

LONGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 20th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Sue Douglas (Chairman)
Cllr Phil Collins (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Anne Kerry
Cllr Margaret Dye
Cllr Roddy McLeod
District Councillor Robert Richmond
Four members of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk to the Council)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Donna McLeod, District Cllr Richard Duffield and County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2017 were agreed as correct and were duly signed by the Chairman.

To receive reports from:

3. The Parish Council Chairman

The report from the Chairman is attached at annex one.

A question was raised regarding the location of Clay-Pit and the flora and fauna within, the Chairman was able to provide this information.

4. District & County Councillors

The reports from the District and County Councillors are attached at annex two and three. The Chairman presented the report from the County Councillor.

Questions were asked regarding the charges now in place at recycling centres and concerns raised regarding the further increases in fly-tipping, with litter on the increase too.

Concerns were also raised regarding the cancellation of the local bus service, which is heavily relied upon in the village. D/Cllr Richmond sympathised with those concerns and suggested consultation with another parish clerk, who is currently making representations on behalf of other local parishes.

5. Village Hall Committee

The report from the Village Hall Committee, which was presented by the Vice-Chairman, is attached at annex four.

In answer to a question regarding costs, Cllr Collins confirmed that approx. £120,000 would be required for the conversion of the old school house.

6. St Andrews & St Peters Church

The report from the Church, which was presented by the Chairman, is attached at annex five.

7. To discuss Parish Council forward-planning

The Parish Council are hoping to make further improvements at the Clay-Pit, which will maintenance and the installation of an information notice board.

Funding has been received from Breckland Council and a springer ride for small tots is to be purchased and installed in the playing field.

A member of the public requested that a defibrillator be acquired for the village and enquired about the funds previously donated towards this project. The Parish Council agreed to pursue the project and a request is to be sent to the White Horse PH regarding the siting of the unit.

8. To receive a report on the Parish Council's financial situation

No report was available as the Clerk is new in post, however, a report will be available at the Parish Council AGM being held in May.

9. To discuss any Highways issues

Concerns were raised regarding the number of potholes, both in the village and on the surrounding roads. The Chairman and Clerk will continue to press Highways Department for repairs.

10. Open Forum

There were no issues raised. A member of the public thanked the parish council for their hard work which was very much appreciated.

11. To note the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 13th May 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Longham Annual Parish Meeting**Friday 20th April 2018****Chairmanship Report 2018**

Welcome it's lovely to see you here; there has been quite a lot of planning activity in the village this year. People have been updating, extending and renovating various properties throughout the village, it's very interesting to see the changes.

You may have noticed the major restructure happening at the Cats Protection site, with new pens and new office and treatment block and better siting for car parking. Breckland took note of the Parish Councils comments about large delivery lorries not being able to turn into the Hoe Road entrance and allowed the gateway off the Litcham Road, to be re-opened. This has made things much better for the residents living near the site, not having to cope with lorries running across their lawns and blocking their gateways.

Several new people have moved into the village and it is hoped that they will join in village life, but sadly two villagers who have lived most of their lives in the village have had to go into care homes, due to failing health. Sheila Purple and June Symonds have been an important part of the village in their lifetimes, serving on the Parish Council, the Village Hall committee, and helping with the local football team, we miss seeing them around the village.

The Parish Council in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee have purchased another piece of play equipment which has been installed on the playing field. The magnificent twin tower climbing frame with a slide, fire mans pole, scramble net and climbing wall is proving very popular. It's great to see the children having fun using the equipment as well as the older generation making use of the adult fitness equipment. Without your help, by adding your signatures to the play equipment survey, we would not have gotten the grants that have allowed us to go ahead with this project, so thank you very much for supporting us.

The Parish Council has been involved in another project in the village this last year, the wildlife site the Clays Pits in Hoe Road. With the help of the Norfolk Conservation Volunteers the site has been surveyed for the different types of flora, it was amazing just how many different species of plants there are on the site, some of which are quite rare. The Volunteers cleared some of the rotting vegetation away to open up the site, installed steps in the step bank to enable people to climb down into the site. The ponds which re-fill when it rains were becoming overgrown and blocked with fallen leaves, were cleared out, to enable a better breeding ground for the great crested newts. We were extremely lucky that the Volunteers had some grant money which allowed them to do 4 sessions at the Clay Pits without it costing the Parish Council any money. The group leader was very enthusiastic about the site, he said that there is an abundance and rich diversity of flora and fauna and small mammals, because of its unspoilt nature, however it does need to be maintained to keep the site vibrant. The Parish Council would like to install an information board at the top of the site and also continue with the maintenance, they have allowed £500 in this year's precept for this purpose and are going to apply for a match funding grant from Breckland Council.

