

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SCOULTON PARISH HELD ON 10th MAY 2017 AT 8.10 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mark Brown, Al Middleton, Roy Potton, Andrew Shingfield, Colin Spinks, Zena Rowland and Nigel Webster.

In attendance: Heidi Frary (Clerk), DC Hewett and DC Rogers

Apologies: None

1. **Minutes** of the 2016 meeting had been circulated to councillors and were approved.
2. **Chairman's report:**
 - Colin Spinks reported that the bus shelter has been repainted.
 - The War Memorial is still in need of repair, and the Clerk is working hard to obtain quotes.
 - Funding for large 50mph signs has been refused but the bid for match funding for village gates was successful.
 - The bus hardstanding has been installed and is in regular use.
 - Dog fouling is an ongoing concern, signs have been installed however the effectiveness of this is not known.
 - The village benches have been refurbished thanks to Roy and Jane Gutteridge.
 - The Council remember Jenny Potton and Donny Allcock who passed away last year.
 - The Council have been asked for funding help towards replacing the lead on the Church roof and are supporting where possible.
 - The precept was raised by 2% for the first time in many years. This represents a small amount per household and reflects rising costs.
 - The litter pick was a great success and was attended by members of the public as well as the Council. Unfortunately the litter was not collected until much later by Breckland Council which was disappointing. This will become an annual event.

Other Reports:

3. Village Hall: The financial statement was passed to the Clerk. CS noted that the front door has been replaced and looks excellent. Income has been a concern as regular hirers have reduced in number which means that the hall ran at a deficit for the last year.
4. Fuel Allotment Trustees: The financial statement was passed to the Clerk.
5. Scoulton Green Space: CS reported that activities at The Grove continue. Thanks to Roy Grimwood for cutting the grass, sadly the blue van remains! Contact with the school is hoped to be renewed so that work on the tree nursery can continue. Two benches have been made from wood sourced from the land to replace benches which had been vandalised. Approximately 100 wild flowers, tools and refreshments were donated by Wayland Partnership and a working party to plant them included a new volunteer. Roy Potton has sadly decided to relinquish the role of treasurer for the working party after many years but the work of the volunteers will continue.
6. Tree Warden Report: There are no obvious issues with the Parish trees. Very few have been lost to Ash dieback and new trees are taking root. The visual tree report will follow in due course. **DC Hewett to investigate any district tree warden network.**

7. District Councillor report: Attached to the signed minutes and available from the Clerk on request.
8. County Councillor report: None
9. Safer Neighbourhood Team update: None
10. Any other reports: None
11. Public questions: None

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.