

HALVERGATE PARISH ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Open Meeting held at the Village Hall on Thursday 16th May, 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present:	Charles Reader	Chairman of Parish Council
	Jessica Jennings	Clerk to Parish Council
	Carol Hannant	Parish Councillor
	Carol Simpson	Parish Councillor
	Tom Carter	Parish Councillor
	Michael Mallett	Parish Councillor
	Stuart Hannant	Parish Councillor
	Grant Nurden	District Councillor

Apologies: Robert More, Vice-Chairman of Parish Council, Brian Iles, County Councillor, Chris Aitken, Freethorpe Primary School, Helen Watts, Acle Academy, Ruth Davies, Freethorpe First Responders, PC Ian Kennedy, Police.

The Annual Open Meeting, in addition to those names listed above, was attended by 21 Parishioners. Representatives from the Playing Field Committee (Jason Brister), the Cricket Club (Steve Utting) and the Church (Nick Butcher) were amongst those who attended.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Open Meeting held on Thursday 10th May 2018 had been displayed on the village noticeboard and Website and were accepted as a true record (all in favour, none against). The Minutes were therefore signed.

Matters Arising:

As no-one, apart from the Parish Councillors, had read the Minutes, despite having been displayed on both the noticeboard and the Website and referenced on the meeting flyer, it was suggested that in future years they be taken as read.

Chairman's Report

The Parish Council Chairman, Charles Reader, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. He expressed sadness on the village's behalf for the loss of several parishioners, including Royston Mallet, Gerry Mallett, Des Sharman, Josie Edwards, Pauline Holloway and Margaret Cossey. He then went on to give thanks to the following people:

Peter & Sharon Fellowes for their continued efforts in running the Phone Box at Tunstall with the Book Swap and Information Noticeboard, as well as general care and maintenance.

Peter Hardy for making and installing the bench next to the phone box in Tunstall.

Parish Councillors for their continued support and work for the village, and extended particular thanks to Rob Hayles and Graham Cann for all their contributions whilst they were still serving on the Parish Council.

Rob & Graham had put together the Parish Plan which required a huge amount of work and dedication, and Rob had further supported the PC with his knowledge of IT.

Tom Carter was thanked for his work on the War Memorial (with Paul Pitchers) and in the Burial Ground.

Mr Reader also welcomed Stuart Hannant and Carol Simpson onto the Parish Council.

Brian Iles for his support and advice, as County Councillor, and attending so many PC meetings.

Grant Nurden for his support and advice, as District Councillor, and attending meetings and explaining various aspects of BDC.

Paul Pitchers for the work he carries out on his own land but which makes the village look lovely, including the raking and burning of the leaves from the Chestnuts which will hopefully prevent the moth disease which is sadly becoming so prevalent.

Red Lion Pub Mr Reader expressed how lucky the village is to have a proper pub and that the village needed to support it in order to keep it going.

Wickhampton Road

Mr Reader also mentioned how the Wickhampton Road has been getting narrower over the years and how, despite many protestations to them, Highways had not acknowledged this until the PC scraped back an area of encroached earth and vegetation to reveal an extra 3 feet of metalled road surface underneath. Highways made a cursory nod to this but have not done anything to address this due to a lack of money.

Speed Bumps

The Parish Council has been told by Highways that any application for speed bumps in the village would not be granted.

Branch Road

This continues to be an issue, with no money from Highways to re-shape it or restructure it, due to Traffic Management budget cuts. Exceptions to the weight limit are school buses, public transport and agricultural vehicles. The PC have started a traffic survey in the hope that it can be used in any representations to Highways and the Police.

Financial Report

The Parish Clerk, Jessica Jennings, read out the Financial Report for the tax year 2018/2019. Summary below:

Balance Brought Forward:	£13,725.08
Income:	£ 9,533.20
Expenditure:	£11,616.49
Balance Carried Forward:	£11,641.79
Adjustments:	£ 1,665.45
Projected Balance:	£ 9,976.34

Mr Brian Iles – County Councillor Repor (read by Chairman)

The Council lost a leader at the beginning of the year, the ex leader of Broadland Mr Andrew Proctor is now the new leader of the Council.

The Council is changing back to a cabinet system. There have been senior staff losses, hopefully current interviews will enable recruitment.

2010/11 and 2018/19 the government funding into Norfolk County Council has reduced by 204 million pounds. The revenue support grant will fall from 39 million to zero by 2020/21. The Council has made savings of 364million including efficiency savings of 246m during this time.

As a consequence the Council has increased the Norfolk Co Co share of Council tax by 2.99% this year.

Key budget points:

409 million pound net revenue budget.

Norfolk Council's portion of band D will be £1,362.24 from April.

Savings to be made of 31.6million in 2019/20 rising to a total of 79.4million over the next three years.

Increases from April: 6m for social services and 14.5m for looked after children.

Infrastructure: In Nov 2018 12.694m received from the government to spend on road maintenance. To date 125,000 square metres of wornout highway surface renewed and replaced with 26,600 tonnes of Asphalt.

Plans to create 'Norwich Western Link' and improve travel between the A47 and the NDR – now called Broadland Northway.

Construction is due to start in 2022.

Norfolk is ranked 4th out of 28 similar councils for performance in a National Survey.

The third river crossing at Great Yarmouth; awarded 98m out of 120m towards the cost of the project.

11m allocated to Broadband improvement. 92% of homes and businesses have speeds of 24Mb/second.

A survey into mobile phone access across the county has been commissioned.

200 sites have been highlighted as needing extra attention.

Caring for Children: A new early childhood family service has been set up to help isolated children and families with help and advice, increased support and easier access to information and help.

Some services are moving into libraries, nurseries and community centres alongside 15 new service bases.

Special School Places: 120m in special needs March 1019 and a government grant of 17m to build a new 170 place school in the county serving young people from 3 – 19 with special needs.

Plans for 500 places in 4 new schools.

Plans for specialist bases at mainstream schools.

An investment of 4.8m has been made. The first is in Great Yarmouth at the site of Alderman Swindell School. New houses for care leavers open after a 5m investment.

The first of 11 homes opened this year. Norfolk Co Co has worked with young people to make sure accommodation meets their needs. There will be 25-30 beds across 11 houses.

Adult Social Care: Life connections work directly with people to help them communicate.

Services include: Outreach, promoting volunteering, asset mapping and issues such as transport and technology.

Carers charter launched on 30th November to help people understand their rights and improve their lives. These initiatives save the public purse billions of pounds:

29m investment in housing with care.

This year NCC announced an investment of 29m to deliver 3000 extra homes for older people over the next 10 years.

Requirements are for 2842 homes by 2028.

Mr Grant Nurden – District Councillor Report

Grant read out his report which highlighted some of the changes at Broadland District Council, especially the collaborative work with South Norfolk District Council. Both Councils will retain their autonomy and make decisions in the best interests of their residents. The biggest change has been the establishment of a single officer team working across both authorities to deliver services.

For the 11th year running, BDC has collected the most Council tax, with 99% of the total amount due collected by the end of March 2018, which means that more services can be protected and Council tax increases can be kept as low as possible, with everyone being treated fairly.

With regards to Recycling, BDC is leading the Norfolk league table, mainly thanks to continued investment in technology and dedication by residents. Broadland recycles 48.8% of its waste. BDC hopes to become 'plastic free' over the next few years eg by getting rid of single use plastic dispensing cups.

Broadland is also tackling fuel poverty and has bid for more than £3million in funding to be used over the next 2 years to help households – The Norfolk Warm Homes Fund.

Safeguarding policies and training for Licensed Private Vehicle drivers have been updated and many drivers received Safeguarding training.

Broadland is the best area in Norfolk for food safety.

Broadland runs a 'Choices' programme to help those who have been out of work for a longer period the chance to improve their employment chances by boosting confidence and learning new skills.

Broadland also runs a handy-person service to help with most small jobs in the home and is aimed at residents over the age of 65 with low cost repairs in home and garden.

Questions:

Mrs A Barrett expressed her dismay about the charges for emptying the bins at the Playing Field, which ranges from £40 to £130 per bin. Along with the charge for emptying the green bin (£200 p.a.) it is costing the Playing Field approx. £500p.a. to recycle and, as a result of the charges, will no longer recycle. They are considering having a bottle bank instead from which the Playing Field Association will benefit from. Grant was in agreement with her concerns and will follow it up. Mr S. Hannant asked if BDC makes money from the brown bins and if the compost was sold on. Grant replied that the contents of the brown bins are taken, sorted out and made into something but he wasn't aware of BDC making any money from them. He also said that contents from the green bins don't go to landfill but to the incinerator, after being sorted.

Townlands Trust Report

An annual report had been sent in and included the following:

The bank balance for TT was £3,016.06, with £1,700 income and £991.40 expenditure over the year. The income was from rent for the marshes and the expenditure was made up from Clerical work, Internal Drainage and Village Hall heaters.

Village Hall Report

The Village Hall Committee continue to run the Village Hall on behalf of the Parish Council for the village and hold regular events, including monthly Bingo, a fortnightly coffee morning, weekly yoga and various private parties and bands. The committee continues to work hard to provide these events and welcomes everyone to their events.

Playing Field Report

Jason Brister, Chairman of the Playing Field Association, presented the report for the Playing Field.

He reported that, even with spiralling overhead costs and a heavy expenditure, they had made a profit of £1,647 and have a healthy bank balance. For a small Association within a small village, this is a big achievement and is due to the hard work of the Committee and volunteers and, of course, to the support received in fundraising activities held throughout the year. Their main aim is to provide first class Playing Field facilities but to also remain viable which is only possible because of the Committee and volunteers who take great pride in their work.

They have held a number of very well attended functions, including live music nights, prize Bingo's, Halloween Night and the very well attended Christmas Extravaganza, as well as private functions for both adults and children.

Halvergate Cricket Club continues to be based at the Playing Field and whose members are mostly village connected. On alternate Saturdays, Vauxhall Mallards still hire the ground for their EAPL fixtures which bring in valuable revenue. The Darts team meet on Tuesday evenings and play in Division 11 of the Winter Wherry League.

The main expenditure this year was a ride-on Mower at a cost of £1,500, which is used when the ground is wet and unsuitable for other equipment. There is a possibility that the pavilion floor may need to be replaced as it has become worn with much usage over the years.

The Committee is very dedicated but any help is always welcome. The Treasurer is looking to retire and a replacement is very much sought after. If anyone can help in any way, please contact the Committee.

Mr C. Reader thanked Mr Brister and welcomed questions.

Church Report

Nick Butcher, Church Warden, reported that the assistant priest, Lorna Allies, had moved away from Reedham and that the post has been advertised but, as yet, there had been no applicants. The Church Wardens have taken a number of services so things are continuing as normal. The Remembrance Day service and the Christmas Carol service were both extremely successful this year. Mr Butcher explained how the Church worships from the Traditional Book of Common Prayer and is very proud of that fact.

The Church has a good Benefice choir and some good bell ringers. There is an opportunity for new bell ringers and anyone who is interested would be most welcome. There are 6

bells, some of which are a few hundred years old, and they don't want them to be silent. The Church is very grateful to the Parish Council for the financial support offered in cutting the grass at both Halvergate and Tunstall churches and which would be beyond the financial resources of the Parochial Church Council.

Tunstall is a redundant church but its graveyard is under the jurisdiction of Halvergate. It is run under the auspices of a Trust (separate from the Diocese). Trustees are entitled to hold special services such as Easter Saturday Services and Lammas, the start of the Harvest.

It is not easy to keep the church building in Halvergate in good upkeep as it is so expensive. The church is open at all times and all are welcome to come in. There are a lot of books which are for sale very cheaply. Donations of books are welcome.

Freethorpe School Report

In the absence of a representative of the school being available, Mr Reader read out the report:

Freethorpe school continues to have a creative and engaging curriculum and is proud to continue to have a range of extra-curricular activities on offer for all pupils. They offer an out-of-school care service from 7.30am until the start of the school day and again from 3.30pm until 5.30pm.

The school currently has six classes from Year R to Year 6 and a Nursery. The Nursery has its own area for outdoor learning. Robbie Houghton and Juliette Branch remain the Deputy Head-teachers for the school and recently had an Ofsted visit. They are now part of the Together Federation and work in federation with Cantley Primary School and Horning Primary School and have a federated governing body.

