

Minutes of Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th May 2013

Present: Cllr D Harris (chair), the Clerk, SCC Cllr P Bellfield, SCDC Cllr B Snell and 19 parishioners.
The meeting began at 7:30pm.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr A Wheeler-Rowe, Mrs C Wheeler-Rowe, PCSO C Hassler

2. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting noting the lack of younger parishioners in attendance, which is a matter to be considered.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2012 were approved and signed.

4. Reports

a) County Councillor Peter Bellfield

Cllr Bellfield remarked positively that apart from Grundisburgh we have the best turn out to an Annual Parish Meeting then gave his report (see below) noting the following extra points.

Budget - SCC are expected to save a further £150 million.

Energy from Waste - There are plans to produce 10% of the tomatoes for this country in 2 large greenhouses.

Cllr Bellfield is always contactable by phone or email if parishioners need support dealing with SCC.

Questions:

- 1) Where will the very large greenhouses be built? Immediately adjacent to the incinerator as there are inefficiencies otherwise.
- 2) With reference to the Ipswich Northern Fringe development mentioned, how many empty homes are there in Ipswich? Cllr Bellfield was unsure but could say that the figure was reduced in Suffolk Coastal. He is pushing for development of brown field sites rather than green and recommending refusal of planning on green field sites. SCC can currently only refuse planning permission on highway grounds which he considers inadequate.
- 3) On the same subject, is the infrastructure adequate? Certainly the highways provision is not and experts are unsatisfied with the drainage proposed.
- 4) What can be done about the loss of subsidised transport for 6th form students? The government have withdrawn the subsidy for 16 year old and over transport, which SCC can not afford to replace. There are plans to introduce an oyster type card for 16-19 years olds using regular transport. The questioner pointed out that regular transport does not get pupils to school on time. Cllr Bellfield said that SCC has only a small influence on this but the best course of action was to contact the appropriate department at SCC and if no positive result is forthcoming contact Cllr Bellfield directly.

Cllr Durbin offered many thanks to Cllr Bellfield for being instrumental in the completion of the Village Gateway project, which was completed this year, through both financial assistance and working within SCC on our behalf.

b) District Councillor Bob Snell

Cllr Snell remarked that he had similar objections to the Ipswich Northern Fringe development then gave his report (see below).

Questions:

1) What are the rules about roadside posters? They are illegal, specifically if they are distracting to drivers or otherwise cause danger on the road. It is at the discretion of SCC Highways which to remove but they cannot remove them all. They are the responsibility of SCDC if they are considered litter. The questioner asked who to complain to, to which the Cllr replied SCC Highways in the first instance and Cllr Bellfield if appropriate action isn't taken. It was pointed out that Framlingham town council have a policy of immediate removal of unauthorised roadside signage.

2) It seems that developers are now allowed to build anywhere in our green and pleasant land that they wish. Should we mobilise? Should we complain through SCDC, SCC or our MP? Cllr Snell replied that SCDC are being dictated to by the government and are having planning refusals overturned. He then stated that in order to protect our region it will be necessary to campaign to support SCDC's refusals.

3) What is Affordable Housing? It used to be known as Social and Council Housing, is often let and is managed by Housing Associations. Where rented they are to be rented in perpetuity at reasonable rates. SCDC have reduced the rent of reduction for unoccupied buildings.

c) Suffolk Police

In PCSO Hassler's absence Neighbourhood Watch Officer Derrick Neilson read his report (see below). He then noted that there appears to be trends towards increased thefts of household gardening items and heating oil.

Questions:

1) What is the success rate for resolving these crimes? NWO Neilson was not aware of the relevant statistics.

2) Why do we not see the mobile police station anymore? NWO Neilson was unable to answer. Cllr Durbin said that he had been a liaison for this service but had found that the service was not used. Cllr Germain reported that the mobile police station had been positioned in the Chequers car park 3 times but she hadn't seen it being used. It was suggested that positioning it behind the village hall or in the pub car park was not the most visible presence.

3) Why is the paid PCSO not able to attend this meeting when the Parish Cllrs are all voluntary? NWO Neilson acknowledged that there was history on this point and suggested writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask the question.

d) Parochial Church Council

As no report was received from the PCC the Chairman asked Ms Dinah Reed to report. Ms Reed took the opportunity to thank the parishioners for their support for last years Umbrella Trust Appeal, stated that this year's appeal was to take place on the following Wednesday (15th May 2013), and hoped to exceed last year's total of 300 tins collected.

