

NAZEING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2015 at 7:30pm at the Leisure Centre, Bumbles Green, Nazeing.

Members present: Cllrs D Borton (Chairman), Evans (Vice Chairman), Arnold, Ballard, Culling, Frydrych, Joslin, Knight, Shorter, Skipper.

Also present: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), 3 members of the Public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Carter.

2. Minutes. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2014 were noted.

3. Chairman's Report on the activities of the Parish Council during 2014/15.

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 2014/15 are nearing completion but the Internal Audit has yet to take place. Charge payers will soon have the usual opportunity of inspecting these Accounts and they will be on the website in due course.

District Councillor Yolanda Knight was co-opted and joined the Parish Council in November 2014. Earlier this month the Council came to the end of its four year term. Ten Councillors were nominated again and three, including myself, stood down. There was no need for elections but three vacancies now exist.

The football pitches at Bumbles Green have been well used by the youth teams but have had again to be rested due to wet weather. The swing in the play area at Pound Close has been replaced.

I had hoped the Total Site would have been settled by now. After an extensive marketing exercise the Council finally accepted an offer for it from a local developer which is still subject to contract. If it proceeds the issue of the associated Public Works loan will have to be resolved. With current interest rates being much lower than the fixed rate on the loan, early settlement will involve a very substantial penalty. The new Council may decide instead to apply to transfer the loan to meet the cost of a re-build of the Bumbles Green Leisure Centre. However, in my view, that decision should only be made with wide support from across the village.

Planning issues remain important with several substantial housing applications in the past year. These aroused considerable public interest with some very worthwhile contributions. The District Council now transmit most of the planning data in electronic format and parish and town councils have had to adjust their procedures. To fulfil their comment and informational role, Parish Councillors have to be fully aware of what each application is about and that is not always easy via a computer screen. I am afraid that a lot more preparatory work is needed to do the job properly. The new Local Plan remains in the distance and the opportunity for public comment has still not been settled.

Mark Pyatt resigned as Clerk last May and several Councillors maintained the role until our new Clerk, Lorraine Ellis was appointed in September. Lorraine has made an encouraging start and I would like to thank her for her efforts. My thanks also to Vince Cresswell, our Handyman, and to those Councillors who have who have given their support. My appreciation is also extended to our County Councillor, District Councillors and District Officers with whom we continue to have very helpful working relationships.

With a few exceptions our meetings this year have been constructive. I hope that the new Council will be successful, will fill its vacancies and tackle the main issues. Thank you.

Cllr Joslin thanked Daphne Borton for all her work over the past 25 years and especially more recently covering the Clerks role, due to the absence of a Clerk.

Cllr Joslin also thanked Ed Borton and Gemma Castle for their contributions as Cllrs over the past years.

4. To answer any questions from residents or representatives of local organisations.

Gemma Castle asked whether the Earmarked Reserves Event Fund could be considered for playground refurbishment. Cllr CD Borton replied that it had been agreed at the previous Full Council meeting that this Reserve would be utilised for funding suitable events organised by village organisations.

Meeting closed at 8pm.

Signature of Chairman:

Date: