

Draft until signed

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Battisford
Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at 7.00pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford**

Present: C Knock (CK) (Chairman), B Rhodes (BR) (Vice-Chairman), N Cleaver (NC) (Councillor), C Skinner (CS) (Councillor), P Aspinall (PA) (Councillor)

Attending: S Meech (SM) (Clerk), J Pope (Play Area/ROSPA), P Knock (St Marys Church)

1. Introductions

CK opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, everyone introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Zethraeus, Cllr A Whybrow, Cllr D Whybrow & J Budd (Public)

3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2017

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate copy.

4. Chairman's Report

CK read out his report – See Appendix 1

5. Report from Suffolk County Councillor

Cllr A Whybrow was not in attendance

6. Report from Mid Suffolk District Councillor

Cllr D Whybrow was not in attendance

7. Councillors Reports

Councillors did not have anything to report

8. Local organisation/club reports

St Marys Church - P Knock provided a report from St Marys Church and was happy to report of their first full year with the Revd. Dan Harrison. Holy communion services are on the second Sunday of every month and morning prayer/family services are on the first Sunday of every month apart from August. All services start at 11am. There have also been funeral services and a baptism.

The 1st April saw the first of the fundraising activities for 2017, the mammoth book sale being both enjoyable and profitable. In July at Combs Fete more books were sold and also delicious eats and plants. In August there was a cream tea in the sunny garden and September the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust cycle ride with one cyclist representing Battisford making a marvellous effort visiting 31 churches. In December the Punch Bowl gave permission to use their premises for the Christmas fayre and thanks goes to all who came as a fine sum was raised. The final activity was carols by candlelight on 24th December which 96 people attended representing three generations.

Regarding the church building the roof over the Victorian organ is still in need of repair with an estimated cost of £20,000 and it is hoped that the whole village will support this in some way in 2018. St Marys wanted to pass on their appreciation for the grass cutting that the parish council support in the churchyard and church orchard. The PCC Secretary can be contacted on 01449 771831.

Battisford and District Gardening Club – See Appendix 2

Battisford District Cricket Club – See Appendix 3

The play area working group have decided to now stand down so J Pope was in attendance to give an update on what maintenance has occurred at the village play area throughout the last year. There is no need for the sign on the equipment to be replaced, the wobble log is now repaired, shackles done, the suspension bridge secured, decay on the bottom of the ramp repaired, grass mats replaced and worn chains on the swings replaced. All highlighted areas of the ROSPA report have now either been repaired or replaced. J Pope is inspecting the play area and equipment on a regular basis and he will advise BPC of any issues, he also advised that he keeps a computer copy of his checks.

With regards to the installation of the mound slide J Pope advised that the slide will not be able to face the sun as it will become too hot. CS advised that he was happy to look at the play area on Saturday 26th May at 9am to discuss the best position of the mound slide. Blocking vehicles from coming on to the green was also discussed, CS advised he has some old telegraph poles that may be of assistance for this and he will review this also on Saturday.

9. Parishioners questions, suggestions and comments

There was nothing further to be discussed under this agenda item.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Appendix 1

Battisford Parish Council Chairman's Report

Dated 22/05/18

By Chris Knock

Thanks go to my fellow parish councillors and those parishioners who attend our meetings for the informed discussions we have, giving up their own time free of charge to help the local community. Thanks too to Sarah Meech who has been our parish clerk for three years now, and we benefit greatly from her experience and expertise.

Thanks too to David Wybrow as our district councillor, for his excellent reporting and sage advice; and to Anne Wybrow, our county councillor as well. We have been well served by both of our council representatives. It is a great help to us to find out the latest information on council activity.

We are lucky in that Battisford Parish Council has a full complement of seven councillors - supporting our community, with a large number of clubs, amenities, faith groups and social groups all adding up to give us a vibrant place in which to live. All of the parish councillors are fully trained, and thanks to Sarah, well briefed with stacks of emails for us every week.

With reference to the available housing in the village, we have collated the results of our housing survey form two years ago, and they are on the parish council website for all to see. The District Council advice was then to wait until the new Local Plan is unveiled, since it should provide us with the strategic priorities for us to work within. The parish council wishes to discuss drafting a joint neighbourhood plan with Combs – to spread the cost, and provide a larger area for consideration. The next step is for us to talk to Combs about this.

The village green continues to be well maintained, and thanks go to Dave Windle for his grass cutting, and the team of volunteers who have helped open the site up and make it more attractive. The sub-group which two years ago raised funds and designed a new play equipment area now wishes to disband, since their task is near to completion – with only the stainless steel slide to be mounted on a mound. So thanks to Dean, Lucy, Jo, Nicky to this work, and to Johnathan Pope for inspecting the equipment and keeping it in good order.

The Punch Bowl Community Inn has now been open for over six years, and is well supported by both locals and those from further afield. The inn has been run with a mixture of volunteer and paid staff, which has worked well. The pub is a real asset to the social mix in our community, and we should treasure its being there.

