

**DRAFT Minutes of a Parish Annual Meeting Held at
Toft Hotel on 10 May 2011 at 1900**

Present: Mr McWilliams, Mr Stock, Mr Anderson, Mr Cork, District Councillor Miss Ibis Channel, County Councillor Martin Trollop-Bellew, Mr Childs (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

Apologies. Nil.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting on 19 May 10 were read and approved as a true record.

Matters Arising Nil.

School Governors' Report

The Clerk presented the School Governor's Report prepared by Mrs Nicola Maker.

Edenham School has had another busy and active year. The school has continued with some long term absence of staff but in December this was resolved with the resignation of Mrs Eaton effective in March which has had a significant impact on the school budget. The school now has full staff cover, with two classes in a job share situation which seems to give the pupils the strengths and diversity of two teachers. The governors have continued to monitor the curriculum and other areas to support the head teacher and staff. These have showed a strong balanced curriculum and a drive on reading and writing involving parents was a success.

Edenham has been awarded the 'Healthy Schools' mark which has involved a lot of work on the part of the staff and pupils proving that, through activity and teaching about diet and health, we educate the children for a healthy future. This was delayed through an administrative error on the part of the authority and the school are relieved and proud with their status. Mrs Hawes and the staff are continuing with 'Inclusion Charter mark' status but are aware that the status may alter with new government changes.

Funding formulas have changed as we anticipated last year. The changes in Education with the new coalition have caused stress and insecurity for the school finance and governors as no one could plan or predict what impact they may have on budget particularly related to Special educational needs. The impact on a school, which has high attainment results overall, is significant, as the money is devolved as a bulk to the school based on the end of year standards. This does not work well in a village setting catchment like Edenham as opposed to a city or town. The school is almost a victim of its success in this formula and as such will possibly have less extra support in the coming year.

Yet again sports successes have been at the centre of this year with Edenham team finishing as runners up in the local indoor athletics competition. Rugby was another success where the year 5 and 6 pupils played in a local tournament and again managed to reach the final. The school has continued to participate in more Football and Netball matches this year with the support of Year 6 teacher Mr Shore. The teams are STILL trying to get sponsorship for new kits as they join more events.

Spring saw the exciting opening of a new garden area created in the centre of the school outside space. It has been enjoyed by children and visitors and is now managed

and supported by the pupil gardening monitors and other pupils during class activities. Pupils in years 5 and 6 have also undertaken 'Peer mediation training' which gives those pupils roles to help resolve minor relationship issues for their peers at playtime and lunchtime. The school have also embraced the 'e-SAFETY' training for pupils and parents for internet and mobile/technology chat and access. It was well received by the parents of the younger age range although the older children gave good feedback to parents who didn't attend.

Pupils at the school are continuing with many outside visits including London- the Houses of Parliament, PGL- outdoor pursuit's residential trip for years 5/6, Bears picnics and Lincoln with infant pupils. The residential trips have been planned to continue with the older pupils on a 2 year cycle as they proved such a great success. The children, staff and governors all work well together and hope to increase their involvement with the community beyond parents and family in a two way relationship of support. Please do contact the school if you would like to visit or help in any way you can with either time or support.

Parish Council Report 10 - 11

The Clerk presented the Parish Council Report.

Highways. The bid for a Foot/cycle path to the west of Toft remains in the future programme of works but it is not rated as a priority. Efforts to install a pedestrian walkway, in lieu of the cancelled footpath, and discussions between the Highways department and the land owner continue. The lack of progress in clearing the area adjacent to the rear of the Toft Hotel is confirmed as a factor by the land owner for not negotiating. Highways progress is stalled due to lack of resources, legal issues and the lack of cooperation by all the house owners. On a more positive note, funds are available in the coming year and the land owner is agreeable to sell the land subject to clearance as mentioned above. The householders are being contacted personally by Toft Parish Councillors in an attempt to break the deadlock. New gullies on Back Lane have been installed which hopefully will resolve the water problem. The reactive sign at WOTH x-roads has at last been repaired. The proposal to purchase a Mobile Speed Indicator by the 19 parishes within the WOTH beat makes no progress in part due to constantly changing personnel within the police department. The Parish Council has confirmed an interest in sharing the costs (£2500) subject to confirmation of the sum involved and priority given to parishes based on contributions made.

