

MEARS ASHBY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs L Ross, 2 Wilby Lane, Gt Doddington, Northants, NN29 7TP
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH MARCH 2010 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, MEARS ASHBY.

Present: Mrs K Payne, Mr A Watts, Mrs M Barker, Mr A Payne, Mrs J Reid, Mrs C Napier
Cllr J Bailey, Mrs K Stockdale, and 7 members of the public
Sgt Convery and PCSO Halling

The Chairman, Mrs Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the members of the public.

- 1. Apologies** –Mr E Potter, Mrs J Jeffery
- 2. Minutes** of the meeting held 10th March 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 3. Matter Arising** – None
- 4. Councillor Jim Bass** – Cllr Bass did not attend.
- 5. Councillor John Bailey** – Cllr Bailey advised that the increase to the County Council share of the Council Tax was 3.5% for the year. He did express concern regarding the cuts in budgets for the following year 2011.
County Councillors have £10,000.00 to spend in the community and the Parish Council have applied for £1000.00 to help fund the replacement of the fencing surrounding the village hall. The School has applied for £500.00 for a special project. Approval is awaited.
Cllr Bailey advised that he has taken on the title of Heritage Champion for the Borough Council, and in particular the Chester Farm project, a Roman town which is to be excavated.
The Borough Council have levied a 2.9% increase in the Council Tax this year. The Council are currently looking at all areas and services in order to save money (approx. £2m), it is inevitable that some services will be cut. Cllr Bailey than answered some questions regarding suggestions for cuts and the expansion of Wellingborough
- 6. Chairmans Report** – There had been 13 Parish Council meetings including 1 budget meeting over the last financial year. The precept was set at £2000.00. There were also 5 planning meetings. The website was set up with funds received from Cllr Bass's Ward Support Grant and to date has received 450 hits. Planting around the village had been made possible with funds from Cllr Bailey's Empowering Councillors Grant Fund. This coming year it hoped that approval will be given for the village hall re-fencing programme.
Next year is a Parish Council election year and the Chairman encouraged everyone to think about standing for election.
- 7. Police Report** – SGT Convery and PCSO Halling introduced themselves and gave a brief account of the crimes that had occurred in Mears Ashby since the beginning of the year. There were 5 crimes in January all car related and 3 in February, one burglary, and 2 car related.
- 8. Neighbourhood Watch Report** – Mrs Payne advised that this continues to work and thanked all the residents for their help over the year.
- 9. Mears Ashby Society** – The Society was formed in 2009 to encourage a green, friendly attractive village with an opportunity for village members of all ages to help make Mears Ashby a fantastic place to live. Achievements over the year were an inaugural launch party, a litter pick which is to become an annual event and bulb planting. A welcome/information letter has been introduced to be given to all new residents on a arrival to Mears Ashby. Full report attached.
- 10. Mears Ashby Town Estate Report & Accounts** – Mr Watts presented the accounts for the year ending December 2009. Income was £1411.80. Expenses were £465.00 for the York outing and £315.95 were the stockbroker charges. Funds were given to the Church for the clock repairs but the account had not been received by December 2009 and therefore it does not appear in the accounts for this financial year.
- 11. Poores Close Charity Report & Accounts** - Mrs Barker presented the accounts for the year ending December 2009. This is a church charity whose income comes from a parcel of land in Glebe Road and the income of £250.00 was given as New Year gifts to the elderly in the village (25 x £10.00).

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- 12. Sarah Kinloch School Charity Report & Accounts** – Mrs Barker presented the accounts for the year ending December 2008. It is 300 years since the trust was set up there will be celebrations throughout the year. Receipts for the year were £24986.59 and after expenses there is a balance of £19279.82 in hand. It is high but is pending the school house roof and chimney replacement/repairs. A mobile classroom is being placed in the school shortly and a financial contribution will be made by the trust.

- 13. Village Hall Report & Accounts** – Mrs Elaine Matthews presented the report and accounts for the village hall that Mrs Jeffery had prepared the for the year end December 09. There was an excess of income over expenditure of £1591.02. There are two new regular users which helped replace the lost weekly Yoga hire. The Committee held two fundraising events which received matched funding from Barclaycard and proved successful.

