

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parishes of Kirby Cane and Ellingham held on
Tuesday, 15th March 2016 in the Memorial Hall, Kirby Cane at 7pm**

Present:

Parish councillors:

Lawrence Cannard John Cook Lesley Lodge Julie Pickering

Deanna Saunders Mike Wickenden Iain Wright

South Norfolk District Councillor Kay Billig, Jane Love, Clerk to the Parish Council and 16 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Janice Game and Richard Lees

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th March 2015 were agreed to be correct, and were signed as by Cllr Cook as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council on behalf of the Meeting.

3. Report from the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council:

Cllr John Cook outlined the activities of the nine councillors since their election on 7 May 2015, placing them in the unusual position of being a fully democratically elected Parish Council. Councillors had championed many issues of local interest, such as changes to the bus route, highways maintenance issues, rural broadband, community facilities and developments at Ellingham Playing Field, with new committees and working parties formed to address particular subjects. He also notified the meeting that the current Chairman, Richard Lees, would stand down at the Parish Council meeting after piloting the Parish Council through its first year.

4a. Report from the District Councillor:

District Councillor Kay Billig congratulated the new council on its election and how pleased she was at the enthusiasm shown by the new councillors. Cllr Billig pointed out that she is now in her third term as the ward's district councillor, and is now the cabinet member in charge of the Environment and Recycling. In the past year in Kirby Cane and Ellingham she reported she has been involved in rehousing local residents and planning issues such as the wind turbine application at Gillingham, which is due to be heard on 30 March. She had been pleased to help with the creation of the new kitchen at the Memorial Hall from her Ward Member's Budget. Cllr Billig reported that the District Council would be increasing council tax for the first time in several years, but would endeavour to keep the increase to a minimum, and was likely to be in the region of 3% or £135 per Band D property. Wearing her Environment and Recycling hat, Cllr Billig urged residents to put recycling items loose into their bins, as bagged items have to be removed and put into landfill as there are no resources to sort this waste at the depots. Cllr Billig was thanked for her report.

4b. Report from Report from Norfolk County Councillor:

County Cllr Margaret Stone was unable to attend the meeting but her report was read by the Clerk. Cllr Stone reported on the preservation of certain front-line services such as transport to day centres and other Adult Social Services facilities. Recycling centres will also remain open on Bank Holidays, three centres including Morningthorpe will remain full-time and the Docking centre will re-open. Councillors will soon decide how to allocate the £4.6million of one-off funding announced by the government for 2016/17, while the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will look at the proposals of all five of Norfolk's Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure full consultation about any substantive changes that may be made in the coming year. The Clerk would put Cllr Stone's full report on the Parish Council website under "Background Papers".

4c. Report on Kirby Cane Memorial Hall:

Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee, Maurice Eldridge, reported that demand for the Memorial Hall had increased appreciably since the kitchen upgrade early in 2015, with around 5% increase in the overall hiring of the facilities, and the pre-school's hiring had increased by 25%. Work is now being carried out to create a kitchen area and disabled toilet for the back room which will enable both rooms to be hired independently, and the committee is very grateful for the grants from the Parish Council, District Councillor and local charities. Fundraising activities continue, especially in view of the demands of maintaining a building of its age. Mr Eldridge was thanked for his report.

4d. Report from Kirby Cane Charity:

Secretary Iain Wright read out the functions of the Charity and the names of its trustees and told the meeting that estimated gross income for the year is £2051 with a total cost of generating funds at £535. Approximately £2300 will have been distributed to the community by the end of the financial year. Mr Wright was thanked for his report.

4e. Report from Ellingham United Charities:

(The Clerk read the Charity's report prepared by Mr Peter Bates) Mr Bates listed the trustees of the Ellingham United Charities and reported that the Charity's income for the year was £6495.32, slightly reduced due to a lower return in investments in the global monetary slowdown. The total amount of donations in November was £6598.28, with expenses, running and obligation costs of £298.28.

4f. Report from Newgate Allotment Society:

(The Clerk read the Society's report, prepared by Mr Jim Saunders) Mr Saunders reported that two plots were available for new tenants, and on the other plots tidying, bonfires and maintenance had been taking place. Following the recent heavy rain the ground was waterlogged in many areas and there was not a lot of evidence of overwintering. However potatoes would soon be ready for planting and seeds were already being sown in propagators in anticipation of the coming spring.

5. Matters raised by residents:

There were none.

6. Talk by local historian, Jo Gooderham:

Mrs Gooderham gave a very interesting talk about how she came to write her chronology of the villages of Ellingham and Kirby Cane, which she is in the process of updating. She also told of the destruction of the sluices at Ellingham Mill by 15th century rogues who emptied the Mill Pool of its fish and stole local game, and of retribution by their opponents. She also told of how the Civil War came to the Waveney Valley, showing how major events affected local people in small communities. She was unable to prove that Oliver Cromwell came to Ellingham, however. Mrs Gooderham was thanked for her very entertaining talk, and a serialisation of her chronology can be found on the Computer Club website.

7. Any other business:

There was none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.36pm.

Signed..... Dated.....

Chairman