received from the police stating that it was not an offence for a caravan to be parked on the highway. As the council felt that this advice was ambiguous, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the traffic department to ascertain that this is the case, and also ask if a large amount of caravans were suddenly parked in the village, then what would the police do to rectify the situation.

22 volunteers had come forward to join the Good Neighbour Scheme and the first meeting would take place shortly.

## 128 Financial Matters

### **Account Status**

Income	3462.36
Expenditure	5431.47
Cash in hand	14189.88
Petty Cash	328.82
High Interest	34725.77
Sports Club	3407.19

### **Payments made out of Council**

BDC licence	21.00
Allianz	2497.68
Office Allowance	500.00
Petty cash	200.00
GE Money	249.78

## 129 Planning Matters

### **New Applications**

**B/08/00384/FHA/CT      10 Brices Way**

Erection of two-storey rear extension.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Searle

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Gurr

**B/08/00376/OUT/CJT Land north of 29 Fair Green**

Outline - Erection of 2 no. detached two-storey dwellings with associated garaging. Alterations to existing vehicular access.

Councillors had many concerns about the proposal. As the Brook Street development had conditions imposed regarding sewerage and the infrastructure, Council wished the same to be taken into consideration with this application.

Downs is on the **local plan** as an industrial site, and Council feel that the land for this application is and has always been used as a car park for employees. As we hope that the site will be used for industry we would not want any building to take place on the site, as it would then cause problems as there would be no car parking for future employees.

At present the site is used for residents car parking, and as Brook Street is an horrendous spot for parking, we would have grave concerns that the six to eight cars currently using the land in the evening, would then be moved onto Brook Street, which would cause terrific problems.

Agreed to recommend this application for refusal.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Searle

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Watkinson

**Applications Granted****B/07/02102/FHA/BHW 3 Holdsworth Close**

Retention of single-storey rear extension.

**B/08/00133/FHA/BHW 77 Brook Street**

Construction of a new vehicular access and area of hard-standing for parking.

**Applications Refused****B/08/00198/FHA/CJT 4 Jaques Close**

Erection of two-storey side extension and front porch.

**Any other planning matters****B/07/01448/FUL/MB Part side garden of 48 Fourth Avenue**

Erection of 2 no. semi-detached two-storey dwellings. Construction of a new vehicular access.

This application had now gone to appeal.

130 **Village Hall/Social Club**

Cllr. Parmenter stated that the Social Club had spoken to their solicitors regarding the charitable status of the Village Hall to ensure everything is done correctly. Once this has been ascertained the Clerk will be contacted to arrange a meeting. There were currently three companies looking at the Social Club site.

Cllr. Thake asked who was doing the plans for the site and reiterated that unless the plans encompassed a mirror image of the present layout, then planning might not be able to be obtained.

131 **Any other matters**

Cllr. Thake had a report on the unitary authorities emergency meeting. The clerk would copy this to councillors.

Cllr. Young stated that he had spoken to Suffolk County Council about the state of the potholes in Lower Road but advised residents that a pothole had to be 4cm deep before a claim could be filed.

Cllr. Watkinson asked if any grants were available for houses within the conservation area. The clerk and Cllr. Thake advised him to talk to Patrick Taylor at Babergh.

Concerns were again raised about the wall at the top of Skates Hill. The Clerk would write to the owner.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm**

**Next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May**

**Approved .....**

**Date .....**