

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
ALDRINGHAM-CUM-THORPE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 7TH MARCH 2016
TOWER ROOM, THORPENESS**

PRESENT: THE CHAIRMAN, 4 COUNCILLORS and GUEST SPEAKERS

1. APOLOGIES

SCC Councillor Richard Smith, SCDC Councillor T.J.Haworth-Culf, Mr M Laschet, Mr B Crow, Mr S. Squirrell, Mrs P McLardy & Mrs E Tipping

2. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting

This year we will do it a little different, I would normally give my report at the start of the meeting but as this is the Parish Meeting (Your Meeting) I am going to leave my report until the end and that way I won't steal anybodies thunder or duplicate anything that your individual reports cover.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd March 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

- A. St Andrews Church – Revd Mark Lowther
- B. Suffolk Coastal District Council – Councillor Maureen Jones
- C. Local Police
- D. Coastal Protection – Mr Mike Chandler
- E. Heritage Group - Mr Arthur Day
- F. Safer Cycling – Mrs C Laschet
- G. Trustees of Sports Field & Pavilion – Mr Eric Atkinson
- H. Tower Room/Residents – Mrs Wendy Sturmeay
- I. Good Neighbours – Mr M Sturmeay
- J. Tea & Toast – Mrs S Atkinson
- K. Neighbourhood Watch – Mr B Crow – read in his absence

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As we have heard another full year has passed and it does seem a long time ago since last March/April when we last had our update of the things that were happening across the Parish, as always some things do move slowly in our rural communities (which is not always a bad thing) but as always it has been enlightening to reflect back and see the progress that has again been made in many areas.

We had Parish Council elections last May and five of us were elected unopposed (David, Scott, Pippa, Maureen and Myself) leaving us with four vacancies. Mick Sturmeay was co-opted in October but we still have room for three more – Are you interested!

On the money front our Precept was again held at £7000.00 for the Parish.

PLANNING

As always planning applications continue to occupy a lot of council time with 30 applications (11 less than last year) being considered, 26 were supported by the Parish Council and 4 were not supported because of either the location, design and/or scale of the proposed developments were not appropriate.

We have seen two significant previously approved applications being progressed this year. The Old Barn down Old Homes Road has had further repair/stabilising work carried out and I am sure you will have seen the new thatch and side wall.

Also replacement of the sea front property Seadune in North End Avenue is now well underway.

The Community Infrastructure Levy was introduced by Suffolk Coastal District Council in July and will be made against all new development in the District it will be 15%/25% and will go to infrastructure projects in the Parish.

SIZEWELL

The Phase 2 consultation for Sizewell C as last year is still awaited and again we are told it could be anytime soon – Watch this space??

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

I would also like to mention a few more things that have happened over the year that have not been covered:

a) As always traffic management and road safety still remain an issue in both Aldringham and Thorpeness

The double yellow lines were introduced in July and coupled with the cutting of the bottom of the Common and the verge along Old Homes Road the restriction appears to have worked well.

On the same note we have been looking at how the verges are managed within the Parish and some work has already been done to improve the Aldeburgh Road in Thorpeness. It is hoped to work closer with the landowners in future to improve things throughout the Parish.

The Traffic Speed warning sign to be shared with Aldeburgh was obtained last year and some of you may have seen it in action in Aldeburgh, it will be coming to our Parish soon.

It has taken over a year but we have a new – working street light at the lower entrance to Mill Hill.

Flooding at the bottom of Old Homes Road has been raised a number of times with Highways this year and culminated in them meeting a local householder last Friday where I understand they agreed to carry out improvements to the drainage system.

b) Communication within the Parish is still a focus for improvement.

Our Parish WEB site continues to grow from strength to strength (thanks to Louise Chadwick) I would encourage you all to make use of it and add information where appropriate.

Peter Knight of Aldringham offered his services as the editor of our Parish Newsletter and two have been published in July and December the next one is due out in the next few weeks the request for contributions will be going out next week.

c) Suffolk Coastal District Council did reduce the number of Councillors to 43 in the District, which did result in Aldeburgh and Aldringham-cum-Thorpe being grouped with Knodishall, Friston and Snape and still will only have two councillors for the whole group.

They have also announced the move of the Council offices to Melton opposite the railway station.

d) The East of England Co-operative Society finally fitted the Community Access Defibrillator adjacent to the Meare in May.

e) We are still looking for support to complete our Parish Emergency Plan if anyone is interested.

SUFFOLK COASTAL LOCAL PLAN/Parish Neighbourhood Plan

At last year's meeting I reported we had started to see if a Neighbourhood Plan was the way forward for us as a Parish to describe what we envisage for our future and to have a say in the way any development occurs. Since then we have formed a Steering Group who felt there was enough support and energy in the parish to prepare a plan, so we have applied for designation to produce a plan for the whole Parish and got together a Project Group which is just starting to get to grips with all that is required to produce a plan. If you or you know anyone who may be interested in getting involved please let us know. We hope to arrange a drop in session in the early summer to kick start the consultation process.

Finally I would like to give a big thank you to all of you and others who have contributed time and effort in helping to improve the Parish in the ways we have heard tonight and many events that have not been mentioned such as the Beach Clean, the Village Summer and Christmas fetes, Carols around the Christmas Trees, Coffee Mornings, Car Boot Sales, Quizzes and not to forget the Regatta and Fireworks and many other activities. I would also like to thank the businesses in the Parish who are always very supportive in all we do.

I hope we can all continue to all work together and grow our community in a way that will ensure we have an enriching and sustainable future.

I would especially like to thank my fellow councillors for all they do for the Parish and on their behalf I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shirley for all the work she does behind the scenes.

6. MEETING OPENED FOR QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Signed

Date: 6th March 2017

