



Minutes of Metheringham, Sots Hole & Tanvats, Annual Village Meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors M Allen, N Byatt, P Ford, J Finegan (Chairman), M Gascoigne, J Gwilym (Vice- Chairman), J Kendrick, S Peek and S Wilson.

In attendance: Councillor R Kendrick (North Kesteven District Council - NKDC).

Officer: S Wetherall (Parish Clerk)

Parish Council Staff: P Chambers (Handyman)
L Evans (Administration Assistant)

Invited Guests: Michael Credland – Local Historian

Public: 43 members of the public

Apologies: Councillors S Stocker, Councillor J Money (North Kesteven District Council - NKDC) and Councillor P Bradwell (Lincolnshire County Council – LCC).

- 1. Welcome and Introduction:** Councillor Joanna Finegan welcomed everyone to the 2016 Annual Village Meeting and said it was great to see so many people in attendance. The agenda and copies of the Annual Report for 2015/2016 were available for attendees.
- 2. Presentation:** To Mr David Honisett following his retirement from the parish council. Councillor Finegan, thanked David for all his efforts during his time with the parish council, wished him well for the future and enjoyment of his retirement. David was presented with a gift in recognition of his service to the parish council.
- 3. Notes of the last Annual Village Meeting held on 28th April 2015 to be approved and signed as the minutes:** The notes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 28th April 2015 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting, this was proposed by Councillor Finegan, seconded by Councillor R Kendrick and all were in favour, the minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Annual Parish Council Report:** Overview from Councillor Joanna Finegan of the parish council activities during 2015-2016. The parish council aspire to build a community people want to live in and care about each other. It has been a busy year with various projects. Mr David Honisett has retired from the parish council and Mrs Lee Evans and Mr Michael Cummins have been appointed to the council. Paul the handyman has continued with training and is now qualified to carry out PAT testing. The parish council have an office in the village for the first

Signed: _____

Dated: 23rd May 2017

time, this is in conjunction with NKDC and offers surgeries for the police, CAB, welfare team and parish council. The Library operated by the parish council is run by an amazing group of volunteers, user numbers have increased, this is a very social role and pleasant experience. A recent afternoon tea organized by the volunteers raised a whopping £600.00.

The swimming pool is operated by a separate management committee, who currently have an experienced team, working hard on maintenance issues and to increase user numbers.

There have been rumours about the Recreation Field Developments. Further consultation with the public will be needed to establish what the public want on the field eg changing rooms, youth club, and library. We as the parish council need to know what the public want and need your help. There are plans to replace the play equipment on Prince's Street, consultations and questionnaires are underway. Additional car parking at Prince's Street has been highlighted. Staff and Councillors are trained to inspect the play parks. The parish council are responsible for 200 street lights, over 35 of these are concrete and need to be replaced at an approximate cost of £1,000.00 each; a huge cost to the parish council and impact on the budget.

An events committee has been formed and any events organized by the parish council need to be done professionally, to budget, timely, risk assessed, road closure consent etc. Working with the public on projects such as Clean for the Queen. The Queens Beacon Lighting Ceremony and event was a great success, there was a good turnout from all generations of the community. Other events organized by the parish council include the AVM, Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony, Fayre & Feast which will take place again in 2016, Christmas Celebrations with input from Mrs Kristen and her team of volunteers and Remembrance Day Service in conjunction with the local churches.

The parish council work hard to liaise with LCC, NKDC and Lincolnshire Police to highlight issues with traffic, pot holes, speeding etc. But members of the public can report these issues direct.

The parish council have done lots of work and have many aspirations, a small group of volunteers work really hard, so why not join us? All volunteers are unpaid and assist with the parish council in their own time. There are pressures on the budget as LCC and NKDC devolve powers to the parish council. We are working smarter to achieve more with less, this means managing budgets and monitoring very closely. The parish council want to be aspirational, accessible, to listen and do what people want. We are looking to communicate in different ways, but please don't listen to rumours come and talk to us! Thank you to all involved in the village at the various groups, you are driven to do it. Thank you to all the parish council staff. You can be involved as a Councillor; at the swimming pool, library, Fayre & Feast, neighbourhood plan, please help your community.

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5. **Key Note Speaker:** Mr Michael Credland – Local Historian Began with an overview of the projects he had recently been involved in which includes: 295 war memorials, Scopwick House, Lincolnshire Regiment, War Memorial Centenary, Tank Memorial – Tritton Road, Poppy Wave – Lincoln Castle. He then gave an extremely interesting talk about the history of Scopwick House, this was used as a Voluntary Aid Detachment in 1914 as a convalescent hospital. Many of the family names mentioned were know by members of the audience. These included Emma and Ada Mills and the Kirk sisters who lived on Metheringham High Street. Extensive research took place for 18 months to ensure JF Wright and A Hannah were given the war graves they were entitled to, these are located in the new graveyard.
6. *The meeting was adjourned for a finger buffet and drinks, a chance to view exhibits and socialize with the guest speaker, representatives from the village organizations, Parish and District Councils.*
7. **Reports from village organizations:**
LIVES: Metheringham & Dunston Responders train in Dunston. They receive 17,000 calls per year. 90% of the time the responder is the first there. They attended 300 calls in Metheringham. There are currently 6 active responders it costs £1,000,000.00 per year all raised by volunteers. This cannot be done without you. Spread the word and help.
Churches Together: Reverend Amery activities are held in partnership they value the link with the parish church. Bible study is held on Wednesday and Thursday; Mission X is alternate Fridays. They are serving the community, encourages and enables to work well together. Sunday worship is held at 10.30am. This is Reverend Amery's last village event before retirement in the summer. There is something very special about Metheringham!
 Gaynor Little added St Wilfrid's have a service on the 3rd Sunday of the month which is modern worship, people should take a look as it is different. The church shop is very busy with lots to offer, social events are organized regularly. A garden party is being held at 30 Lincoln Road 02-07-2016 to raise funds for the swimming pool/pavilion and St Wilfrid's. Tickets are £5.00, please support.
Metheringham Swimming Pool: The pool would like to thank you for all your help, Peter for the shed, Tommy Brooks – relaying slabs, Paul for the PAT testing and help with the conifer hedge and St Wilfrid's. If anyone can assist with grants please let us know. The team are helping to raise awareness of the pool by facebook/advertising and social media.
Metheringham Village Hall Management Committee: Dr Allen stated it was business as usual. Fred Townsend gifted the village hall to the village in 1965, the parish council are the custodian trustees. The management committee needs volunteers if anyone wants to volunteer please let Dr Allen know. The main income comes from the hire of the hall. If we don't use it we will lose it! Friends of Metheringham Village Hall has been set up to help fundraise. The VHMC are looking at grants but this is a time consuming process if anyone can help. Thanks go to Mrs Kristen the only member of staff, but she is not around twenty four seven! Thanks to the parish council for funding new boilers, insurance and a public works loan.

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8. Question Time Session:

The double yellow lines are to be applied on the High Street 3rd May 2016.

The area around the duck pond is the responsibility of NKDC.

Prince's Street – issues of speeding; Councillor Byatt stated the Speed Indicator Device (SID) will be positioned there on regular occasions.

A member of the public raised her concerns that the Blood donor sessions no longer come to the village, even though they were well supported. This needs to be brought back to the village.

9. Date, time and venue of next meeting: To be announced

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed: _____

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