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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Emneth Parish Council held at on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in Emneth Central Hall, Emneth at 7.00pm.

In attendance: Cllr R. Waterfield (in the Chair)

Cllrs: - Mr S Curtis, Mr A. Green, Mrs O. Graham, Mr N Terrington, Mr R.Towler,  
Mr M. White & Mr M Wiles.

Parish Clerk:

Mrs M. Meyrick

County & Borough Councillor:

Cllr H. Humphrey

Public: 11

### **1. Apologies & Reasons for Absence**

1.1. Cllr Croft.

1.2. PCSO Millburn.

1.3. Cllr Howard.

### **2. Minutes**

2.1. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were not available due to the turn round of Clerks. This will be addressed as soon as possible.

### **3. Welcome & Address by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

3.1. The parish council continue with its commitment to the play area by financing the grounds maintenance. There has been a recent problem of 3 families of travellers that encamped on the playing field and stayed for around 4 weeks. The parish council obtained an interim possession order for them to vacate the land. The council were in the process of applying for the next stage which would have meant court action but the travellers left the day before the deadline. It cost parishioners £750 to clear the site.

3.2. Elections will be taking place on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. Elections now have to be paid by the parish council in the following financial year. There is concern that this would deter people from standing for election.

3.3. The council are planning on marking the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 in some way.

3.4. The parish council supports the Fenland Citizen's Advice Bureau who hold sessions in the village and is well attended.

3.5. A survey was carried out last autumn to establish if the footpath could be Hungate Road could be extended but as of yet no response has been received.

### **4. Presentation of Audited Accounts for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.**

4.1. The Clerk reported that there was nothing of concern highlighted from the External Auditors Mazars for the financial year. The Clerk highlighted a number of areas of expenditure which included: - Cemetery & Churchyard Maintenance £5950, Footway lighting £3486, Grants £1327, Playing Field Maintenance £8683, Litter picking & waste removal £2642, general administration which includes salaries £7130.

### **5. Reports from Local Groups, Clubs & Organisations.**

5.1. Mrs Clark – Emneth Nursery School.

The head teacher has been working at the nursery school for 20 years. There has been a large increase of children with special educational needs such as speech, language and communication. The ICAN charity specialises in these types of children. Due to an accreditation that was carried out by 2 inspectors over 2 days at the end of November resulted in obtaining 100% in every category. They then

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went straight into an Ofsted inspection for the children's centre which is carried out every 18 months; they received Good from the HM inspector. The inspector met and spoke with 25 parents and 23 outside agencies that deal with the school. There was a staff pantomime in February and one recently which raised over £500. They held a host of activities for Red Nose Day and raised £1555. The children have had 6 chicks hatch that were incubated, they have had a visit from a theatre company, revamped the outside space. Next term they are organising a celebration quilt made out of recycled materials for the Royal Wedding. Mrs Clark offered an open invitation for any councillor to come and read to the children if they wish. It was reported that the Children's Centre is likely to close as Norfolk County Council are looking to re-cluster the children's centres. They are being amalgamated with others in the area as a cost cutting drive. There is a consultation on the Norfolk County Council's website asking for the public's views. The nursery school will continue.

### 5.2. Cllr Green – Youth Centre

This was run in conjunction with Andrew Trundell. It is very sad but the decision has been made to close the youth centre because of cuts made by Norfolk County Council. The youth worker that used to come and help has lost her job so without her support they had to close. It has been decided that the apparatus will be given on permanent loan to West Walton Youth Club. There was an average of 12-15 who came to the youth centre and on the last day they were all taken to the pictures and McDonalds afterwards.

### 5.3. Mr Thompson – Methodist Chapel

It was reported that sadly the chapel are going to lose Minister Denise Bulloss in July; her last service will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. This was an open invitation to say farewell as she moves to Grantham. The chapel had received an anonymous donation of £2500. Last week they held their monthly luncheon where they had 36 people attend. Next weekend is the centenary celebration where there will be a dance in the village hall, so far there is 120 attending. Other events due to take place include: - a flower festival and a concert in September. The new reverend Barry Armson will arrive at the last weekend in August.

### 5.4. Cllr Graham – WI

The regular Emneth and Marshland Messenger has been going for 13 years now. It includes puzzles, stories etc. and anything people would like to include. They are grateful to the small number of volunteers involved who print around 1500 at a time. If anyone wishes to contribute an item or article to the messenger, to please contact Mrs Graham.