The gardening club have planted bluebells on the village green, and the young oaks we planted five years ago have been re-staked to ensure their continued growth.

With the search for better broadband, BT is finally offering some of our residents their new service. This will primarily help the Tye end which has the most pressing need, but the Needham end of the village also needs to be connected properly. There seems little logic to how BT connect sets of houses up, with Moats Tye for example being offered fibre to the home! When most of Battisford has no broadband, and some choosing to use the line of sight signal from Superhero Broadband, it causes anxiety to many who would like to be properly connected.

The challenge of the noise nuisance from the parrots housed behind Wonderlier on the Straight Road has now gone, with Peter Hammond moving away. This issue took over eight years, and his near neighbours were seriously let down by ineffective district council officials not upholding the noise nuisance regulations.

There are three defibrillators in the village, and with the two installed at either end of Combs there are now five spread neatly across the two parishes. Thank you to the volunteers who regularly check them.

All councillors have now been trained by SALC, and Sarah has attended training courses in her role as clerk, so we continue on the path of due diligence.

Parish council meetings are open meetings, and all parishioners are welcome at the nine meetings we hold each year. Meetings are six weeks apart, and are here in the village hall on Tuesday evenings at the new earlier time of 7-00pm.

I commend this report for adoption by the meeting,



Chris Knock, Battsford Parish Council chairman

Appendix 2

Battisford and District Gardening Club report to Battisford PC AGM **– Tuesday 22nd May 2018**

Coming up to our 11th birthday the Gardening Club continues to be very successful with 85 members on record. We have recently had 60 members attending our meetings - a very high proportion - which all goes to show that we have a very enthusiastic membership that appreciates what we do.

Over the last 12 months we have had the usual mixture of trips, speakers, club meal and a quiz night and a similar programme of events is planned for the next 12 months. New members and guests are always welcome at any of our meetings – we will try and find enough chairs to fit them in.

Gardening Club members continue to tend the gardens at the Punchbowl, and the daffodils that we planted back in 2016 did well again this year to add some colour around the villages. Recently we have planted 1000 bluebells at the Battisford Village Green. Some are in bloom this year and the others will add more colour as they become established over the coming years.

This year will be our 11th Show, once again in conjunction with Combs Fete on Saturday 7th July. After the woeful wet winter I am slightly concerned for this year's display but I am sure that our members will do their best to produce another colourful and interesting display for Fete visitors.

Everyone should hopefully have received a copy of the Show schedule with the last BARCLIF - if you would like another one then copies are available – and we hope that non Gardening Club members will find something of interest to enter, and also come along on the day to enjoy other people's efforts.

Thank you.
Bill Baldry
BDGC Chairman

Appendix 3

Report to Battsford Parish Council for AGM May 2018 from Battsford and District Cricket Club

I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of Battsford and District Cricket Club which was reported to our AGM in November 2017.

Membership was well upon 2016. 2017 – 134 members against 92 in 2016. There were 30 adult playing members (over 18s) and this number is enhanced by older junior players who play for the men's teams. For the first time in several years the playing season started on time in April and very few games had to be called off during the season. The new roll on roll off covers helped with this enormously.

We have three men's teams in two leagues. The Saturday team again won the division title for the 2nd consecutive year and achieved promotion to the next Division. The Sunday 1st came 3rd in the top tier of their league. The Sunday 2nds would have been relegated but the League structure changed so they remain where they are hoping to re-group next season.

The ladies played 9 games, winning 2. In all 24 ladies played during the season though some only had one game. It is hoped to encourage their participation again, in the future. An ECB initiative to encourage ladies to try the game involves soft ball cricket. The evening starts with a glass of Prosecco to relax the participants, and this brought some new faces to the Club.

Junior cricket is an important part of the Club. It was well attended with a number of new children joining the Club. There was a new improved format for the junior league and the teams enjoyed their games, as ever won some and lost some but all good experience for them for the future. We have a number of youngsters who have been selected to play for teams at a county level.

Earlier in the year we took part in All Stars Cricket, an ECB initiative to introduce children to cricket in a fun way. It was a great success and was enjoyed by over 15 children aged 4-8, resulting in several new members for the Club.

We have had a very successful fund raising year. The social events have included 2 curry quizzes, followed by a very enjoyable race night. The most people ever attended the Vice Presidents Lunch. The theme was a walk down memory lane and re-visited some past menus. On October 21st a new event – A pre-Halloween 'Creepy Crawl' was a great success and much enjoyed by the youngsters. The Pavilion was transformed into a spooky cavern and there were scary tours round the ground and into the nearby wood.

We have been most grateful to receive a number of grants which have helped with the following the repair and re-furbishment of the nets. We have also had a number of sponsorships for banners round the ground, the Saturday team, the Sunday team and the 20/20 team and for game balls.

We are keen to grow the club and are always looking for new members; we are also hoping to extend the pavilion to increase changing room facilities for ladies, junior and improve access for disabled visitors.

Julia Stephens-Row
Secretary
Battsford and District Cricket Club
1.5.18