

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Costock held on Wednesday April 18, 2007 in Costock Village Hall**

**Present:** Five members of the parish council and twelve parishioners.

The parish council chairman Coun. Mrs Kath Owen took the chair and welcomed those present.

**Apologies** were received from Coun. Everard Robinson.

**Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 17, 2006 were read out by the chairman and signed as being correct.

### **Matters arising:**

There were no matters to report by the Clerk Mike Elliott.

### **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman, Coun. Mrs Kath Owen, opened her report by saying the Council welcomed Mike Elliott as the new clerk last year. She paid tribute to the late Mervyn Deaville, who had spent a number of years as member of the parish council and had dedicated a lot of effort for the well-being of the village.

She said a lot of work had been undertaken on improving public footpaths in the village mainly due to the enthusiasm of local parishioner Mr David Brown, who attended to matters involving the paths on a regular basis. Mr Brown had recently investigated the possibility of the provision of an extra footpath in the village as he and other people from the village were trying to improve the footpaths in Costock. Concerns were expressed that some of the proposed route for a new footpath at the bottom of the Bars Hill development was being taken over by developers and the matter of the progress of that footpath was to be chased by the Clerk. The Chairman advised that Mr Brown was organising a footpath walk on Tuesday April 24 and everyone was welcome to take part.

The Chairman spoke on the Community Speed Watch scheme as she said a leaflet had been circulated to every household in the village to encourage volunteers to take part. The matter was at the hands of the Police who had been advised of the names of six volunteers, who were awaiting confirmation on training arrangements and the Police were to be chased for details on the latter.

The provision of the refugees on the A60 crossroads was reported on and people were happier now after their installation.

Mrs Owen thanked the Village Hall Management Committee and its Chairman, Coun. Mike Albon, for their hard work during the year.

She encouraged parishioners to join the membership of the parish council as there was an insufficient nominations to warrant an election on May 3. The council had 35 days from May 3 to put forward a name to fill the single vacancy. Those attending were asked to spread the word around and consider themselves the opportunity of becoming part of the parish council.

The Chairman thanked members of the parish council and the Clerk for their work during the past 12 months.

### **Financial Report:**

The clerk presented a financial report which showed the council started the 2006/2007 year with a balance in hand of £1,996.70 and precepted for a further £16,000 from council tax income.

During the year a further £3,719.90 was received in grants whilst the expenditure during the 12-month period showed £758.50 in grants given out including £400 to the parish church towards grounds maintenance costs, £3,817.08 on admin including staff costs, insurance, legal and professional and audit fees. The main expenditure was on the village hall, where a total of £13,750.70 was spent, on repairs, decorating and installation of a new kitchen. Grass cutting and playing field maintenance took another £1,503.30.

The council finished with a balance of just £1,381.42 in hand, a figure that did not meet the levels of balance suggested by the auditors. The precept for the 2007/2008 year was £16,000, the same as in the previous financial year.

It was expected expenditure in 2007/2008 to be considerably less, although the need for the provision of a new slide at the play area needed to be looked at, as well as the provision of replacement safety surfacing, costings for which were not available at present.

The question of the Council Tax for residents of Costock going up despite the parish council precept on the Borough Council staying the same was raised and the Clerk was to investigate the position.

## **School Governor's Report**

The Chairman, Coun. Mrs Kath Owen, reported she was not a parish council representative on the Governors anymore and hence the reason she had nothing to report. She had resigned in August last year.

## **Questions to the Chair**

The issue of the increased number of heavy goods vehicles travelling through the village was raised and it was felt it was a very difficult problem to solve, the main reason being the presence of building works in East Leake. The collection of evidence was vital and residents were to make a note of the times and registration numbers of the HGVs to allow the parish council to take the matter up with the Police.

The problem of litter at the East Leake end of the village was discussed as an ongoing issue and it was the small rubbish that was the main course of concern. Mr Rowland Pickerill agreed to organise a group of volunteers to carry out litter picking on regular basis and parishioners should contact him to put their names forward.

The provision of dog bins was raised. Concerns were expressed at the unsatisfactory state of pavements on the A60 road and it was difficult to persuade Nottinghamshire County Council to do anything. It was requested contact be made with the County Council, with a copy to be sent to County Councillor Reg Adair, seeking the provision of pavements from the A60 crossroads to the Council Houses.

The need for a new fence to be erected on the right hand side where there was a ditch near the new gate near the bridge on Chapel Lane leading to Green Lane was to be brought to the attention of Mr David Brown, in order such provision could be included in any application to the County Council in regard to their 2007/2008 Works Programme.

Traffic around the Generous Britton public house was raised by parishioners and contact has been made with the Police and it was advised Pc Johnson was responsible for dealing with the problem and her contact details were passed round the meeting room. It was agreed her numbers be put up on the notice board in the village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.