

**Draft Minutes of a Parish Annual Meeting Held at
Toft Hotel on 30 May 2012 at 1900**

Present: Mr McWilliams, Mr Anderson, Mr Cork, Mr Russell, County Councillor Martin Trollop-Bellew, District Councillor Ibis Channel, Mr Childs (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Apologies. Apologies were received from Lorna Cook.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting on 10 May 2011 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 Kris Radford Rae.

Life in school is always busy but the hustle and bustle generally means that the pupils are having a wonderful time and that enjoyable things are happening...

The year began with a slightly lower intake of pupil numbers into the Foundation Stage and this combined with the uncertainty about funding for schools over the previous year caused some concern about sustainability into the future for many smaller schools in rural Lincolnshire. However, our numbers increased rapidly as, it appeared, houses began to sell and families moved into the area and we found ourselves at full capacity in most year groups by Christmas. Whilst our numbers are looking excellent for the next academic year, we are working with a group of four other rural primaries to build a model of a more formal partnership agreement to enable us to share resources, expertise and people; one of the primary aims being to sustain each of our unique schools into the future. No school can work in isolation and we are determined that we will continue as a community of schools, not just communities in our own right.

Ofsted visited in early November. The result was very pleasing indeed and testament to everyone's hard work – Good with Outstanding features, combined with continued excellence in learning in the basic skills and enrichment activities. This was followed by our denominational inspection as a CofE school (Section 48). Again this went extremely well and the inspector identified many features of real strength in our community – involvement of families, links with the church, commitment of all and the high level of moral and social awareness displayed by our pupils.

Learning activities have been really exciting this year as we have included aspects relating to the Olympics, the Jubilee, the bi-centenary of church schools and the King James Bible celebrations. As every year, we work towards Christmas productions in December – this year, 'Gloria!' for KS1 and 'Scrooge' for KS2, following on from Harvest activities supporting the Farm Africa charity. Their brilliant campaign inspired gardening projects for this year – 'Give Poverty the Boot' with welly-boot themed gardening.

The Olympics has really gripped the imagination of our pupils and staff. Events have included torch relays, sports events, and learning about the Paralympics Values and exploring how we can live them everyday.

This term sees some really exciting learning taking place – each class has adopted a country. Foundation/ Y1 pupils are studying Kenya, Y1/Y2 pupils are sampling tastes of Italy, Y3/4 is learning about Australia and Y5/6 is exploring India. Activities to be enjoyed will include trips to Whipsnade, Frankie and Benny's in Spalding, an Indian takeaway, a Hindu dance and language workshop and packing our suitcases to visit another nation. The summer will culminate in as many people as possible watching the Olympic torch travel through Bourne, our Olympic-themed sports day and watching on the webcam our sports teacher, Mrs Oakley, carry the torch in north Lincolnshire.

The Jubilee has not passed us by and we hope you'll enjoy seeing our wheelbarrows displayed on the edge of the playground. Our children will be supporting their own memorable village events and we will celebrate with a Red, White and Blue Day after half-term.

All of these activities are supported by our continuing focus on developing a wider cultural understanding wherever possible, building closer links with our local church community with help from Fathers Andy and David, and looking into our local environment for opportunities to learn – in the woods, in Edenham Village and on the Grimstrophe Estate. All in all, another busy but great year, with many thanks for your continued support.

Parish Council Report 11 - 12

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 continue. Highways progress has been minimal due to lack of resources, legal issues and the lack of cooperation by all the relevant house owners opposite the Toft Hotel rear entrance. However, letters to the concerned residents have been sent by the Highways department and funds remain available in the coming year. In addition, the land owner remains agreeable to sell the land subject to clearance conditions being met. A proposal to install a reactive sign on the A6121 coming into Toft from Bourne was rejected on the recommendation of the LRSP as it would be of no benefit in reducing speeding and accidents. Indeed, it could prove a distraction to motorists.

Parish Property. The rent revue for Jasmine Cottage has been completed and a new rent of £4100 per annum has been agreed from 1 February 2012. The Parish Council will take on the full buildings insurance for the Barn Building from June 2012. Additional loft insulation has been installed at a cost of £79.