### 5.5. Mr Pickles – St Edmunds Church

Apologies were given from the Reverend she has been called away to Ely. 2010 has been much the same as previous years. We have 50 dedicated people but sadly the average age is rising, could do with some new blood. The vicar has been with us about 10 years and the curate for 3 years but will be leaving us in June this year. St Edmunds is to be combined with several others and the vicar will look after all of those parishes. The church holds concerts, monthly charity lunches and a luncheon club. They take out people who are bereaved and who are sick. The church over the last few years has been the subject of attentions of people with not very good intentions, lead has been stolen. The latest person was apprehended and brought before the courts. The leading has now been marked with smart water to enable it to be traced. Mr Pickles thanked the council on behalf of the church for financing and organising of the grounds maintenance in the church yard.

### 5.6. Cllr Humphrey – Borough & County Councillor

Police – Over the last 18 months, Norfolk has been declared the safest county in England. In the last 3 years the police force has made £19 million worth of savings but has to make a further £24 million worth

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of savings, sharing services with Suffolk will help achieve this. The expected crime rate is due to go up due to the state of the economy. Norfolk Constabulary did not increase the precept; most of the costs are due to salaries.

Borough Council – The Borough has achieved £15 million of savings over 3 years. The biggest cost has been the Art Centre. Ideas were explored and it was decided to turn it over to a trust. There is no increase due to the council tax for the next financial year. The borough is to maintain its weekly doorstep waste collection. The result of the recent poll saw that 93% of the residents in West Norfolk were opposed the incinerator.

County Council – The funding that is received from the government (£10 million) has been cut. County has been working on looking for savings and where cuts can be made since last June. The aim is to save £155 million over the next 3 years. There will be no closure of libraries and county did not get rid of the 'lolly pop' ladies. With regards to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, county received so many letters they have decided to keep it. There is a £29.5 million shortfall in the grant from the government this year and £21 million next year. County has decided to have a freeze on council tax. The Hethel Engineering Centre has been awarded a top prize for engineering in the country. Energy from Waste proposal – The problem county has to deal with is that the cost of landfill is rising because of the landfill tax. Over the last 5 years, county has been looking at ways to deal with the counties waste. The idea is to take household waste, burn it and recover a lot o heat that can be used by business. Saddlebow was chosen after looking at over 200 sites in the county. There has been a new recycling centre just opened in King's Lynn. We are recycling 43% of waste at the moment; it is envisage that that would rise to 65% with energy from waste.

#### 5.7. Mr Clayton – Primary School Governor

Apologies were given from the Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors who were both on school business. It is a challenging position and a huge responsibility being a school governor. There is a provision for 15 governors and there is a high turnover, Mr Clayton is the 4<sup>th</sup> longest serving member of 2 years. The head inherited the school that was close to failing. She has turned it around which has resulted in a glowing Ofsted report in the upper satisfactory range last October. The major problem is the finances as the number of pupils determine that amount of funding received. The change of format to work out funding from county has enabled us to get a bit more than the previous year. This is a terrific school in the village which has seen the ICT suite completed, a new curriculum teaching subjects according to theme, 15% above average for writing, many school trips, links with other schools in the cluster, has a strong relationship with the nursery school and has also work with the community designing the new play area. There are currently 3 vacancies for community governors; anyone interested should contact Sue Green who is Clerk to the school governors.

There was a short adjournment for a coffee break.

#### 5.8. Mr Clayton – Playing Field Committee

Mr Clayton reported that he has been Chairman since late summer and in that time has sadly lost a good friend and colleague, Mr Derek Melton. Recently Mr Melton was awarded a posthumously a Mayor's Award for Civic achievement recently which was presented to his widow Pam.

The main project the committee has been working on since last July is the play area. A consultation was conducted which included the villagers and the 2 schools, parents of nursery school children, Marshland Secondary School and the youth club. This scheme has been professionally designed and started with funding from the parish council of £5000 for £50,000 if funding from the Big Lottery. The committee has now reached stage 2 of the bidding process and now has a facilitator who is confident the committee has a good chance of getting the funding. The scheme is designed as a community facility looking at natural looking schemes. The response from the tendering stage has been disappointing, having to re-tender a certain parts of the scheme. To complete this, the Big Lottery has given the committee one

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month extension. There has been a bid for £15,000 to the Borough Council for teenage facilities; the committee are seeking a group of youngsters to help with this. There have been problems of anti-social behaviour on Hungate Road and there have been many concerns raised by residents. A Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting was attended and these issues were highlighted. Residents have been told that they must report the incidents to the police to enable them to act. Funding has been received from the SNAP team for security work on the pavilion. The committee has established a new website which gives details of the committee and the play area.

**6. Open Forum**

6.1. Mr Clayton spoke of his thanks to the Parish Council for continuing to support the playing field with the annual grant the committee received and other expenditure which includes grounds maintenance costs.

Meeting closed at 8.45p.m.

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