

Emneth Parish Council

Clerk: Kate Bennett, 3 Sayer's Crescent, Wisbech St. Mary, Cambs PE13 4AS
Telephone: 01945 410178

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Emneth Parish Council held on Tuesday 22nd April 2014 at 7.00pm at Emneth Central Hall, Emneth.

In attendance: Cllr. R Waterfield, Cllr. Oliver, Cllr. Wiles, Cllr. Fleet, Cllr. Graham, Cllr. White, Cllr. Harper, County Cllr. Humphrey, Borough Cllr. Crofts
Apologies: Cllr. Towler, Cllr. Terrington, J Wharton (Emneth Nursery School), R Coleman (Methodist Church)
Parish Clerk: Kate Bennett
Public: 10 members of the public and 4 children from Emneth Primary School, PCSO Ross

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

1.1. Apologies were given and accepted as listed above.

2. To agree the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Tuesday 23rd April 2013

2.1 The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

3.1 The Chairman reported on the year's activities including,

- The unlawful visit last July by Gypsies on to the playing field.
- The continued search for future burial ground for the parish.
- Corresponding with the Local Development Framework team at the BCKLWN regarding building land provision for the next 25 years – 36 new houses have been allocated to Emneth with their Preferred Site, at the moment, being a parcel of land along Elmside. The Parish Council are trying to get this development scaled back by allocating the 36 houses to several parcels of land within the parish rather than just the one.
- The Chairman reported that due to lack of funding the Citizens Advice Bureau are no longer able to offer Outreach Sessions at the village hall which had been very well attended.
- Emneth's support within the Joint Meeting of Local Councils group continues, in the hope that shared local knowledge may help with various on-going projects within local government.
- The precept has managed to be maintained despite the ever rising annual maintenance costs within the parish, namely the cemetery and churchyard (£3904) and the cutting of the football pitches and play area (£6000).

4. Summary of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2013

4.1 The Clerk reported that the brought forward figure at 1st April 2012 was £53045. Receipts for the year £54031 and payments £49904 leaving a carry forward figure at 31st March 2013 of £57172. Copies of the accounts are available from the Clerk and on the Emneth Parish Council website.

5. To receive reports from Local Groups, Clubs & Organisations

5.1 Mrs. Townsend, Head Teacher of Emneth Primary School, gave a brief report on the school's current position, the amount of children currently enrolled (206) and the school's actual capacity (210), its work towards achieving improved Ofsted status and their commitment to providing their children with a good education including Outdoor & Community Learning. Four children from the school then reported on their World War One project which includes an exhibition of World War One memorabilia, researching the names of the fallen soldiers on the war memorial, opening a

World War One memorial garden at the cemetery and performing a play in the Central Hall in the summer – the play will tell the story of how local soldiers enlisted, fought and died for their country.

5.2 Mr. Dennis Pickles, Church Warden of St. Edmunds Church reported on the church's mission, responsibilities and activities over the year. Attendance at church is generally very low, roughly 25-35 people per week, all newcomers are welcome.

5.3 County Cllr. Humphrey reported on Norfolk County Council's main responsibilities including Education, Social Care, Libraries, Fire Service, Waste Collection, Highways & Planning. The new Labour & Liberal led committee have been focusing on budget setting this year and the huge savings that need to be made. He explained that the 'Cabinet' style system is soon to be replaced with the 'Committee' system.

5.4 Borough Cllr. Crofts reported that savings also need to be made within the Borough and 'reducing paper' is one of the ways that the BCKLWN are trying to make these savings. Council tax has not been raised for some years now. There is a waiting list for the brown bin collection. He is one of the nine members on the LDF team who are currently reviewing the Preferred Options consultation sites.

5.5 The President of the Women's Institute provided a report on their annual activities explaining that they meet on the first Thursday of every month and have been established for over 47 years now. Attendance is currently at 18 members with any newcomers welcome.

5.6 PCSO Ross introduced himself and advised those attending that he is always available and willing to help with any problems/queries residents of the parish might have.

5.7 Mrs. Tivey provided a report on behalf of the Central Hall Committee and Emneth Community Homewatch outlining that generally bookings for the hall have dropped, grants had been awarded for a new kitchen which is hoped will stimulate more bookings. Homewatch continues to meet regularly and still produce a quarterly newsletter. The meetings at Kings Lynn police station with local Homewatch organisations have resumed. Crime levels in the village remain low.

6 Open Forum

Nothing to report.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chairman's signature.....