

**Minutes of a Parish Annual Meeting Held at  
Toft Hotel on 8 May 2013 at 1900**

**Present:** Mr Cork, (Chairman) Mr McWilliams, Mr Anderson, Mrs Cook, Mr Childs (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

**Apologies.** Apologies were received from District Councillor Ibis Channel and Councillor Martin Trollop-Bellew.

**Minutes** The Minutes of the last meeting on 30 May 2012 were read and approved as a true record.

**Matters Arising** Nil.

**School Governors' Report**

The Clerk presented the Edenham School Report.

Dear Parish Councillors,

Your donation of £400 was gratefully received earlier this year.

We match-funded it from our RE (Religious Education) subject leader's budget, and so, we were able to put it to great use in support of:

- developing our multicultural links.
- investing in high quality resources designed to enriching our pupils' experience of the major world faiths.

The resources include authentic religious icons, costumes and books or the equivalent, puppets for storytelling and other resources such as items used by families of different faiths in their worship at home.

Our pupils have really enjoyed re-enacting a Hindu wedding, celebrating a baptism and visiting a Mosque in Peterborough. These were fabulous experiences led by people with specialist knowledge and pupils really benefited greatly from them – both helping their understanding the lives of others and comparing it with their own beliefs and experiences.

We also used it to enhance our membership of the British Council, an organisation which supports and develops school links with those overseas and provides professional guidance for teachers. Amazing what can be achieved for such an amount!

Thank you for your continuing hard work and support.

**Parish Council Report 12 – 13**

The Clerk presented the Parish Council Report.

**Highways.** Progress to install a pedestrian walkway, in lieu of the cancelled footpath, has been minimal. The Highways legal department is involved with some of the house owners opposite the Toft Hotel rear entrance and, according to Highways Department, the highway verge has now been cleared, as a result of a couple of stiff letters from their legal section.

It is understood that the land owner, Mr Lees, remains agreeable to sell the land for the pedestrian walkway subject to clearance conditions being met.

**Parish Property.** The rabbit prevention measures seem to be effective as the numbers of large holes in the mound are reduced. A new shed to store the 2 new Parish marquees has been erected. The marquees are available to rent by the public and to date income received/booked has totalled £300. Roof ventilation in Jasmine Cottage has been improved to combat dampness following the previous installation of increased loft insulation.

**Finances.** Total receipts in the financial year were £8294 (£6628 in 201-12) and expenditure was £10864 (£4645 in 2011-12.) [*Expenditure in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12 included rabbit prevention measures on the Playing Field for £3199, the purchase of 2 marquees for £1031, the purchase of Jubilee Mugs at £332, Jubilee expenses of £683. and a new shed for the playing field to store the marquees at £510; a total of £5755.*] The second Halifax account has been closed and the sum moved to the Melton Mowbray Building Society. Some £20706 is now invested in this account. Free Resource Donations have been made in the year and a total of £1200 (£1550 in 2011-12) has been donated to various institutions. The financial state of the Parish Council remains healthy with £22771 (£25341 in 2011-12) 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.** Jubilee celebrations were held in June and an active programme of events took place on the Playing Field. The Fireworks Display was again successful and safety standards applied resulted in an incident free evening. The format of the evening remained unchanged with food being served before the display. The Parish Web site continues to be a regular forum for Parish News under the excellent stewardship of Mr McWilliams.

### **County Council Report**

The Clerk presented the County Report.

I would like to thank all those who voted for me on the 2nd May, I will represent Stamford Rural to the best of my ability for the next 4 years.

Stamford Rural result

Hammond (Lab) 617

M.T-B. (Con) 1511

Majority 894

The make up of the Parties at Lincoln is:-

Cons 36

U.K.I.P. 16

Lab 12

Independent 10

Lib. Dem 3

Total 77 all seats declared.

To get an outright majority one party has to have 39 seats, so the horse trading is going on and at the moment I do not know what the outcome is.

This is a new Council, so it is a time to look forward not back. I will keep you up to date when I know what is happening. The 1st Full Council Meeting is on Friday 17th May so something will be sorted out by then.

Once again thank you to the voters of Stamford Rural.

### **District Council Report.**

Mrs Ibis Channel will present the District Council Report at the next Parish Council meeting.

### **Parish Hall Report**

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

The Parish Hall Committee is very busy preparing events for the coming year which have resulted from the successful questionnaire that was circulated some little while ago.

The first event will be the Open Gardens in Witham on Sunday 7th July. A Tug of War competition is also planned later in the Year. Afternoon Teas have been started by Angela Clifford in the Hall and the two that have already been held have been well attended. She plans to hold these about every four weeks. The monthly lunch has now been discontinued.

We have four regular user groups, Witham WI, The Sewing Group, The Historical Society and a Nursery School – Little Acorns. The Whist drives are still being played during the winter months. The one off bookings remain reasonable. The Parish Hall is a great asset to the community and is well run by a very hard working committee.

**Responses from the Public.** The Playing Field needs to be cleared of litter/broken glass. Rabbit holes on the mound are still arising albeit with minimal depth. Clerk to contact community cleaner and speak to David Ewes reference use of ferrets.

Action: Clerk

The meeting was closed at 1930 hrs.

Chairman.....

Clerk.....

Date.....