

Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting of the parishes of Bramfield and Thorington held in the Village Hall, Bramfield on Monday, March 14th 2022 at 7-45pm.

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

1) Apologies:

Cllr A. Rozkalns (Vice Chairman) and District Councillor N. Brooks.

2) Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on May 4th 2021:

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on May 4th 2021 were confirmed and signed.

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.

A parishioner asked about the Local Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Development Plan. Cllr. A. Thomas said that East Suffolk Council had already designated the Local Development Plan Boundary and the Parish Council had not opposed it. It was found that the boundary had changed between the Draft Plan and the Final Plan. County Cllr. R. Smith noted that if the Parish Council had their own Development Plan then they could have 25% of the Cil Money instead of 15% but for the Parish Council to do this was a very long process with East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and a local referendum all having to approve it.

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 noted that his Electoral Division had twelve Parish Councils, one Town Council and on the second Monday of the month, Walberswick, Bramfield and Thorington and Saxmundham Town Council all met meaning that he could not visit all their meetings as much as he would like to.

County Cllr. R. Smith reported that last May the Conservatives won fifty-five of the seventy-five seats on Suffolk County Council (SCC) with the Greens, Liberal Democrats and Independents combining as one opposition group and the Labour Party sitting as a third opposition.

County Cllr. R. Smith said that Suffolk County Council (SCC) had played a large part in sourcing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Care Homes. He said that Covid had hit people with different severity and SCC had had to work very differently. He said that lots of people had found they liked working from home and

many staff were only returning to working in the office for two or three days a week with the other days working from home. Cllr. R. Smith said that he always insists on face-to-face meetings.

County Cllr. R. Smith reported that the Suffolk County Council (SCC) Budget had a small underspend. He said that SCC Total Spending was currently £625m and the Council Tax increase had been 2.99%. He said that SCC was gradually getting back to normal after the pandemic. County Cllr. R. Smith reported that SCC had a contract with the Russian gas supplier Gazprom. He said that with the conflict in the Ukraine, SCC felt that it was untenable to continue the contract so costing £1m, the contract had been cancelled. County Cllr. R. Smith also noted that the Suffolk Pension Fund had £4m in Russian Investments out of a total of £3billion and they were currently being sold and written off as valueless.

There were no questions.

6) Speedwatch – Cllr. A. Niven:

Cllr. A. Niven's written report is attached.

Cllr. A. Niven reported that Suffolk County Council had bought ten Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras which the Police are operating and Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council can bid for one of the cameras to be in the two parishes for a week.

7) Neale and Archer Charities:

There was no report. Cllr. M. Bond explained that there was a new Chairperson.

8) Bramfield Village Hall:

Cllr. M. Bond reported that a new kitchen had been fitted. He said that two Bowls Clubs and a Lunch Club now had bookings once a month at the village Hall. Cllr. M. Bond said that the Bridge Club also met at the Hall each Friday and the No. 67 Dance Group rehearse there too. He said that the Bingo had ended at the Village Hall but there were some private hires as well.

Cllr. M. Bond said that a new website was being created and Wi-Fi was being installed once it had been agreed where to have a contract. A parishioner asked how the Village Hall could be hired in terms of where and who to see. Cllr. M. Bond answered the question.

Any questions/comments/matters of interest.

There were no questions, comments or matters of interest.

The Meeting ended at 8-27pm.