Ms Reed then reported that:

- The church has had a busy year
- The congregation has been static
- Services have been re-organised so that the service on the 1st Sunday of each month will rotate around all 7 churches in the Benefice being in Kettleburgh this July
- Church charity work: The Umbrella Trust Appeal; The Shoebox Appeal; supporting a man on a bicycle going round Sierra Leone with mosquito nets educating the locals; donating £1000 to other charities.
- The church managed to raise and pay their Parish Share to the Church of England this year.
- The PCC wish to add to the church some storage and toilets but Church of England bureaucracy is holding the project back along with English Heritage opposing building against the north wall.

Cllr Bater stood to thank those who had helped straighten the gravestones in the churchyard and all who had helped with more general churchyard maintenance.

Ms Reed then thanked all who had supported the church this year.

e) Village Hall

In the absence of a representative from the Village Hall Management Committee the chairman read the report provided by Village Hall Chairman Graham Mooney (see below).

f) Kettleburgh Green Trust

As Mrs Caroline Wheeler-Rowe had apologised for not providing a report the Chairman asked Cllr Bell (KGT Ex-chairwoman) to give a report.

Cllr Bell reported that:

- The Diamond Jubilee celebrations last year had been a fantastic success with all organisations working together to provide a village wide multiple event celebration. It proved that the various committees can work together and it would be nice if that could continue.
- Work progresses on installing a slide on the Green, for the use of over 40 parish children, at an estimated cost of approximately £7,000, using a donation of £1,500 and raised funds.
- The KGT are continuously fundraising and are grateful for the support received but are appealing for volunteers to provide help and trustees.

Cllr Bellfield reminded those present that he would have locality budget available for suitable projects.

g) Kettleburgh Village Produce Association

Mrs Claire Norman, Secretary to the Kettleburgh VPA, read a report (see below).

h) Kettleburgh Town Estate Charity

Mrs Valerie Upson, a trustee of the charity, read a report (see below).

Questions:

1) As Kettleburgh is clearly a village rather than a town is the charity's name a misnomer? Mrs Upson was unable to answer this.

i) Neighbourhood Watch

NWO Derrick Neilson had nothing to add to PCSO Hassler's report. He stated that if anyone wishes to get the information that they would have obtained from the mobile police station he is able to provide it.

j) Parish Council Chairman

Cllr Harris read a report (see below). Cllr Jessop, when asked to comment on the recent planning regulation changes stated that our village's status is unchanged; that the village contribution to new housing has increased; and that Affordable Housing would be built if the need was expressed within the village.

Questions:

1) It seems the existing Affordable Housing has not been taken by locals? Cllr Snell answered that there is a ripple effect from surrounding villages rather than demand being judged purely locally.

2) Is public transport taken into account in planning decisions? Cllr Snell answered that it is taken into account because new developments must be sustainable.

3) There is a pane missing from the phone box in the village. The Clerk will write to BT on behalf of the village and mention the possibility that if BT does not fix it the Parish Council could organise the work.

4) There is a dangerous branch overhanging Easton Road (joining the B1116 to the Easton to Wickham Market road near the Glevering Hall estate) that has been there for some time. Cllr Bellfield advised that SCC Highways should resolve the issue if the landowner does not and to report the issue to them.

5. An appeal for help from the Fete Committee

Mrs Jackie Clerk stood and listed the members of the Fete Committee this year as Ms Dinah Reed, Mr Bill Clark, Mr & Mrs D Neilson and herself. She explained that parishioners will have had a leaflet about this year's fete through their door including details of the new stalls being introduced this year, being craft and vintage stalls.

The help required this year is:

- Gazebos that can be loaned for stalls at the event
- Door to door collection volunteers in the lead up week
- Sorting of the collected goods at 2pm on Friday 7th, in the village hall
- Moving the collected goods to the pub garden and erecting of gazebos and marquees, meeting at the village hall at 6:30pm on Friday 7th
- Clearing up at 6pm on Saturday the 8th
- Final clearing up on Sunday the 9th starting at 9am
- Making a cake, jam or pickles, crafted items
- Donating crockery for the smashing time, bric-a-brac for the white elephant, or vintage goods

Noting the theme of village organisations asking for help, Mrs Clark wondered if the Parish Council may consider gathering a list of parishioners with useful items or skills that they are willing to contribute to parish events. The Clerk will add this to the next Parish Council Agenda.

