

Clerk Richard Day

[richard@daymilldown.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:richard@daymilldown.fsnet.co.uk)

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Present:- Cllr. L. Spindler Chair, Cllr. D. Corbett, Cllr. M. Gasper, Cllr. A. Edwards, Cllr. R. Dillaway, Cllr. J. Wright, Cllr. H. Phillips, Cllr. A. Alder, Cllr. A. Spindler, Cllr. D. Wilkinson, County Cllr. R. Leighton, District Councillor M. Gower, Clerk. Mr. R. Day and 21 Parishioners.

1. The Chairman welcomed Councillors, County Councillor R. Leighton, District Councillor M. Gower and parishioners to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr. J. Tate, V. Jackson and PCSO Newson.
2. The minutes of the meeting 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011 were proposed and seconded as being accurate. There were no votes against and therefore they were accepted and signed.
3. The Chair person, Cllr. L. Spindler gave the report on behalf of the Parish Council. Copy is available from Clerk. Whilst delivering the report special recognition and thanks were given to the previous Chairman Mr. B. Orme and previous Clerk Mrs. M. Pennock for their hard work whilst in office.
4. Cllr. R. Leighton gave his report. Copy available from Clerk.
5. District Cllr. M. Gower gave his report, copy available from Clerk.
6. The report from Community Police Officer was read out by the Clerk. Copy available from the Clerk.
7. Charity reports were provided by Mrs. M. Bloomfield – Pepyn & Lessey and Mrs. H. Phillips – Relief in need. Copies available from Clerk.
8. A report was provided on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllr. D. Corbett and Cllr. A. Alder covering the Parish Council's support on various initiatives. These are summarised as;
  - Community and Communication.
  - Parish newsletter – New initiative.
  - Good Neighbour scheme – (14 jobs completed since Jan)
  - Youth forum including access to trained youth workers.
  - Neighbourhood Planning work and overview of implications.
9. Open forum.
  - Mr. E. Metcalf felt that traffic speed was excessive at time on Blyford Lane.
  - Mr. P. Corbett expressed a view that the current levels of Parish Council reserves were too high. Cllr. L. Spindler explained the



24.4.13

rationale of the Council maintaining these. Copies of Parish Council Accounts to year end 31.03.2012 are available from Clerk.

- Mr. R. Tucker suggested an assessment of financial risk was undertaken by the Parish Council so that reserve levels could be confirmed as appropriate.
- Dr. W. Harvey requested that Parish Council actively pursues availability of earmarked grant monies towards improvement/ upgrade to play area.
- Approval was expressed concerning the improved frequency of buses as a result of the new timetable.
- Cllr. H. Phillips explained the Woodland initiative and highlighted the ongoing discussions around the future management of the Wenhaston Commons.

Meeting closed at 8:35pm.

  
24.4.13.

# Pepyn and Lessey Trust

A report given at the Annual Parish Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012

A Short history of the Trust – In 1562 and 1563 W Pepyn and R Lessey left land, the income of which was to help with “ The education in learning and Godliness of the poor children of Wenhaston” In 1982 a house on one of the pieces of land was sold and the proceeds were invested – producing an income of between £4000 - £5000 per annum

How the money has been spent – Individually we help with Scholarships, maintenance allowances, outfits, clothing, instruments, books, field courses, school trips and travel for educational purposes and supporting the D of E award schemes

The trust gives grants to parents of children going from Junior school to High School when extra expenses are incurred for new uniforms, sports equipment Etc This year the grant was £100 per child

We also offer help to children staying on in the VI form

The Trust also makes one off payments to help with school projects and this year we have helped Wenhaston Primary School and Wenhaston Pre-School.

We also offer a book to children when moving to High School in memory of Harold Hatcher who left a bequest to the Trust.

If anyone would like to know more about the Trust or knows of anyone who may benefit from the Trusts activities do let us know. A contact number is available in the Village guide or from the Post office.

## Wenhaston Parish Council AGM Police Report 2012

During the past months there have been a number of walk in burglaries in the wider area these crimes appear of a opportunistic nature as are a number of the thefts occurring in the wider area also, both of these sorts of crimes high light the need to be conscious of simple steps that can be taken to secure homes & property such as closing windows, locking doors even if your at home, securing sheds & garages and making sure items are put away after use. It's easy to become complacent until you become a victim of crime thankfully most people in the community don't however following these simple steps can prevent some criminal activity occurring.

Police direct a free service operated by Suffolk Police is still available to join & details can be found on the Suffolk Constabulary website. Police direct is a service that allows the user to receive information on local crime, missing persons, traffic disruption & more.