It continues to develop their outdoor learning environment with the support of the Tree Warden and now has a member of staff trained in Level 1 Forest Schools and has developed a sensory garden along the side of the playground. A wonderful garden has been developed by Andrea Rowlands and John Fleetwood where children have the opportunity to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

Cluster events remain important in the school diary. The Speech Festival was again held at Southwood Hall and the Song and Dance Festival will be held at the Open Venue, Norwich. The school participates in a large number of sports events, such as athletics events and multi-skills.

The school has worked in partnership with English Heritage and has also completed a creative writing project with The Flying Shop of Imagination. They are currently taking part in a Broads and Marshes project, which has also involved the use of an environment camera being placed in the environment area. Some children will have their work displayed in Norwich as part of The Norfolk and Norwich Festival and the school will also be open for the general public to see art work produced as part of Open Studios.

The *Friends of Freethorpe* continues to be extremely active within the school community and helps to raise funds which then benefit the whole school community. They are currently planning to purchase new outdoor seating for pupils to use. The Friends of Freethorpe have held a Christmas fair, along with an Easter fair. During this academic year they have also had a Freethorpe Bake Off competition giving parents, children and staff the opportunity to bake cakes and enter them to be judged!

The school would like to express its thanks for all the continued village and community support. The school continues to thrive as a result of the support of the community and it very much enjoys working with members of the local community throughout the academic year.

Acle Academy Report

In the absence of a representative of Acle Academy, due to it being an incredibly busy time of year for them, with GCSE's in full flow, Mr C. Reader read out the report sent in by the headmistress, Mrs Helen Watts.

The school is very pleased with the progress it continues to make academically and it also continues to support local charities, having recently held 'Acle's Got Talent' to raise money for EACH and a student, Harry Petherick shaved his hair to raise over £500 for a local young boy who is suffering from a rare form of cancer. They are very proud of the kindness and generosity shown by students to support others.

The prefect system has been changed and instead have created 'Service Areas'. The Service areas work in Community, Student Study Support, Well Being, Teaching and Learning, Enrichment and Charity. Junior and Senior prefects run a range of projects and initiatives in these areas throughout the year.

Four students who left in 2016 were accepted into Cambridge and Oxford universities for September 2019. The school runs an Aspirations project for Year 11 students which includes visits to Cambridge University- so they are very pleased that these students have been accepted.

The school works closely with the UEA and has just won a small grant to work with twenty boys in Year 10 to raise their aspirations and achievement- this project will involve developing further opportunities to work with employers and industry. Twenty students have also been selected to work with the 'Brilliant Club' at the UEA which is a partnership programme to raise aspirations and achievement for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

There has been an increase in school numbers for the next year rising to 110 (60 in year 7 in 2016)

The school is taking part in the Norfolk Open Studios exhibition and has a variety of students' work on display on the 8th and 9th June. The school has recently been visited by the RAF who ran a STEM workshop for Year 7 and 8 and the Formula One in Schools Team made the National Finals and were placed 8th- a fantastic achievement for our students. The school has been working very closely with North Walsham Rugby team who have been coaching a number of teams across all year groups. The school also held the recent school production of Aladdin which was a great success.

They have been working hard to prepare students for the upcoming exams which are in full swing and hope for another set of strong results to build on the great success had over the past three years.

The School has a Facebook page which is updated daily with news and celebrations.

Cricket Club Report

Mr Stuart Hannant presented the Cricket Club report. Unfortunately, due to an administrative error, the report is no longer available for inclusion in these Minutes.

Police Report

In the absence of any Police representative being available, the Chairman read out the report, spanning 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

Over the last year, there have been changes in Norfolk Police. Sadly, the PCSO role was removed which meant the Acle area lost 3 officers. To allow for this, Acle Station now has 2 Beat Managers covering the area – Ian Kennedy and Stephen Clarke. There is also a dedicated Sargent, Angie Youd, for the Beat Managers across the Broadland area which allows Beat Managers to be deployed to areas that require extra attention.