The mound in the Playing Field has been layered with steel mesh to prevent rabbit damage. The cost was £3200 including VAT. The cost of removing the mound would have been similar. Anti-bird fouling strips have been purchased and installed to stop

fouling of the swing seats. They seem to be extremely effective. A new sign for the playing field at a cost up to £150 has been approved.

Finances. Total receipts in the financial year were £6628 (£6086 in 2010-11) and expenditure was £4645 (£2984 in 2010-11.) [*Expenditure in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 included improvements to the playing field equipment (£350), Royal Wedding celebration (£536), Community Cleaner (£431) and additional donations (£450)*] One of the Halifax accounts has been closed and the sum moved to the Melton Mowbray Building Society. In addition, much of the balance from the Barclays saving account has also been transferred. Some £21037 (£14044 in 2010-11) is now invested in higher interest accounts. Free Resource Donations have been made in the year and a total of £1550 (£710 in 2010-11) has been donated to various institutions. The financial state of the Parish Council remains healthy with £25341 (£23368 in 2010-11) available. The Lighter Touch Audit Review has been completed for the year ending 31 March 2012. 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 will remain unchanged with food being served before the display. The Parish Web site is a regular forum for Parish News under the excellent stewardship of Mr McWilliams.

County Council Report

Mr Trollope-Bellew presented the County Report.

Finance.

The Council Tax is frozen for a 2nd year, by taking the Gov 2½% increase in funding, but this will be the last year that it is available.

Staff.

The reduction in staff is still on going, with most of the reduction being achieved by voluntary redundancy or staff working part time & job sharing.

Highways.

The winter was not as bad as in past years and the winter maintenance programme was within budget.

The Council has applied to the Gov for a share of £6.5.m, to repair drought damaged roads. This has been refused and the problem will now be how to finance the repairs with minimal impact on other requirements.

Civil Parking Enforcement (C.P.E.)

It looks like C.P.E will be coming in eventually in October this year; thus rural residents may get a parking ticket for parking in the same place in towns that they have been parking in for the last few years.

I.T.

The bid last year to the Gov to improve Internet speed was partially successful with £15m being allocated instead of the £20m requested. This will mean that 90% will get a better service by 2015.

Police.

The Election of the Police & Crime Commissioner will take place on 15th Nov 2012, with the successful candidate starting work one week later.

This is the last report before the Elections on 2 May 2013. I hope I will still be here to give the 2013 report; if not thank you for support over the last 12 years.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his support and especially for allocating the grant to the Parish Council to purchase the Jubilee mugs.

District Council Report.

Mrs Ibis Channel presented the District Council Report.

- a. The District Council had approved a new mortgage scheme.
- b. A review of Polling Stations in the district has been undertaken.
- c. Procurement links with other authorities have been developed to share information.
- d. Grantham area action plan, in conjunction with the proposed relief road, will make Grantham the main district town.
- e. Planning applications to be approved within an 8 week period.
- f. SKDC to be responsible for licensing of all private cabs and taxi hire and for licensing of entertainment.
- g. Local Development Framework and Core Strategy are near completion.

The Chairman thanked the District Councillor for her report.

Village Hall Report

The Clerk presented the Village Hall report prepared by Mrs Susan Hartley.

Usage. The Hall has been used more frequently this year by occasional users and we still have our 3 regular users (sewing group, history society and WI). The monthly lunches are still well supported. Events during the year include: 2 quiz's, cider day and evening and "best pudding maker" evening.

Heating system. It is anticipated that the heating system will be updated this financial year. Discussions with the heating engineer are ongoing.

Finances. The finances remain in good order despite continued increasing costs eg fuel and electricity.

Officers. Mrs Hartley has resigned as Chairwoman after 10 years. This role has now been taken by Richard Burbidge; Vice Chair is Jean Matham; Secretary is Janet Kirkwood and David Clifford remains as Treasurer.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hartley for her contribution as Chairwoman of the Village Hall Committee over the years.

Responses from the Public. Nil

The meeting was closed at 1931 hrs.

Chairman.....

Clerk.....

Date.....