

NAZEING PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH HELD ON THURSDAY

15TH MAY 2014 AT THE LEISURE CENTRE, BUMBLES GREEN AT 8.10 P.M.

Members present: Councillors D. Borton (Chairman), D. Joslin (Vice Chairman), T. Arnold, E. Borton, K. Carter, G. Castle, E. Culling, C. Evans, M. Frydrych, C. Shorter and G. Skipper.

Also present: Seven members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Councillor. M. Ballard

2. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2013 were noted.

3. **Chairman's Report on the activities of the Council during 2013/14:**

All of the statutory obligations of the Council have been met and the appropriate meetings have been held in accordance with our Standing Orders. We again managed to avoid any increase in the Precept. The Annual Accounts for 2013/14 have been completed and the Internal Audit has just taken place. Chargepayers will now have the usual opportunity of inspecting these Accounts and we hope to place them on the website in due course.

Because of personal work commitments Councillor Marcetic resigned during the year and I would like to publicly thank her for past contributions. The vacancy created still exists and the Council would welcome applications from qualifying residents who are willing to take an active part in local affairs. Councillor Ballard has not been able to attend our recent meetings because of ill health. We all hope that he will soon be well enough to return.

Despite the very wet spring our football pitches have had active use by the youth teams. We hope to shortly replace the swings in the play area at Pound Close. Our hall at Bumbles Green has had a face lift with internal decoration and it looks a lot brighter. Information displayed on our website has now improved, but there is still some work to be done. The Nazeing Festival in September 2013 was well attended in spite of inclement weather but the Council has decided against a repeat of the same event this year. The possibility of the Parish Council doing something different in commemoration of the Great War that started 100 years ago has been investigated. It has been decided that it would be better for all interested parties to merge their activities with those being organised by the Congregational Church rather than run a separate event.

Our application for low cost housing at the Total Garage site was approved by the District Council in October. We have sought interest from housing associations but the figures to date have not been very encouraging so we are still seeking better results before commitment.

As always, planning issues have been very important. The District Council will soon be transmitting most of the data in electronic format. As a consequence there will have to be substantial changes to our processes at planning meetings. In most cases Councillors will no longer be able to view paper plans and switching between computerised pages will take some getting used to.

The new Local Plan is still not finalised. The opportunity for public comment has not yet been settled and it seems unlikely that it will be published in 2014. In the meantime there has been one application for a major housing project and there are rumours of others pending. This Council takes a very active interest in these developments.

Our previous Clerk, Barry Blunden retired and was replaced by Mark Pyatt. Mark has been very energetic in updating our systems and accounting. Unfortunately he has had to resign because of personal commitments and we are again looking for a replacement. Nevertheless, I would like to thank Mark for the transformation that he has achieved in six months. I also thank Vince Cresswell, our Handyman, and Councillors for their work and support. My thanks are also extended to our County Councillor, District Councillors and District Officers with whom we continue to have a very helpful working relationship.

Our meetings this year have been constructive and cordial. We have taken some positive steps but we have more to do. The year ahead is the last of the present Council with elections due in 2015. I would hope that we will settle the issue of the Total site before then.

4. Questions: Mr. Graham Smith asked Councillors to reconsider the use of the Total site for its original purpose as a village hall. Councillor Shorter responded and said there were insufficient funds for that endeavour. Mr. Bob Bray asked if the grass could be cut on the Bumbles Green roundabout. Councillor Castle said that she would contact EFDC.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.