

Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

held on THURSDAY, 21st May 2015
at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Mr C Faircliffe	Chairman
	Mr R Flint	Vice Chairman
	Mrs M Foster	Councillor
	Mr P Hurst	Councillor
	Mrs R Page	District and County Councillor
	Ms S Wetton	Clerk to the Parish Council

Apologies for Absence. Cllr Grimwood and Cllr Booth.

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, held on 29th May 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

United Charities.

There was no representative from the United Charities present at this meeting, the Chairman will speak with one of the Trustees.

Chairman's Report.

CHAIRMANS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Introduction

Another interesting and varied year with plenty to keep us occupied. My thanks as usual to all councillors and best wishes to Chris who did not seek re-election. Thanks also to our hard working clerk who has now got her feet under the table, established her own way of working and is making a real difference. Finally my thanks to our District and County councillor who, despite a very heavy workload, has continued to be very supportive and congratulations on her re-election to H.D.C.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Pat and Peter our new parish councillors who, I am sure, will make a positive contribution.

H.D.C.

After a promising start by the new regime it seems to have been a false dawn. The political lead is more apparent and some of the officers appear to be professional and helpful – but

enforcement is worse than ever. Last year the Chief Executive promised an independent review of enforcement but despite prompting this has not materialised. It seems to me that the function is a complete misnomer. There is no apparent control or governance. I think H.D.C. should save money and disband the department as it appears to perform no useful function. The lack of any meaningful response or action continues to bring H.D.C. into disrepute.

Planning

The Planning Department are under close scrutiny from the new departmental head and progress seems to have been made. There has been a steady stream of applications mostly concerning local issues. We are also working on developing our Neighbourhood Plan. The area and primary objectives are being agreed and will be subject to a six week consultation period by H.D.C.

Village Green

This major asset to the village continues to present challenges from incursion and challenges to ownership. Maintaining the green to an acceptable standard is an ongoing problem but the new contractor is achieving a higher standard than was previously attained.

Local Relationships

Gazeley Properties have been making an effort to re-establish relationships with the local community but we are still waiting to see real substance from their efforts. It is good to see that local parish councils are able to cooperate and liaise on issues. This will be put to the test when the next phase of logistics development is put forward for approval.

Accounts

The Clerk presented the draft accounts for the year. These are currently being audited by the internal auditor and will be signed off by the PC in June.

Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Flint and agreed that **Cllr Faircliffe** be appointed Chairman for the year 2015/16.

Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed by the Cllr Faircliffe, seconded by Cllr Foster and agreed that **Cllr Flint** be appointed Vice Chairman for the year 2015/16.

Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Flint and agreed that **Mrs Julie Morris** be appointed Internal Auditor to the Parish Council for the coming year

Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer

It was proposed by Cllr Faircliffe, seconded by Cllr Foster and agreed that **Mrs S Wetton** be appointed Responsible Financial Officer for the year 2015/16.

Any Other Business

None

The meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