The mobile police station continues to visit the area on a monthly basis this is crewed by PCSO 3051 Kevin Mann who acts a link between the local communities he visits & their respective Safer Neighbourhood Teams, please feel free to drop in & visit. Exact times & dates for visits can be found on the Suffolk Constabulary website.

Anti social behaviour remains high on the agenda for Suffolk Constabulary. ASB can take many forms and people committing ASB are varied to say the least from the youths causing problems late at night to neighbours who just can't get on with each other, we continue to assist when & if we are able to do so along with our partner agencies that work with us in local communities.

Featured below are recorded crimes for the parish 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011-31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

- 1 theft of pedal cycle
- 3 thefts –other
- 4 burglary other buildings
- 1 burglary dwelling
- 2 message/letter indecent/threatening
- 5 criminal damages
- 2 assaults occasioning abh
- 1 produce-controlled drug

PCSO 3044 Newson



WENHASTON RELIEF IN NEED TRUST.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE APRIL 2011 ~ MARCH 2012

INCOME:~

RENT £145.00

INTEREST £ 6.62

TOTAL £ 151.62

BALANCE FROM 2010 £ 3762.05

TOTAL £ 3913.67

EXPENDITURE:~

DEC-2011;~ DONATION £ 50.00

DONATION £ 50.00

DONATION £ 50.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £ 150.00

31-3-2012 BALANCE IN BANK £ 446.67

31-3-2012 BALANCE IN P.O. £ 331.67

TOTAL £ 376.34

Cnty Cllr Rae Leighton  
Report to Wenhashton with Mellis Annual Parish Meeting  
25th April 2012

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman thank you for this opportunity to present my report on Suffolk County Council.

Without a doubt this has been a most difficult year in Local Government, indeed for the whole of the public service. The Government's determination to reduce the huge public debt has led to unprecedented measures, the like of which I have not witnessed in the 20 odd years that I have been involved as a councillor. We perhaps did not realise it but for many years there was resources to spare; we took on staff to provide extra services which we had the funds to pay for; grants were distributed for multitudinous causes and by and large if communities could make a good case then resources were found. Council Tax rose year on year by greater or lesser amounts. The money was found. That has now changed with the grant to Local Authorities from Central Government drastically reduced while the Council Tax which makes up the other source of local government funding now in the second year of not being increased.

The council tax freeze is part of a budget savings package that will see savings of £26 million this year, but will protect front line services. It has meant for the County Council the need for a wholesale saving on the Budget. Last year we had to find savings of £42 million. Over the next two years we need to make savings amounting to £50 million; £26.5 million being found this year and £23.5 million next year. As a consequence huge changes are having to be made to make ourselves more efficient and proficient in finding new ways to deliver public services. It has meant the re-organisation of whole directorates and departments and the reduction in the management and the number of staff. Suffolk County Council will have shed 1,400 posts including those at Director level as well as the freezing of top salaries. These changes are radical and are affecting every strata of local government from the County Council, through district and borough councils down to town and parish councils. Councillors at every level are under so much more pressure these days whether it is trying to balance budgets without cutting services, to the increasing demands of constituents for more or improved services, to the requirements for greater transparency and more consultation, to the obligations of the Freedom of Information Act on councils and other public bodies, where we are all subject to codes of conduct and can be reported to Standard Boards.

The result of all this has been the shaping of a much leaner Authority, and the process is by no means complete. Other organisations are being urged to take on responsibilities previously undertaken by the County Council. Charities and the voluntary sector have tremendous experience and expertise in running many social services and are better placed to deliver. Towns should run their libraries under the management of a newly formed Industrial and Provident Society. Parishes are better placed to run local amenities such as recreation facilities under the 'Our Place' schemes rather than have it done for them remotely from Ipswich or Bury St Edmunds. At every level it does mean added responsibility on councillors which a few years ago would not have been considered.

The changes at County Council are profound and it has taken a lot of heart ache and not a little trauma during the last year to work out how to best to proceed. A new Leader and Chief Executive have steadied, what became for some months, a very rocky boat in addition to an unprecedented 5 by-elections due to 4 deaths and a resignation from the controlling group. Interestingly all those elections were won by the controlling party which indicates to me that things were not as bad as we imagined. Whatever the magnitude of the storm I believe we have weathered it and as a consequence learnt to take a more realistic approach. No less radical; the problem has not gone away but a more pragmatic style is apparent. Essentially we are asking what you, the people of Suffolk, think first, before we put out any proposals; rather than asking you what you think of our proposals. In that way we get a far better idea of what the aspirations and expectations of Suffolk are in these difficult times. Also, between you and me, it tends to shift the blame!

I would like to thank the Parish Council for making me welcome at your meetings this year. They are always conducted in an affable and civilized manner which is more than I can say for some parishes in the Blything Division.