

## **HINDERCLAY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015.**

Present: Cllr J Davie-Thornhill & Mrs J Jones (Clerk)

County Cllr J Fleming. 7 villagers

Apologies: Cllr Mr L. Aves

### MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 08.05.2014

The minutes were circulated and approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

### COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

**County and District Cllr Jessica Fleming** – The results of local and National elections have elected Mrs Jo. Churchill as MP and Derek Osborne and Jessica Fleming as District Cllrs for this ward.

Broadband – Hinderclay has now been upgraded and the commitment is to provide high speed broadband to Suffolk by 2020.

Highways – New reporting app allows for improved services for reporting potholes and other highway issues.

Level crossings – Network rail and the County Council plan to assess all level crossings on the Norwich – London line. A programme for assessing the crossings will be provided in the summer of 2015.

**Full report attached.**

**Police** – No report submitted on the night but one attached.

### ANNUAL REPORTS

**Village Hall**- read out by P Aves.

The village hall has regular use by groups such as ‘Greenfingers’ gardening group, yoga, morris dancers, carpet bowls and bingo. Little Ernie draw and the recycling banks have boosted the village hall funds as have fundraising events including race night and harvest supper. In the past year new stage curtains have been fitted, guttering replaced and the pathway resurfaced.

**Full report attached.**

**Fen Report** – Read by Cllr R Langston

The fen is in good condition and the reedbed is continually being cleared of invasive trees.

Aspen is difficult to control but ragwort is under control. Barn owls haven’t been successful in raising a brood but tawny owls, cuckoos, blue tits and kingfishers are all breeding.

**Full report attached.**

**Parochial Church Council Report** – Read by Cllr J Davie - Thornhill.

The Rev. Fulton has retired and the priest in charge is the Rev. David Messer, who takes charge of 8 parishes. St Mary’s has held special services to mark the declaration of WWI, The Flower Festival and the Songs of Praise service.

There were four funeral services which included two burials in the churchyard and one interment of ashes.

The church wishes to thank all those who have supported the fund raising events, including song cycle, summer fete, Christmas bazaar and the harvest supper. Thank you to all the people who help keep the church looking good inside and out and to the Parish Council for their financial support.

**Full report attached**

**Tree Warden** – No report submitted

**Footpaths** – The width of some paths has been reduced, with the main cause being farming practices. The standard width is 3m for bridleways and 1.5m for footpaths. Cowfen Lane hedge is in need of cutting in the autumn as the width of the path has been reduced by the overgrown hedge. There is a waymark post missing and a broken fingerpost, these have been reported to the Council.

**Full report attached.**

**Local School** – Read by Cllr A Hainsworth

Nick Butterworth the children's author opened the new library at St Botolphs and they have two new staff starting in the autumn term. The plant sale was a good fund raiser. The intake for the next few years is predicted to be low due to the lack of new families moving to the area.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Copy of Receipts & Payments circulated. No queries raised.

**Full report attached.**

CHAIRMANS REPORT – Planning applications have been received and voted on, potholes in and around the village have been reported and some attended to. Fibre optic is now up and running but it is up to individual households to connect up to it.

The precept was kept at £4,500.

Many thanks to Brian Spooner, Jane Jones and residents who have helped with village matters.

PARISH MATTERS – Open Forum

Mr Brian Spooner commented on the low intake of the local school and suggested that it was due to the lack of affordable housing in the area. It appears that urban schools are seeing an increase in child places at school but that in rural areas numbers are decreasing.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.