Lastly I would like to thank our County and District Councillors for their support and guidance over the last year and also my fellow Parish Councillors for all they do for the Village.

Sue Douglas
Chairman

**LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FRIDAY 20TH APRIL 2018.
WARD MEMBER REPORT FROM LINCOLN MEMBER, ROBERT RICHMOND**

As a district councillor for the Lincoln Ward, my duties include serving on Breckland's Overview and Scrutiny Commission, which holds the council to account and call in certain bodies such as the Police, Environment Agency, Internal drainage Board, the County Council over the delivery of Broadband and Highway maintenance, indeed, anything from the above which may be causing concern in the Breckland District.

In the Lincoln Ward, I have 6 villages that I serve and attend the Parish meetings on a regular basis, one of which as Ward Member is Longham.

The Dereham Safer Neighbourhood Area Partnership (SNAP) meets every two months with the Police in Attendance. This is where local residents can bring forward their everyday concerns of Anti-Social Behaviour, Speeding, Drug Abuse. I have to say, working together with the Police can usually resolve both cases.

Health is a concern to everyone, I attend the Patient Participation Group meetings which are held at Hoe Church Meeting Room.

Regarding Planning – Capita is the Council's chosen provider and are contracted to deliver the planning service. This will always be a contentious subject with individual officers meant to deal with most applications. The Parish Council can ask for a 'call in to planning committee' request by the local ward councillor, and this is then judged by the planning committee chairman having the final say if this is to happen.

Breckland Council Tax Precept – The Revenue Support Grant which Central Government has provided to councils will gradually be phased out by 2021. Brecklands Council Tax is still very low because of the commercial property portfolio, which provides enough money to deliver approximately half what the council tax would otherwise raise, making a Band D House £4.95 per year more expensive.

Local Plan – This is ongoing with a planned programme of hearings in public before a planning inspector is soon to start. The Local Plan will be in place until 2036. Service Centre Villages will carry the most Housing Allocations. At the present date Breckland District Council does not have a 5 year land supply for housing.

Community Car Scheme – Probably the most important service in rural areas for those who are in need with health matters, where cost is equally shared by the Parish Council and Breckland Council and the remainder by the passenger. Thank you to all who provide this dedicated service.

Robert Richmond
Breckland District Councillor
Lincoln Ward

LONGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

FRIDAY 20TH APRIL 2018

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch - Report 2017-2018

Finance: The County Councils finances continue to be subjected to pressure. The Rate Support Grant (RSG) is gradually being withdrawn so that it will be zero by financial year 20/21. This means we will lose around £30m in income in 2018/19. These financial changes plus growing demand for costly care services mean that we can't continue to do things the way they have been done before. We need to use our resources in a way that will help our communities to help themselves and to target our greatest support on those with the greatest need.

In setting this year's Council Tax the Council has looked carefully at not just 2018/19 financial year but all the years up to 2020/21 to ensure any savings are achievable and that a balanced budget is achieved every year. For 2018/19 we have raised Council Tax by 5.99%, 3% is for the support of Adult Social care and 2.99% is for general Council Tax. We understand that a 3% increase for Adult Social Care will not be allowed next year and the previous cap of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax will return and our future budget calculations are based on this. The net revenue budget for 2018/19 is £388.8m.

Adult Social Care: Over 23% of Norfolk's population is aged over 65 and this section of the population is growing faster than others. We currently spend around £1m every day caring for vulnerable adults. This amount represents 27% of Norfolk's budget. We have increased the budget by £40m for 2018/19 much of which is linked to the use of the Improved Better Care Fund which is providing an opportunity to invest in both new ways of working and in preventative services that should help the care system deliver improved services and minimise increased demand.

Childrens services: The Council has allocated an extra £18.5m to support the Childrens Services budget. This will be used to support budget pressures due to the increased number of Looked After Children (LAC), leaving care costs and funding work to prevent the break up of family units by removing children into care.

An OFSTED inspection was carried out early in the new year focusing on the adoption service, LAC and early help support for children and families. These services were considered "inadequate" in 2015. The adoption service was found to be "outstanding" and no services were labelled "inadequate" and Childrens Services will no longer be subject to special measures and regular inspection. There is still some work to do to bring the service to an overall "good" rating. However, OFSTED felt there was now culture within the organisation which can achieve a "good" rating in short order.

Highways: This winter has been particularly wet and we have had period of very cold weather and snow. This has led to damage to the highway in the form of potholes and localised flooding issues. Only temporary repairs to potholes are

carried out in wet and cold weather using traditional methods. However, a new machine (I call it the "elephant") is being used for the first time which allows permanent repairs to be carried out. Solving flooding issues can be problematic, although a section of highway may be flooded it is not always possible for NCC to alleviate the problem as the cause is a problem on adjacent land.