Parish Property. The Tenant has carried out improvements to the Barn at Jasmine Cottage, installing a bed-sit and en-suite facilities at a cost of some £15000. The Parish Council was not consulted before the improvements were carried out and indeed there is no legal requirement to do so under the Rental Agreement dated 30 January 1984. However, by such action, the Tenant forfeits any right to enter into a Tenancy Improvement Agreement whereby he would be entitled to compensation from the Parish Council should he vacate the premises in the near future. A letter to this effect has been sent to the tenant. An amendment to the Tenancy Agreement is proposed whereby all future improvements to the property must have prior written permission from the Parish Council. This will need accepting by the Tenant. A rent review is due in Feb 12.

The Playing Field facilities were inspected during the year and some recommendations made. These are being implemented and new swing seats have been

installed. The rabbit population causes considerable damage to the ground and culling of the animals is being considered.

Finances. Total receipts in the financial year were £6086 (£5720 in 10) and expenditure was £2984 (£5489 in 10.) [*Differences in expenditure were due to improvements to Jasmine Cottage and the Playing Field Hut in 09 and a reduction in annual donations in 10*] Some £14044 (£13767 in 10) remains invested in fixed term accounts providing higher interest rates. Free Resource Donations have been made in the year and a total of £710 (£1175 in 10) has been donated to various institutions. The financial state of the Parish Council remains healthy with over £23368 (£20266 in 10) available. The Lighter Touch Audit Review has been completed for the year ending 31 March 2010. There were no comments made by the auditors.

General. The Fireworks Display was again successful and safety standards applied resulted in an incident free evening. The format of the evening would be continued next year with food being served before the display.

A celebration of the Royal Wedding was held in the Playing Field on 29 April 2011. Some 120 parishioners attended and the Parish Council provided food and soft drinks at a total cost of £536.

Progress on the Parish Web site has continued under the excellent stewardship of Mr McWilliams. There is now a wealth of current information available on Parish activities and events.

County Council Report

Mr Trollope-Bellew presented the County Report.

Finance. Government funding has been reduced by £125M, less than the expected £160 to £ 180M. Council Tax Rates have been frozen at last year's charges. £ 1.5M has been allocated for PCSO's guaranteeing 59 posts across the county out of 109.

Highways. £6.5M has been allocated from the Government for Pothole repairs. Additionally, £3M more from inside LCC funds than expected have been promised. A Department of Transport surprise inspection of Lincs roads rated them as good. The priority for the next few years will be to mend and repair roads, until such time as the finances improve. There will be no major roads or improvements except with Government funding or Section 106 money. (Developer Contribution on Houses)

Staff. Senior Staff have been reduced from 94 to 59; this will save £4M per annum. Other Staff are in the process of being reduced in the 1st round by 818; some 788 have asked about voluntary redundancy or early retirement.

Childrens Services. A surprise OFSTED inspection rated the service as Excellent.

I.T. LCC has bid for £20M from the Government to improve the internet connection and speed within the county. The outcome of the bid is expected after the summer.

It has been a hectic year with the Government reduction in funding on top of all the usual work

The Chairman thanked Mr Martin Trollope-Bellew for his report.

District Council Report.

Ms Ibis Channel introduced the District Report.

Responsibility for the bus pass scheme is being transferred from SKDC to LCC.

Some staff redundancies are anticipated with no details currently available.

The Planning Department schedule is being reorganised with the aim of achieving an 8 week start to finish cycle.

There has been no change in Council Tax.

The Government grant has been reduced by some 23% down from £10.4M.

The Chairman thanked Ms Ibis Channel for her report.

Village Hall Report

Nothing much has changed over the year. There are still four regular user groups which are the Sewing Group, W.I., the Luncheon Club and the History Group.

Bookings have fallen off a little over the year, possibly due to the general lack of money, though hourly costs remain competitive. A very successful quiz was held last year and several Christmas events also went well. The committee has managed to attract new members and they are proving very useful. The next planned event is the AGM but unfortunately this is on the same night as the Parish Council AGM.

Open Gardens in Witham is on 26 June when there will be about 10 gardens open; it is planned to organise a Car Boot Sale during the summer months.

Responses from the Public. Nil

The meeting was closed at 1935 hrs.

Chairman.....

Clerk.....

Date.....