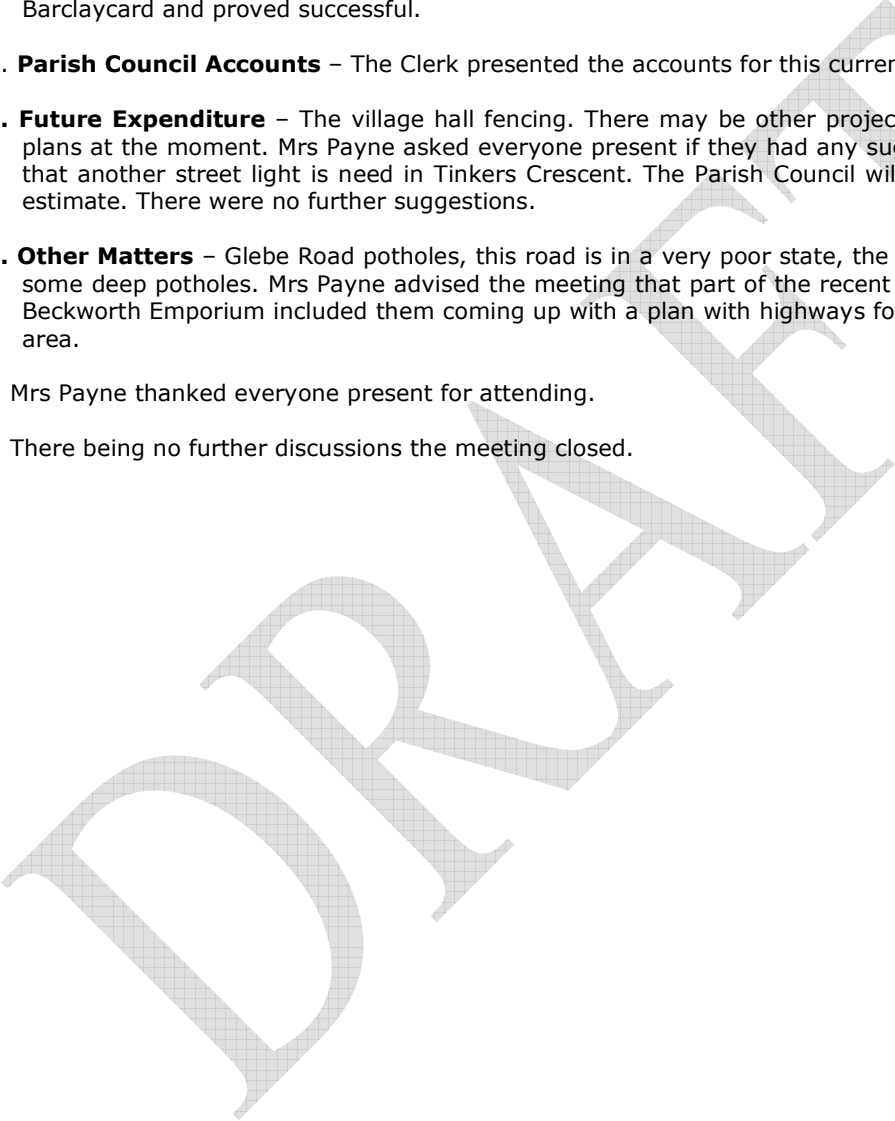
- 14. Parish Council Accounts** – The Clerk presented the accounts for this current year to date.

- 15. Future Expenditure** – The village hall fencing. There may be other projects but there are no definite plans at the moment. Mrs Payne asked everyone present if they had any suggestions. It was suggested that another street light is need in Tinkers Crescent. The Parish Council will look at this and obtain an estimate. There were no further suggestions.

- 16. Other Matters** – Glebe Road potholes, this road is in a very poor state, the edges are badly rutted with some deep potholes. Mrs Payne advised the meeting that part of the recent planning application for the Beckworth Emporium included them coming up with a plan with highways for road improvements in this area.

Mrs Payne thanked everyone present for attending.

There being no further discussions the meeting closed.



Approved & Signed.....

Date.....

Mears Ashby Society 2010

Chair: Michael Chamberlain

Secretary: Alison Bellamy

Purpose

Encouraging a green, friendly, attractive village with opportunity for village members of all ages to help make Mears Ashby a fantastic place to live.

General info

Quarterly/ bi-annual committee meetings.

Minutes exchanged with PCC

Membership 60 families. (175 total families in village).

Achievements

MAS village party last year

Litter picks- bi annual

Bulb planting (report Feb Parish Mag)

Welcome letter to newcomers and info sheet eg chiropodist, coffee mornings, public transport.

Plans

Party Sat 13 March. Village Hall 7.30pm

Litter pick Sat 27 March 10.30am

Renovation of seats at bus shelter and in churchyard.