6. Question Time

1) Does the Parish Council still deliver Welcome Packs to new residents in the village?

The Parish Clerk answered that the PC does so when the Clerk is aware of new residents and requested that all parishioners inform the Clerk directly of anyone moving into the village so that a Welcome Pack can be delivered.

2) For the Diamond Jubilee celebration last year 4 marquees were bought and 2 were borrowed but 2 were damaged and four were stolen, leaving the village with none. Would the various committees consider contributing to marquees as a shared resource? The question of safe storage for such was discussed as this had been lacking contributing to the aforementioned theft. It was considered there was no suitable storage area in the village hall. The possibility of parishioners donating lockable storage was raised. Cllr Bater reported that Cllr Bell had kindly found and funded the parts to make one of the damaged marquees useable. The cost of the marquees bought last year for the DJ was approx. £300 each and pop-up gazebos are around £60. Could there be a sponsor a gazebo campaign in the village? The Kettle auto jumble was mentioned as the biggest fundraiser in the village and they had two large marquees but organisers are willing to loan them if needed care is taken but it has not been in the past. It was resolved that Cllrs Bell & Harris would meet to resolve a plan.

7. Close Meeting: The meeting closed at 9:10pm

2012/2013 County Councillor Report for the Carlford Division

Leaders of the County Council

After the turmoil regarding the political and executive leadership of the council during 2011/2012 I am pleased that the choice of Mark Bee as political leader of the council and Debora Cadman as the executive leader has proved highly successful. Although we were not successful, we were nominated for the position of the most improved council in the country

Budget

We are again on track to achieve the savings aim for last year of £25 million and the budget for this financial year is to repeat this figure. This means that over a four year period that we will have saved almost £100 million from total expenditure, excluding schools which is ring-fenced, of a little short of £600 million with only a minor adverse effect on front line services.

Council Tax

As you will know for the third year running the council has announced that the council tax will remain unchanged. Additionally, during the Budget debate the Leader of the Council stated that, if this administration is returned at the May election, the council tax will remain unchanged for the following four years.

Libraries

All 44 of Suffolk's libraries were transferred to an Industrial and Provident Society together with the mobile, school and prison library services last August. This is a first in the country. This enabled the council to make the savings necessary, about £3 million, with out any reduction in the front line service.

Education

The council has launched an ambitious project, known as "Raising the Bar", to drive up educational standards across the county. Although academic standards are rising in Suffolk they have fallen behind, except at A level, the national average and this project is aimed to correct this position. Additionally schools in the first phase of the move from three to two tier system saw a substantial improvement in writing (12%) and maths (6%) at key stage 2, this is double the rate seen in the rest of Suffolk. Mean while good news is that 97.4% of the 7,427 students who applied for secondary school places for this September were offered their first choice school, this is well above the national average.

Residential Care Homes

During the year the County transferred its existing 16 residential homes to a company called Care UK in return for which they undertook to invest £60 million in building 10 new state of the art homes, some on existing sites. The number of beds will rise by about 150 to 680, most of which will be specialist dementia beds.

Broadband

Last September it was announced that the county council would be working in partnership with BT to deliver superfast coverage to 85% of Suffolk and a guaranteed speed of at least 2 megabits per second to the whole county by 2015. To achieve this, one of the first counties in the country, the council invested over £11 million in the partnership.

Energy from Waste

In May last year construction got underway of an energy from waste facility for Suffolk. The site will start operating at the end of 2014, diverting 252,000 tons of waste a year from environmentally damaging and expensive landfill sites. The waste will generate enough electricity for 30,000 homes or, maybe, the largest tomato greenhouse in the country.

Fire and Rescue Service

Recently the council consulted with the county regarding the merger of the Suffolk Fire Service with that of Cambridgeshire, but before the findings were collated it became obvious that any merger would result in Suffolk subsidising Cambridgeshire. For that reason mainly the talks were terminated and any thought of a merger is dead. The mutual control room will continue and other means of cooperation will be explored.

Future Back Office Requirements

At October's Cabinet meeting it was agreed that the partnership between BT, the County and Mid-Suffolk D.C. to run back office services like finance, ICT and HR should not be extended or renegotiated after it ends in 2014. We are, therefore, now looking for other outside organisations to perform these functions at a lower cost because the BT contract has escalated significantly more than originally anticipated.

