

Emneth Parish Council

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Draft Report of the Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 17th April 2018, 6.30pm at Emneth Central Hall

In attendance: Councillor Waterfield, Councillor Oliver, Councillor Graham, Councillor Howard, Councillor White, Councillor Groves, Borough Councillor Crofts, County Councillor Humphrey
Apologies: Councillor McCourt, Councillor Fleet, Reverend Dawn Mason
Public: 6

ASSEMBLY REPORT

1. Welcome

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive and accept apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies were given as listed above and accepted.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

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

- Grass cutting throughout the village to the football pitches, play area, cemetery and churchyard continues to be the highest annual expenditure for the parish.
- The SAM2 is still regularly deployed throughout the village in a bid to try and quell speeding. Data from the camera is passed to the Safety Camera Partnership Scheme.
- Hungate Rovers Football Club has been fined by the Football Association for dog foul on the football pitches. The parish council continues to work with the Playing Field Committee to try and deter dog walkers from allowing their dogs to foul on the fields.
- Funds available to the parish council from the Borough Council associated with the recently introduced *Community Infrastructure Levy* on developers should soon be advised.
- Fly tipping at the allotments at Ladys Drove initiated the installation of CCTV at this location. This was then subsequently stolen.
- Litter in the village is kept to a minimum with thanks to our resident litter pickers for their stalwart work.
- All the sodium footway lighting stock has been changed this year to LED lamps in a bid to make savings. Hope to make up to £2,000.00 per year savings by changing the lamps.
- The precept has been increased by 3.2% for 2018/19 to cover the ever increasing costs to run the parish. The national living and minimum wage have increased again which has an impact on the council's costs. The cost of fuel has increased which has an impact on the charges that are passed down to us from our maintenance contractors for the playing field and cemetery/churchyard. A *council tax support grant* was received again this financial year from the Borough Council but this will not always be the case and the parish council needs to make small increments to the precept to ensure that the future needs of the parish can be comfortably met.

4. Summary of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017

4.1 The carry forward figure at 1st April 2016 was £65,809.00. This was represented across two parish council accounts – the *Community Account* at £31,407.00 and the *Business Saver Account* at £34,402.00.

Receipts for the year were £47,862.00 and payments were £41,892.00 leaving a carry forward figure at 31st March 2017 of £71,779.00.

Copies of the Accounts are available from the Clerk and are on the Emneth Parish Council website.

5. To receive a report from the Borough Council – Councillor Crofts

- Meetings are now being held in the Town Hall at King's Lynn as the lower floor at King's Court is being rented out to various organisations providing the Borough Council with a new revenue stream.
- Pontoons in the town are being expanded as a tourist attraction.
- A new administration fee will be charged to *all* parish councils in future to cover the costs surrounding parish elections (circa £300.00).
- The *National Planning Policy Framework* is being reviewed by central government as more houses continue to be required.
- A new *sifting panel* has been introduced to consider planning applications when the parish council's recommendation differs to the planning officer.
- Associated *costs* surrounding *appeals* and who will be liable are currently being reviewed.
- Dog fouling is regularly reported but rarely gets to court as people are not prepared to make an official statement to follow-up their complaint.

6. To receive a report from the County Council – Councillor Humphrey

A detailed report was provided on the County's activities this year including,

- Finances including cost cutting measures and how savings are being made.
- Infrastructure issues such as Highways, Broadband, Mobile telephone coverage, dualling of the A47, the construction of the Norwich Distributor Road and plans for a third river crossing (a bridge) which will provide access to Great Yarmouth port.
- Education
- Children's social care
- Adult social care
- Fire and rescue
- Norfolk Community Learning
- Museums

Full report available from the Clerk upon request.

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

A member from the **Methodist Church** reported,

- Coffee mornings on a Monday continue alongside Craft and Games on a Thursday afternoon.
- Twenty-one Christmas trees were decorated this year.
- Now part of Norfolk Knitters, knitting clothes and blankets for whoever needs them.

A report from the **Women's Institute** was given,

- They meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm at Emneth Central Hall.
- Newcomers are welcome. There are 225,000 members nationally.
- Fellowship lunches are on the first Friday of every month.

The **Emneth & Marshland Messenger**,

- 1500 copies are printed and distributed to most of Emneth and some parts of Marshland St. James every two months.
- Further help to deliver the magazine is desperately needed.

A representative of **Emneth Central Hall** reported,

- The flat roof has been covered and the car park partly resurfaced
- New blinds in the hall and new alcove lighting has been installed
- Major expense this year for a new boiler
- The noticeboards have been tidied up
- New group users, Slimming World, Kids Soft Play, Autumn Leaves and Evergreen
- Last year £2,000.00 was raised from fund raising events
- To date this year £695.00 has been raised
- A donation of £620.00 had been received from Emneth Homewatch which is now disbanded with further donations from the parish council and the Methodist Church
- The toilets will be refurbished this year

The **Evergreen Club** reported,

- Have to be over the age of 50 – now have 38 members.
- They meet once very fortnight and hold lunches and have outings.

Emneth Playing Field Committee reported,

- Colour Fun Run on Saturday 26th May at 12pm. Tickets £5.00 each.
- There has been a problem with anti-social behaviour at the playing field recently

8. Open Forum

One member of the public present would like to provide more opportunities in the village for teenagers, particularly during holiday periods. A couple of ideas were discussed and parish council members present confirmed they would be happy to provide their support to these projects.

Assembly closed at 7.35pm

Chairman's signature.....