

Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting of the parishes of Bramfield and Thorington held in the Village Hall, Bramfield on Monday, March 9th 2020 at 7-30pm.

Present: Cllr A. Thomas (Chairman), Cllr A. Rozkalns (Vice Chairman), Cllr M. Bond, Cllr. D. Hughes; Cllr. A. Niven, Cllr W. Shoote, County Cllr. R. Smith; six parishioners and Paul Widdowson (Clerk):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. J. Keys, Cllr. S. Keys and District Councillor N. Brooks.

2) Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on March 11th 2019:

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, March 11th 2019 were read, confirmed and signed.

Proposer: Cllr. W. Shoote: Seconder: Cllr. A. Rozkalns:

3) The Parish Council – A report from Cllr. Anne Thomas:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the attached report on the activities of Parish Council over the last twelve months.

There were no questions.

4) East Suffolk District Council – A report from District Councillor Norman Brooks:

There was no report from District Cllr. N. Brooks.

5) Suffolk County Council – A report from County Councillor Richard Smith:

County Cllr. R. Smith reported that 43% of the Blything population live in Saxmundham. He also noted that Saxmundham, Wilby and Bramfield and Thorington Parish Councils all meet in the second week of April, he could only get to a meeting once every three months.

County Cllr. R. Smith said that the County Council Boundary Review was currently taking place and there would only be 70 Councillors after the next County Elections in 2021 instead of 75. He said that he was not sure if he would be standing again and Blything may no longer be in existence by then anyway. Nevertheless, he said that he would represent Bramfield and Thorington to the best of his ability and knew about the link the area had to Halesworth.

County Cllr. R. Smith reported that he liked to lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday and last November he had laid one in Bramfield. He said that he was very supportive of the speeding changes in Bramfield and was very aware of the flooding issues in the village. He said that there were 700 issues similar to this in Suffolk and he was looking to get the culvert cleaned out soon.

County Cllr. R. Smith said that from April 6th East Suffolk Council was taking over parking enforcement and concluded that the current coronavirus issue may lead to some meetings being cancelled.

A parishioner asked if the Boundary Commission take into consideration local attachments as they believed that they had councillors who had nothing to do with Halesworth. County Cllr. R. Smith said that numbers took precedence in determining divisions not local aspects.

Cllr. W. Shoote said that he believed that East Suffolk council was looking at having half an hour free parking at all its car parks across the council area.

6) Speedwatch – Cllr. A. Niven:

Cllr. A. Niven reported that speedwatch was continuing to go out twice a week and the Sign Indicator Device (SID) was continuing to be moved around Bramfield. He said that traffic levels were rising fast. He said that last year, the daily volume of traffic was 2100 whereas now it was 2800 of which 85% travel through Bramfield at over the speed limit. Finally, Cllr. A. Niven thanked all the Parish Councillors for their support.

7) Pre-School ‘Stepping Stones’:

Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that he had no report except to say that school numbers low in number currently but new pupils were coming to the Pre-School in September.

8) Neale and Archer Charities:

It was noted that the report is attached to these minutes.

It was reported that with £426-17 being added to the Education Fund and £616-27 to the Senior Fund, the total income was £1042-44. With £94-49 spent on education and £270 on Seniors, the total costs have been £364-49. It was reported that as at 31st December 2019, the Education Fund now had a total of £14 118-54 whilst the Senior Fund had £20 4449-87 and £11 971-47 was in the Bank Account. It was expected that more would be spent in 2020 on education with the purchase of electronic items.

9) Bramfield Village Hall:

Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that his report is attached to these minutes.

Cllr. A. Rozkalns reported that 2019 had been a quiet year. He thanked all those who used the hall and to Aubrey for all he does for the hall. He said that bookings were the same as in 2018 but there were some large projects ongoing or on the horizon for the Hall. Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that a large TV had been bought and that Wi-Fi needed to be fitted to the centre.

Any questions/comments/matters of interest.

A parishioner said that around 20 volunteers had very successfully gone around Bramfield leaf picking and clearing rubbish. It was noted that planting was expanding across Bramfield and that there had been flooding on Holly Tree Farm. Culverts had been cleaned out. Cllr. A. Thomas said that perhaps there needs to be a thorough inspection of the Parishes.

The Meeting ended at 8-41pm.