Records and Heritage functions

It has become clear that it is necessary for the county to reorganise and re-site its records and heritage functions and we are currently investigating the options available. They include merging the three Record Office sites into either Ipswich or Stowmarket.

Major Construction Sites Proposed

I have recently taken a very active interest in the three major construction sites which are likely to have a significant effect on the Carlford Division, namely Offshore One Wind farm electric cables laying, Ipswich Northern Fringe housing development and Sizewell C power station. In particular I have expressed concern about the lack of evidence that every effort is being made to minimise the adverse effect upon the inadequate highways structure.

Peter Bellfield

April 2013.

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Councillor Bob Snell's annual report to Parish Councils in the Earl Soham ward, May 2013

1. Financial efficiency

- Council Tax frozen by SCDC for third successive year with no borrowing but charges from the Police and most parishes have risen again. In 2012/13, 98.4% of tax was collected (target 98.3%).
- Number of councillors recommended to the Boundary Committee to be cut from 55 to 43; number of Committees and frequency of their meetings (including full Council) reduced in the year to lower costs.

2. Housing/Planning

- LDF long awaited Core Strategy was subject to review by an Independent Inspector; we await the Inspector's reaction the consultation exercise on "Major Alterations", completed recently.
- SCDC/Waveney continue to work with other agencies to bring empty homes back into use and to avoid homelessness, bucking the national trend. Since April 2012, 42 properties have been removed from the long-term empty property list as a result of the intervention of the Private Sector Housing Team; only 9 families needed to be placed into short term temporary accommodation in the year.
- 64 affordable homes were completed during the year. We now work with 7 active housing associations and the number of new affordable homes set to be built now stands at some 328 units, with more than 1200 foreseen over the next 10 years.
- Rendlesham began preparing the first of the District's Neighbourhood Plans to set out a clear vision for the needs and aspirations of the local community, as a consideration in local planning decisions. Many parishes now considering doing the same, including Debach, Boulge and Clopton in a combined plan, possibly to include Burgh. Easton PC are investigating.
- The Council has updated website Communities Guidelines related to the Localism Act, including Neighbourhood Planning; Right to Challenge, Build; and Right to Bid. The Active Communities Team is acting as gateway to nominations across both Waveney and SCDC.
- Planning Appeals successfully challenged in 50% of cases in Q4, compared with 80% in Q3 (national target 70%); full year at 61%, apparently reflecting the Inspectorate's positive support for proposals in sustainable locations in accordance with the NPPF. It is hoped that the potential adoption of the Core Strategy in the next quarter will lead to a more straightforward consideration of applications by officers and committee members.
- Targets for turning round planning decisions continue to be missed, especially for major applications (six out of 27, or 22%), maybe calling into question the realism of the targets.

3. The local economy

- SCDC is working with SCC on an Economic Growth Strategy for the County – the first step in a joint programme to promote a more prosperous Suffolk.
- Campse Ashe Station house to be let by SCC to a local Provident Society at peppercorn rent for community use.
- Joint SCDC/SCC's consultation response on Sizewell C issued on 5 Feb, designed to encourage long term investment that protects local interests. Sizewell Task Group continues to help look after local interests – your ward member is a member of this group.
- Tourism value in Suffolk Coastal estimated in 2012 at £284m, employing about 10% of employment.
- Move of Woodbridge TIC from Station to Library completed.
- Heritage Coast Market Town Initiative held successful Business Exhibition at Fram College on 26 March 2013.

4. Environment

- More than 56.9% of household waste recycled in the year (target 58%). Recent new advice on types of plastic expected to increase this level.
- The recycling of street sweepings was restarted in November and 177 tonnes were diverted from landfill in Q3.

5. **Community Well-Being**

- Total recorded crime year in Qs 1-3 in the Framlingham & Saxmundham Safer Neighbourhood Team area was down 2.6%, representing 15 fewer crimes. The trend was down in all Suffolk Coastal areas, though rural crime (mainly theft) seems to be a growing problem.



**SAXMUNDHAM AND FRAMLINGHAM
SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

*Police station, Station approach, Saxmundham
&*

Police station, Saxmundham road, Framlingham.

