

MESSINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2009

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27TH May 2009 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Chairman of the Parish Council – N Poole; Clerk to the Parish Council – Mrs J Walker; Alison Locking of Neighbourhood Response Team; Caroline Boff of Safer Neighbourhoods; and 13 members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Parish Councillors J England, Mrs J Briggs & R Nixon. and Mr M Sherwood

2. **MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes were circulated to those present and time was allowed for reading. The minutes passed as a true record – proposed by Mr J R Walker and seconded by Mrs G Sherwood – carried.

3. **MATTERS ARISING –** There were no matters arising.

4. **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

a) Capital Projects

The resurfacing of the Playing Field car park has been carried out at a cost of £14,500. The Parish Council deemed this expenditure necessary for the health and safety of all users of the playing field and play area.

b) Allotments

Due to the continuing demand for garden allotments 13 new allotments have been created from half acre plots making a total of 52 garden allotments for 50 tenants, although it was noted that allotments are now allocated in half plots. There are currently four on the waiting list.

c) Holme Meadow

Drainage issues of the last two years have been partially resolved with dykes being cleared by the neighbouring landowners. Additional drainage is still being investigated.

d) Open Space – Kealholme Road

Discussions have taken place with the landowner and North Lincolnshire Council to create a permanent footpath from The Meadows estates across the open space,

e) Boundary Dispute

The Parish Council undertook to reclaim the boundary at the rear of the Play Area on Northfield Road which resulted in legal costs of almost £6000 to resolve the issue.

f) Handyman/Play Area Attendant

Following the resignation of Mick Walker as the Parish Council gardener, the decision was taken to contract North Lincolnshire Council to plant and maintain the flowerbeds at the memorial, Brigg Road and Benson Close, with the handyman maintaining the grassed areas around them.

Graham East was appointed as handyman/gardener in May 2008 and makes weekly inspections of the play area and Holme Meadow as well as general maintenance as required.

The play area attendant, John Drust is to retire at the end of May and will be replaced by Mrs Kay Hall. It was noted that the closing time for the play area in the summer months has been changed to 6pm due to the gathering of youths in the early evening.

g) 2009/10 Precept

The precept has been set at £50,000 which includes grants made to village organisations ranging from £100 to £3000 to a total of £6350; village enhancement, churchyard and grass cutting budget £12,500; play area and Holme Meadow maintenance £6500; playing field car park £5000; legal fees and traveller invasion measures £3750.

h) Village Complaints

Regular complaints included flytipping; horses on footpaths; dog fouling; overhanging hedges and trees; and youth problems particularly in Middleton Close.

5. FINANCES FOR THE YEAR 2008/9

A financial statement was circulated to all those present. It was agreed to accept these accounts subject to annual audit. Proposed J McKellar-Main; seconded M Proctor.

6. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

Alison Locking of the Neighbourhood Response Team addressed the meeting to explain the background to the making of dog control orders. The areas covered in Messingham are Childrens Play Area; Playing Field; Holme Meadow and off Trentholme Drive. It was noted that these can be revised in the future.

7. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Caroline Boff of the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership addressed the meeting to give an overview of the aims of Safer Neighbourhood Partnership which was set up in 1998 to reduce crime and disorder. The area is split geographically into thematic teams i.e. anti-social behaviour and domestic disorder etc. Information is gathered from the community via the Neighbourhood Action teams and crime and disorder is tackled with multi agencies. The main priorities in the Messingham area are anti-social behaviour and parking issues on Brigg Road.

Community Speedwatch cover speed management for non priority speed areas (over 40mph being priority). The Chairman explained that other issues recently referred to the Neighbourhood Action Teams have been graffiti and youths travelling via the bus routes to various villages.

8. VILLAGE ORGANISATION REPORTS

a) Brownies represented by Sally Stevenson and Belinda Todd

The membership has risen from 12 to 25 members plus a waiting list so a new Brownie pack is to be started. Brownies are keen to help in the community. Centenary in 2010.

b) IN BLOOM – represented by Sue England

Started in 2003 and now maintaining 27 flowerbeds, with 2000 plants throughout the village – all looked after by volunteers although 20 flowerbeds are maintained by only 3 ladies who have a combined age of over 200 years! Volunteers needed for digging and watering plus general maintenance. An offer was made from the Brownies to help in some way. Fortunately there has been very little trouble with vandalism of the flowerbeds although 200 wallflowers went missing from Middleton Close – this was later discovered to be rabbits!

Judging is carried out twice a year by the Yorkshire in Bloom judges and the CPRE Best Kept Village judges. Silver Award won in the last two years in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition but it is noted that it not just floral displays which are judged. Residents gardens though continue to be very good.

c) Village Hall represented by Mike Proctor

The development plan had been costed at between £750,000 and £1,000,000 so it has been decided to revise the plans to a smaller scale. It was noted that there are only 5 members on the development committee. The current project for the village hall is to replace the fascias.

The Chairman explained that the management committee of the village hall are all volunteers – financially supported by the parish council but managed by the volunteers.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The issue of the amalgamation of the Junior and Infant schools was raised but the Chairman advised that no further information is available at the present time.

This concluded the business of the meeting so the Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8.25pm