**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**ALDRINGHAM-CUM-THORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2017**

**TOWER ROOM, THORPENESS**

**PRESENT: THE CHAIRMAN, 5 COUNCILLORS, 7 PARISHIONERS and GUEST SPEAKERS**

**1. APOLOGIES**

**SCDC Councillor T.J.Haworth-Culf, Mr S. Squirrell, Mr B Crow & Mr T Woods**

**2. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting**

As last year 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 7TH March 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

**4. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

A. St Andrews Church – Mrs Sue Atkinson read on behalf of Rev’d Mark Lowther

B. Suffolk County Council - Councillor Richard Smith

C. Suffolk Coastal District Council – Councillor Maureen Jones

D. TCFG Coastal Protection – Mr Mike Chandler report read by The Chairman

E. Heritage Group – Maureen Jones

F. Safer Cycling – Mrs Christine Laschet

G. ImpACTS – Mr Bill Halford

H. Trustees of Sports Field & Pavilion – Mr Eric Atkinson

I. Good Neighbours – Mrs Pippa McLardy

J. Tea & Toast – Mrs S Atkinson

K. Aldringham Neighbourhood Watch read in his absence

L. 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.

At the beginning of 2016 we were still short of three Parish Councillors and although Alan Williams step up to join us in October we are still down so if you are interested just let us know.

PLANNING

As always planning applications continue to occupy a lot of council time, however there were only 19 applications (11 less than last year and half the number for 14/15, so perhaps we have filled all the available space!!) were considered. 15 were supported by the Parish Council and 4 were not supported because of the location, design and/or scale of the proposed development not appropriate.

We have seen one significant previously approved application being progressed this year. The site on Old Homes Road where work has now started to clear the site for work as I understand it is to start in April.

We received the SCDC’s Site Allocation and Area Specific Policies – Proposed Submissions Document in May and were surprised to see that the area of land east of Aldeburgh Road and South of the driveway to Aldringham House had been identified for development for 40 dwellings despite it previously being discounted in the consultation document. We made strong representation to SCDC on how this has happened.

The review of SCDC’s Site Allocation and Area Specific Policies – Proposed Submissions Document was carried out at the end of August. Despite strong representation from the Parish Council and a number of Parishioners (one of whom spent three days raising concerns at the hearing), the inspector did not recommend any changes to the plan regarding the inclusion of the Site. Since then the final report has been issued confirming this.

SIZEWELL

The Phase 2 consultation for Sizewell C was finally carried out in December/January. A number of us attended meetings and presentations in the proposals and a response was submitted by the Parish Council with our main focus on legacy and benefit which seems to be largely absent from EDF’s thinking.

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 as in many parishes across the Country.

I know a number of you have been following the proposals to reduce the speed

Limit on the B1122 between Aldringham and Aldeburgh to 40 mph along its whole

length which is being discussed by Suffolk County Council tomorrow.

b) Verges and Footpaths

Many of you have raised the issue of the overgrown roadside verges together

with overgrown footpaths, you may not be aware but it is the responsibility of the

cutting contractor to cut the vegetation growing on the immediate verge or footpath, they are not responsible for the growth that overhangs from the side.

As this has been a particular bad (good) year for the growth this has become a significant problem and can only be dealt with as resources permit.

However, many of the verges have now been cut back over the winter period and we are seeking for them to be better managed in the future.

Flooding

Flooding at the bottom of Old Homes Road, I spoke to the new site owner about the problem and hope it will be finally resolved by the development of the site.

The problem at the entrance to Church Lane has been dealt with 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. A tab for the Neighbourhood Plan has been added.

Peter Knight moved out of the area in April and Pippa McLardy has stepped forward and taken on the role of Editor of the Parish Newsletter producing issues in August and December, with the next one due next month so get your info to her by the 12th March.

c) We are still looking for support to complete our Parish Emergency Plan and we have a volunteer from Thorpeness to help us progress it. Anyone interested from Aldringham?

d) Aldringham Green and work of the impACT Group (posts, bench, notice board and Christmas Tree).

e) England Coast Path - a survey was carried out in May and the route is now being finalised for our area.

f) Fly tipping, there have been a number of instances in the parish from garden waste and household items to builder rubbish so be vigilant and report any occurrences so they can be properly dealt with.

g) Aldringham Phone Box is to be decommissioned and a future use is being considered for it.

h) Community clean up award – as SCDC report we received £200 through the efforts of Bill Crow.

i) Thorpeness Car Park Lease for a Heritage/Visitors centre – SCDC cabinet meet tomorrow to discuss the hopefully agree.

PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

On the 5th May SCDC approved the designation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area of Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish. The Parish Council formally signed the agreement to continue and start the formal process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

I would like to thank everybody who attended the Neighbourhood Plan Drop-In Event held in August. It was good to see over 91 of you who were all interested in the future of the Parish and our two villages; 54 came from Aldringham and The Follies, 48 from Thorpeness and The Fens, 3 from Sizewell and 6 from outside the Parish, making a total of 57 householders in the Parish being represented by one or more individuals.

Good discussions on the value of a Neighbourhood Plan and an exchange of views and ideas took place between members of the NP Team and those who attended, which helped everyone have a better understanding of the many issues that will have an impact on the future for all of us.

It also enabled many who attended to raise their concerns and aspirations for the future with 70 Stickie notes plus two emails being written. These raised 118 individual items across several significant issues including: additional community facilities, traffic management, housing, infrastructure, Coastal protection and flooding. These will all now be used as input to the plan development.

We have started to look at the concerns and aspirations raised and how we should take them forward with further consultation before we prepare a parish questionnaire which will enable us to produce the first complete draft of the plan.

A number of the concerns and aspirations raised were not appropriate for the NP but we will be including them in an updated Parish plan so they are not lost.

If anyone would like to be involved in the NP there are still plenty of opportunities.

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 may 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**

Special thanks were made to Mr Mike Chandler for all his efforts and help with Shoreline Management and Coastal Protection issues.

Councillor Jones reported that tomorrow evening SCDC will have discussions on the leasing of land for the proposed Heritage Centre.

An Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled to be held Easter Monday on Aldringham Green.

Signed Date: 5th March 2018

Chairman