KETTLEBURGH ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL POLICE REPORT

Date 08/05/2013

This report has been prepared by
PCSO 3034 HASSLER based at Framlingham Safer Neighbourhood Team.

CRIME UPDATE

There have been 9 reported crimes from May 2012 through to May 2013.

- 1) 4 x Burglary – Other building.
- 2) 1 x Criminal damage - Other
- 3) 2 x Criminal damage - Vehicle
- 4) 2 x Theft - Other

Within the same period last year there were 4 reported crimes within the Kettleburgh Parish.

**HOW DOES THIS COMPARE WITH OTHER PARISHES BORDERING KETTLEBURGH
DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD (MAY 2012 to MAY 2013)**

EASTON	12
HACHESTON	12
BRANDESTON	13
HOO	3

Police Direct

For those of you that haven't signed up for Police Direct yet, please don't forget about it! The service is free, easy to use and is proving to be a very valuable policing tool. The service doesn't just assist us it also benefits you. You will receive regular updates either via text, email or landline letting you know what is happening in your area. Leaflets are available at all police stations or visit our website.

CONTACTING THE POLICE

YOUR LOCAL OFFICERS ARE:

PC 1410 BURT
PCSO 3034 HASSLER
PCSO 3051 MANN
PCSO 3195 HINTON

In an emergency always dial 999

To report a crime, speak to your local officers or leave a message, please dial **101**

Any member of the team can be contacted at FRAMLINGHAM.SNT@SUFFOLK.PNN.POLICE.UK

Our office phone number is 01986 835497 (answer phone).

Check the website www.suffolk.police.uk for our engagements.

Our website as detailed below also has an email link to contact us.

Please also have a look at the Suffolk Constabulary Website, which can offer further help and advice.

To find the Framlingham and Saxmundham safer neighbourhood team website please see www.safersuffolk.org.uk

PCSO 3034 HASSLER

Village Hall Chairman's Report

Village Annual General Meeting

8th May 2013

Having only been in post for 4 months it will be difficult for me to comment in detail on activities in the period to December 2012 except to say that due to the energy & enthusiasm of our previous chairman he left the hall in a much improved condition & our thanks once again to Robert Marzetti for all he did.

Since taking over my main concern has been the status of the hall's various governing statutes. Because we have an income in excess of £5000 pa we need to register for charitable status, to do this we need to have a Deed of Trust and a Constitution that are not in conflict. The Village hall Committee are very grateful to John Dick for all the very detailed work that he has done to try to reconcile one with the other but we now need to take advice from solicitors before applying We will endeavour to move this forward as quickly as possible - but there is likely to be cost involved.

In summary our 2012 income & expenditure shows a reasonable profit with income coming from the village fete, the panto and other hirings . Our main source continues to be the contribution from the fete which is always most welcome, other sources produced the following net contributions, Keep fit £554, Coffee mornings £514, Music hall £549 somewhat surprisingly the Jubilee/Hop was £0 but the Panto was higher than first indicated at £1076

On behalf of the committee I thank all those who helped to make this happen as the fabric of the hall requires our constant attention.

With regard to the fabric we have a leaking roof and this needs to be rectified when weather permits, there is also a need to tidy up the kitchen walls and possibly paint the outside walls or windows as money permits.

Kettleburgh Village Produce Association

Report For The Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 8th May 2013

For over 50 years now the Kettleburgh Flower and Produce Show has been a fixture of village life. It is run by a group of enthusiastic volunteers known as the Kettleburgh Village Produce Association but as with many activities we really could use some additional help and support. We are affiliated to the Suffolk Horticultural and Produce Association (SHAPA) who provide us with our insurance cover and judges for a fee.

Shows are currently held on the first Saturday in September, with sections for vegetables, flowers, fruit, cookery, wine, photographs and children's classes. Classes are open to all wherever they live and we are well supported with entries from Brandeston and other surrounding villages. We own a collection of cups and trophies which have been given by local residents over the years. Some are "open" cups and others only awarded to residents of Kettleburgh.

Last year's show was held on 1st September and despite a really difficult growing season we received 235 entries over all classes. This was the lowest number for many years, mainly due to poor numbers in the flower and vegetable classes where the produce had been badly affected by the weather. However, the cookery classes were well supported with the most popular class being the lemon cake – it is amazing how 10 cakes all baked to the same recipe can each look so different. There were no children's classes in 2012 but we are reviving this section in 2013.

