

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Costock held on Wednesday April 21, 2010, in Costock Village Hall at 8.05pm

The parish council chairman Coun. Mrs Kath Owen took the chair and welcomed 13 parishioners who were present.

Apologies were received from parish councillor Chris Brown.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 20, 2009, were read by the chairman and were signed as being correct. It was agreed that in future minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting be placed on the website as soon as they were prepared and marked 'to be confirmed'.

Chairman's Report:

The chairman, Coun. Mrs Kath Owen, commented on the various items that had been dealt with by members in the past year, including the question of road safety and speeding traffic. There had been little progress on provision of the hoped for speed interactive unit to be placed on Leake Road, despite an initial promise of it being in place by February. Notts County Council was offering a temporary sign but the questions of a power supply to it and where it could be sited were still outstanding. It was felt that a site meeting was required and the parish council would be asked to organise this and to involve Coun. Reg Adair and a County Council safety officer at a meeting of the council in May or June.

A resident asked why other steps could not be taken aimed at slowing down traffic through the village, including provision of better signage, chicanes and improved white lining.

The chairman said the village was currently better served for a bus service than it had been for a long period, and she hoped that people would support the increased number of vehicles being offered. The number of people using the number 63 service was reported not to be good.

An inspection by Coun. Tony Starmer of the goal posts on the playing field had shown that the foundations of the sockets were not sound and the parish council would put work into operation to bring about an improvement.

Praise was given by the chairman to the Village Hall Management Committee for their work in ensuring the fabric of the building was kept in good order and a vote of thanks moved to its chairman Mr John Collins.

The council website was also discussed and the chairman said the number of hits on it was quite satisfactory. Coun. Everard Robinson said he would appreciate more photographs being offered to him for using on the site. The question of the village being on the Google street view map option was raised and some worries were voiced over loss of privacy.

Financial Report:

The clerk said the council had started the 2009/2010 financial year with a figure in hand of £15,121 – an amount some £4,000 better than the previous year.

During the year the main items of expenditure had been £1,408 for insurance, £1,331 for grass cutting and £343 for maintenance and equipment. Repairs to the village hall had cost £115, while the playing field rent had been £1,000. In total the expenditure during the financial year was £10,100. Income for the financial year was £16,281 including the £16,000 from the precept. Bank interest income had been slashed because of the national banking situation.

The council ended the year with a balance in hand of £23,019 and the precept for the new financial year was £16,000, the same as in the previous two years.

Questions to the Chair

The question of a Community Speed Watch group was raised again but the chairman pointed out that in the past this had been investigated but insufficient support had been offered.

The matter of the nature reserve at the Bars Hill development was raised, with concerns being expressed by a number of residents at the total lack of attention to the area. It was pointed out that Rushcliffe Borough Council had failed to ensure that the planning conditions for the new development which included a Section 106 agreement were observed. One of the concerns was the wish of residents to remove a fence at the backs of their gardens and replace it with a Hawthorne hedge and the fact it had been promised a Nature Park would be provided.

The meeting agreed that Coun. Reg Adair be invited to a meeting and that this item and that of the speeding problems be discussed at the same time. It was hoped the Borough Council member would bring pressure on to the Borough Council's enforcement officer to take action against the site developers, Charles Church Developments Ltd.

The need for a suitable path to the play area on the playing field for wheelchair users was raised. The question of grass matting being laid was raised. The chairman said she would raise the matter with the school.

The need for additional play equipment for younger aged children was raised and the council chairman said she would ask members to look into it.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.