

# 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 10TH MARCH 2009 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, MEARS ASHBY.**

Present: Mrs M Barker, Mr A Watts, Mrs K Payne, Mrs J Reid,  
Mr A Matthews, PCSO Amy-Heard

The Chairman, Mrs Barker welcomed all to the meeting but expressed disappointment at the apparent lack of public interest.

- 1. Apologies** –Mrs C Napier, Cllr J Bass, Cllr J Bailey, Mrs J Jeffery,
- 2. Minutes** of the meeting held March 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 3. Matter Arising** – None
- 4. Councillor Jim Bass** – As Cllr Bass was unable to attend he submitted a report, see attached.
- 5. Councillor John Bailey** – Cllr Bailey advised that the Council Tax had gone up by 3.9%. Due to the recession and reduction in interest rates monies available will be severely reduced and as a result some services would have to be cut.
- 6. Chairmans Report** – There had been 6 Parish Council meetings since the meeting last year. Time is given at the start of the meetings for members of the public to have their say or ask questions. A representative from Highways(MGWSP) and Northamptonshire County Council have recently carried out a survey of the village. Paddock Lane is a constant problem and Cllr Bass and Cllr Bailey are both now involved in trying to resolve the situation. A new dog bin has been place in North Street. The Parish Council has undertaken a village enhancement scheme after consultation with The Wildlife Trust, area for improvement and plants have been agreed and planting has already begun. This is being funded by the monies received from the County Councillors Discretionary Fund. A Parish council website is going to be set up in the forthcoming year and funds for this have been received fro Cllr Bass's Ward Support Fund. The Chairman thanked both Cllrs for their support for these two projects. The Chairman thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their support throughout the year.
- 7. Neighbourhood Watch Report** – Mrs Payne advised that a replacement for Mr Broome was still required. 9 households within the village took the opportunity to buy the Smart Water kits.
- 8. Police Report** – PCSO Lynette Amey-Heard and PCSO Natalie Cordner have now filled the vacancies at Earls Barton. PCSO Amy-Heard advised that there had been 20 incidents during the last year. Most recently there had been some criminal damage at the school and as a result the police have increased their patrols. In general the police are being more vigilant as with a recession statistically crime rates increase.
- 9. Mears Ashby Town Estate Report & Accounts** – Mr Watts presented the accounts for the year ending December 2008 and advised that £2160.00 was paid out towards the refurbishment of Town Well and £318.41 were the stockbroker charges. Receipts were reduced due to the fall in the money markets. There are plans to re-introduce the village outing. Town Estates would like to buy some children's play equipment but as there are no suitable sites this is not possible.
- 10. Poors Close Charity Report & Accounts** - Mrs Barker presented the accounts for the year ending December 2007. 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.

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**11. Sarah Kinloch School Charity Report & Accounts** – Mrs Barker presented the accounts for the year ending December 2008. Income is received from the school house and a parcel of land at Arthingworth which was purchased when Sarah Kinloch died to give an income for the education of children. The balance in the current account is higher this year as money is earmarked for new computer equipment in the school. Next year is the 300<sup>th</sup> year of the charity and funds will be spent on big projects.

**12. Village Hall Report & Accounts** – Mrs Jeffery had prepared the accounts for the year end December 08. It was noted that the cleaner’s charges are shown as a donation as the cleaners do not charge for their services. The New chairman is Mrs Elaine Matthews, Secretary Mrs Helen Cracknell and the Bookings Secretary Mrs Caroline Napier.

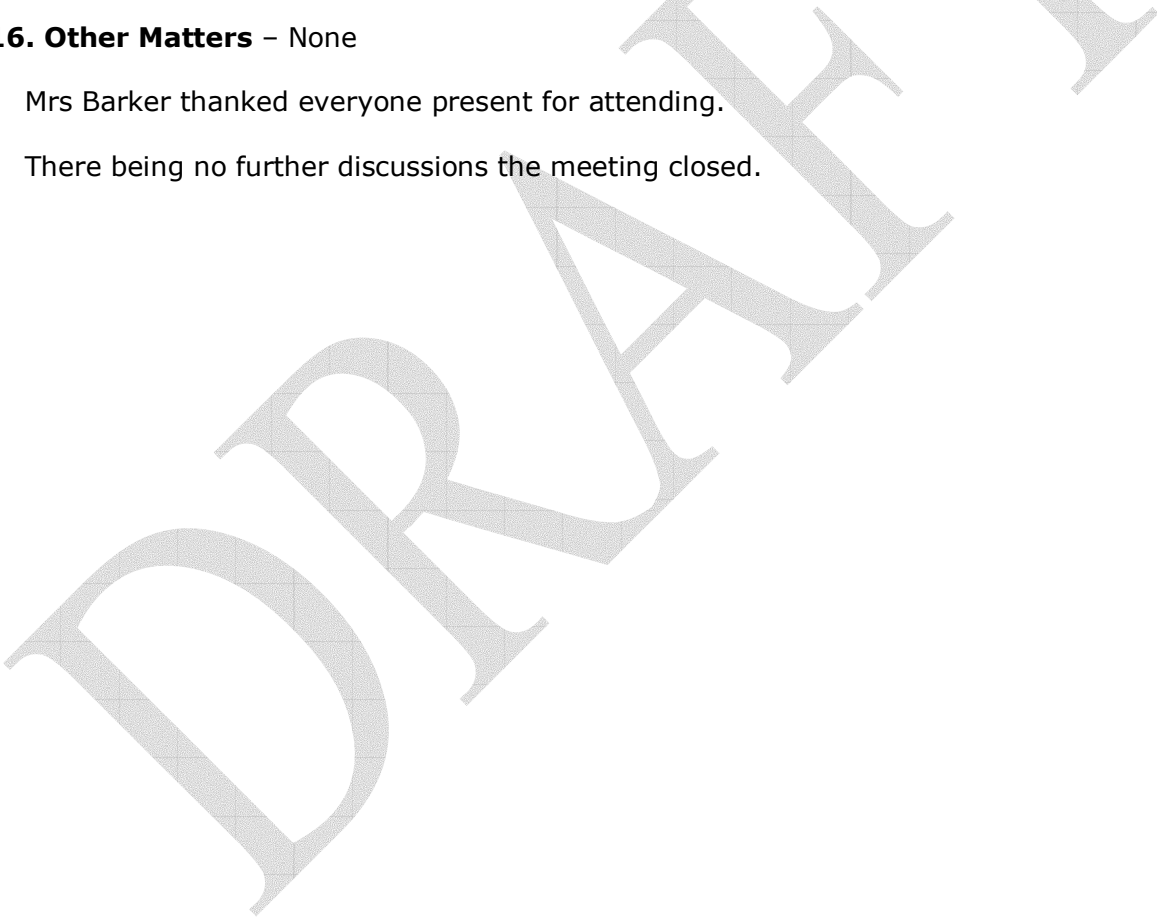
**14. Parish Council accounts** – The Clerk presented the accounts for this current year to date.

**15. Future Expenditure** – The village enhancement which has already begun and the website are the two projects for the forthcoming year.

**16. Other Matters** – None

Mrs Barker thanked everyone present for attending.

There being no further discussions the meeting closed.



Approved & Signed.....

Date.....