The 2012 show made a loss of £57.27 which we have met from our reserves. Our largest expense is the cost of engraving winner's names on the trophies and we have to consider whether we should continue with this practice. We would welcome opinions on this matter.

This year's show will be held on Saturday 7th September 2013 and we are hoping for a "good growing year". For those who do not have green fingers or whose plants never thrive however much care and attention they receive we are planning a fun section with some different classes this year. Look out for the schedule which will be available at the beginning of July. You really do not need to be an expert to enter – we have several very knowledgeable and enthusiastic competitors who are more than willing to advise novices.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's show and if you can offer any support with the preparations, organization and running of the show I would be pleased to hear from you.

Claire Norman
Secretary, Kettleburgh VPA

Kettleburgh Town Estate Charity

This small charity was started many years ago with the proceeds from the sale of five cottages near the church. The rector and churchwardens were made trustees and the objective was to provide coal for the elderly people of the village. After 1974 the cost of coal and the difficulty of arranging delivery of small quantities effected a change to donating food parcels to any pensioners thought to be in real need and during the 1980s small Christmas gifts of confectionery were given. In 1992 it was decided that this did not really fulfil the terms of the charity's remit so the fund was allowed to build up and since 1999 the trustees have annually invited any student, resident in the parish and about to embark on the first year of higher education, to apply for a small grant towards the cost of books. This has resulted in one or two applications in most years but in 2012 no applications were received.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF KETTLEBURGH PARISH COUNCIL
TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 7TH MAY 2013

Ladies and gentlemen:

As this evening has shown yet again, although Kettleburgh is a small village, and most of us would like it to remain so, it is a very active one with things happening throughout the year.

Because so much has been said already, you will be pleased to hear that, speaking on behalf of the Parish Council, I can be brief. There are just a few particular comments I would like to make about Majorevents and matters affecting the village:

- Special mention must be made of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Despite being held in June, the weather was truly appalling, but the team, which had worked so hard to put on something special, succeeded against all odds. Despite having so little time, marquees were organised and we all had a wonderful meal with many special events to follow.

This truly wonderful occasion was supported by all the organisations in the village, under the leadership of Deborah Bell and the biggest possible thank you is due to all concerned. It was a great achievement, particularly given the dreadful weather.

- After many years, the planned traffic-calming measures were finished, with the final gateway on School Hill. This was completed with a significant grant from SCDC, and we must thank Councillor Bellfield for his support in this matter. We must also thank Rod Durbin for his tireless work over a long period, without which this would never have happened.
- Considerable concern arose when we learned that the County Council proposed to strengthen Kettleburgh Bridge over the Deben, so that it could take lorries up to 42 tonnes, in line with EU regulations.

It was rapidly appreciated that, if this encouraged these enormous vehicles to shorten their journeys by using our narrow country lanes, it would cause chaos! After many representations, Mill Lane has been designated unsuitable for heavy vehicles and this has worked well – so far!

- As you all know, the government has changed the planning regulations dramatically, and this has been widely perceived as a “developers’ charter”.

We are very fortunate in this village that my Parish Council colleague, Trevor Jessop, has considerable knowledge of such matters and works tirelessly on our behalf, for which we should all be very grateful. You may remember that we were classified as an “other village” which placed significant restrictions on development, and we believe that this is still the case. Perhaps Trevor would like to comment.

- There are other things one could mention, but I would like to remind you that our outstanding village fete will be held this year on 8th June, and the village show on 7th September.
- For your interest, the Parish Council even wondered if it was truly needed and another form of governance, such as parish meetings, might be better. A lively debate was held, led by Angus Wheeler-Rowe, at the end of which we decided to retain the status quo. You may have other thoughts!
- I should thank Debbie Germaine for dealing with the PAYE for the Parish Clerk, which we have to do under the new regulations. I despair of increasing bureaucracy placed upon small organisations.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Parish Council, and the clerk for all the work they put in to make this an exceptional place to live.

A further thank you is due to Katie and Jackie for tonight’s refreshments.

Finally, looking to the future, it is a matter of concern that, with one or two exceptions, this gathering tonight, The Parish Council and other village institutions are supported by people of a certain age. Their contribution to village life is wonderful but, in my view, we need to encourage at least some members from the families who have arrived with young children to play their part in sustaining and improving our heritage.