The Parish Partnership Scheme has been particularly successful for parishes within my Division this year, 8 schemes submitted by parishes have been awarded 50% funding to the tune of £30,207.50.

The extra 1% increase in Council Tax has allowed proposed cuts in non-safety critical maintenance (£220k) and a reduction in gritting routes (£110k) to be reversed.

Each member was allocated £6k to fund further highway improvements in their Division. This year I have allocated this money to those parishes within my Division that do not raise a precept and have funded construction of passing places, highway resurfacing and a small trod. There will be another allocation of £6k in 2018/19.

County Infrastructure: The Council has delivered the Northern Distributor Road (NDR). The NDR has the potential to deliver £1bn pf economic benefits to Norfolk. For Norwich, Broadland and north Norfolk the NDR will unlock new business sites and improve access to existing industrial and commercial premises and also make some of the most attractive parts of Norfolk more accessible to tourists.

The Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing has received government support in the shape of a £98m investment. When completed the new bridge will allow easier access to the Gt Yarmouth as a centre for offshore renewable energy and as a holiday destination that hosts one third of all tourists staying in Norfolk & Suffolk. Gt Yarmouth would be more attractive to inward investment and should attract up to 3000 new jobs.

The Council have prioritised the Western Link, a new road which will join the NDR at the Fakenham Road to the A47 at Easton. This is especially important as it will complete an outer "ring road" around Norwich and link to the A47 which will be dualled between Tuddenham and Easton starting in 2019/20.

Committees: Two new committees have been formed.

The Business and Property Committee has responsibility for the Councils property portfolio, the County Farm estate and the economic development of Norfolk. The property portfolio is to be made more commercial so that it generates income, to this end a property development company, Repton Development, has been formed.

The Digital Innovation and Efficiency has responsibility for the Better Broadband for Norfolk contract and for encouraging mobile phone companies to improve their networks. The committee also scrutinises the purchase and installation of new hardware and software used to improve the Council services.

Me: Since re-elected in May 2017 I have continued to support the 18 parish councils within my Division with as regular attendance as possible at their meetings.

At the Council, as well as attending full Council meetings I sit on the Communities Committee as Vice Chairman with special responsibilities for Norfolk Fire and

Rescue Service (NRFS) and Public Health, I am Chairman of the Standards Committee and sit on the Business and Property Committee and the Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee. I represent NCC on a number of outside bodies: Breckland Area Museums Committee, the Local Government Association Fire Service Commission, the Norfolk Museums Development Trust, the A47 Alliance and the Friends of Gressenhall Committee. I also attend numerous officer briefings in relation to my committee work and various one off events relating to my NRFS and Public Health responsibilities. I also attend training seminars to keep abreast of local and national subjects.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

County Councillor

April 2018.

LONGHAM VILLAGE HALL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 20TH APRIL 2018

Through 2017, into 2018 the Village Hall Committee have managed to engage additional hirers for the hall with some success. As far as I am aware the hall continues to be utilised on at least four days a week. This is essential to continue to fund the hall facility moving forward.

With regards to the house conversion project, the hall committee are continuing to actively pursue different ideas on how to obtain the necessary funding to convert the old school house into a cottage. I still believe this project is the best way forward to help sustain the hall for the villagers and other regular users into the future.

Clearly if the outcome to the house conversion project is successful, we should start to turn the corner and cement the future of the hall for the use of the village for many years to come.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the members of the committee and volunteers for their support and hard work in keeping this village hall going in what has continued to prove to be very trying circumstances financially.

Phil Collins
Chairman
Longham Village Hall

Longham Annual Parish Meeting

Friday 20th April 2018

Report from the Church

This year has seen the completion of the work on the tower, the money for this work was raised from grants and fund raising events in the village. I would like to thank everyone who has supported us at the fund raising events, we have had events such as the churches open weekend, the stall at the Christmas fair in the hall, the Christmas wreath display, the monthly draw, the churches bike ride, to name a few. They take a lot of work to organise so we are always grateful for any support we are given, why not come and have a look round the church at the next event, we love to welcome people to our little church and show them around and there's usually tea and cake.

Of course a lot of people in the village benefit from faster broadband due to the WiSpire aerial on the church tower, hopefully people will see this as the church doing its bit for the Village.

The upkeep of the church yard is a major expense and although people pay for the burial of their loved ones they don't pay anything towards the upkeep of the churchyard, thereafter. The members of the PCC are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for the donation they give towards the grass cutting, without I know the grass would not be cut very often.

The PCC are aware that not many people go to church these days, but feel it would be a shame if the church was to close, not only is a place of worship but it is a beautiful listed building. The PCC work hard to raise the money to keep it open and with our new Vicar Julia Hemp and the ministry team we are trying to come up with new ways to make the church relevant to people today.