In Halvergate, there were 13 crimes reported for the above period and included the following:

14/4/18	Theft of Heating Oil – Carr Close
22/4/18	Assault without injury – domestic related
15/5/18	Theft of Lambs – Branch Road
18/6/18	Assault – domestic related
19/6/18	Assault on Police – related to above crime
1/10/18	Assault – domestic related
5/10/18	Public Order – Church Road
10/10/18	Public Order – Church Road (related to above crime)
14/12/18	Malicious Communications – Squires Road
13/1/19	Theft of Garden Furniture – The Street
18/2/19	Shed Break – Mill Road
1/3/19	Theft of Heating Oil – The Street

The report reminded parishioners that if they have any concerns or queries to contact PC Ian Kennedy or a member of the Acle Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Police can be followed on Facebook and Twitter.

Freethorpe First Responders Report

As no-one from the Freethorpe First Responders could attend, the Chairman read out their report.

Ruth Davies is the First Responder Coordinator and can be contacted at free.resp@gmail.com

There are 7 Community First Responders who have been out to various people from young toddlers to the elderly, with high temperatures, breathing issues and cardiac arrests which, in most cases, have had positive outcomes, totalling 87 call outs for the year, 18 more than the previous year. Halvergate had 4 call outs.

The defibrillator cabinets are checked once a month to make sure everything is in working order and the consumables are in date. The Webnos website is then updated. The other defibrillators are situated at:

Cantley Village Hall, Beighton Village Hall, Reedham Village Hall, Reedham Riverside, Freethorpe Pavilion on the playing field, Moutlon Garden Centre.

Freethorpe First Responders would not have been able to continue their volunteer work without the support of the general public. They have received donations through their box in Freethorpe Village Shop, a couple in Cantley who kindly sell various bits and pieces and they have also received money in lieu of flowers when a parishioner passed away.

They continue to arrange Junior First Aid training in two of the local schools for Year 6 children. The best young First Aiders receives a shield in memory of Liam Smith who tragically died at an early age whilst a pupil at Reedham School. New volunteers are being sought for the local villages so if you are interested, please contact Ruth by e-mail on free.resp@gmail.com

Parishioners Forum

Mr C. Reader opened the meeting to Parishioners for their comments:

Concerns about the Old Post Office outbuilding gable end which is in very bad disrepair were raised as it poses a potential danger if it collapses. The Clerk responded that she has already been in contact with Broadland District Council about this several times, highlighting the concerns of the Parish Council about it. BDC are trying to contact the owner and have also contacted CNC Building Control who also agree that it needs to be dealt with. The suggestions are that the current height of the fencing be increased or the gable end taken down. If the owner doesn't respond, CNC have the power for direct action.

The Clerk also informed the meeting that she had been in contact with BDC about the Mill too. BDC have contacted the owner who has said he would be starting work in the Spring and would clip the scaffold boards, although there is no sign of this as yet.

A Parishioner said that he thought the Mill's condition, and the scaffold around it, was a total disgrace and the owner had had it for 30 years. He hopes the Parish Council keeps an eye on it.

A question was raised in relation to the possible proposed planning application on Marsh Road for houses on the field between Squires Road and Chapel Road.

Charles Reader responded that if a proper planning application was received, then the Parish Council would arrange to hold a Village Meeting to discuss it.

Concerns were also raised regarding Wickhampton Road and its width, which has continued to get narrower over the years. Several parishioners spoke of near-misses, as pedestrians. It was said that on Cricket days at the Playing field it is very bad and that there is a huge increase in traffic on the road. Another comment was that Marsh Road is like a race track, with cars going well over the speed limit. Halvergate has become a rat-run.

Concerns over people doing the school run and speeding along Mill Road, which poses a danger to any children/pedestrians outside the houses on that road were also raised. It was asked if another SAM2 pole could go on Mill Road.

Grant Nurden (District Councillor) mentioned that Beighton operates a Community Speedwatch and where speed is excessive, the Police will go round to see the driver.

As there were no further comments or questions, Mr C. Reader thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm. He reminded people that they were welcome to stay for a glass of wine and some nibbles straight after the meeting.

Signed: _____ Charles Reader, Chairman

Signed: _____ Jessica Jennings, Clerk to Parish Council

DRAFT