

Lophams Village Open Meeting

Draft minutes of village Open meeting held at 7.30pm on Friday 12th April 2013 in the Lophams village hall. The Open meeting was preceded by the Lopham's Society AGM.

1. Attendance and Apologies:

South Lopham Parish Council – present were Sarah Martin (Chair), David Huggins, Stephen Reynolds, Jim Pursehouse, Tim Frizzell, John Crisp and Caroline Phillips (Clerk). Apologies received from Rob Webb.

North Lopham Parish Council – present were Heather Potter (Chair), Lesley Bird, Dawn Eagle, Mike McManus and Mike Cox (Clerk). Apologies received from Jan Tate and Robert Carley.

Apology received from Mrs Irene Bowden for the entire meeting. Forty parishioners were also in attendance.

At the conclusion of the Lophams Society AGM, presentations commenced with annual reports of Council and local groups:

2. South Lopham Parish Council:

Sarah Martin reported that the former Chair Robert McCaw and his wife Madeleine had moved from the village in February. Sarah Martin is the first of a group of rolling Chairperson until a substantive one is found.

Steve Reynolds has replaced Peter Coster following his retirement last year, and they were fortunate to have Caroline Phillips as Parish Clerk, ably supported by her husband Gary in the role of Financial Officer.

Issues raised at Parish Council meetings included the speed of vehicles travelling along the A1066, Redgrave Road and Church Road. Representatives have attended the Safer Neighbourhood (SNAP) meetings and wheelie bin stickers have been placed in strategic locations. Potholes and dog fouling remain a problem. The telephone kiosk has been successful as a book exchange and alternative uses are requested. The Chair thanked fellow councillors and the Clerk for their efforts over a range of designated tasks. (Full report with Sarah Martin).

North Lopham Parish Council:

Heather Potter (Chair) reported on a reasonably busy year for the Council where she retained the Chair following a 12 month period of rolling chairs.

Planning applications have reached a new high for the village, reaching almost 20 in total for the year. The applications covered new builds, modifications and resubmissions. The Parish Council had voiced its dissatisfaction with the response from Breckland Council on a number of the

applications and has requested an explanation. The cemetery remains an expensive commodity, costing £1300 for maintenance due to recent heavy rainfalls. Roads have been a problem and the council has now been promised pothole repairs followed by a resurfacing programme as the village was missed out last year. The school children have assisted with traffic calming and speed awareness activities; and a meeting with Police and their Traffic management officer, encompassing disabled access, was very positive. Litter picks have proved successful with light refreshments provided by George and Angie at The Kings Head afterwards. Lanes have been difficult to maintain due to wet weather and dog fouling had decreased to an extent but still needs improvement.

Heather Potter thanked fellow councillors for their efforts and Mike Cox (Clerk). A thank you went to Valerie Garnham who has stood down after 26 years on the Parish Council. The vacancy has been advertised. (Full report with Mike Cox).

Mike Cox took the Chair and introduced William Nunn, Leader of Breckland Council. He apologised for his non-attendance at a meeting the previous Friday called by North Lopham PC and paid for the hire of the village hall. He reported on various planning matters, including settlement boundaries and social housing. He explained that budget cuts had hit Breckland heavily and these have been offset in part by including Luton and South Lincs in their administrative area. He fielded a number of questions from the floor and offered advice on several subjects.

3. Reports from local groups and societies:

- **St Andrews School** – Jennie Vere reported on a very successful year for the School which has been in a partnership with All Saints, Winfarthing for the past eighteen months. The OFSTED report was given as ‘good’ overall with ‘outstanding’ in some areas. She thanked staff, governors and parents (via FOSTA) for playing their part.
- **Little Ouse Headwaters Project** – Peter Coster reported that each householder now receives the magazine which is delivered in tandem with the Parish newsletter, 3 times per year, and the project donates £150 per year to both Parish Councils for its delivery. Numerous projects are on-going.
- **North Lopham Charities** – Mike Cox reported that more than £2500 was donated to residents, school, pre-school, Over 60’s club and two students to assist them with their studies.
- **South Lopham Estates Charity** – Sarah Martin reported that there is a limited amount of funds available.

- **Village hall** – Jennie Vere reported that there were still vacant slots for hire. The drive has been resurfaced and paid for from funds as grant aid was not available. The Farmers Market continues to operate on the third Saturday of the month and village lottery tickets are still available.
- **South Lopham village website** – Steve Reynolds reported on the updated website. This is separate from the North Lopham village website which is administered by Judy Farren-Bradley.
- **Village Games** – Jim Pursehouse reported on last year's Breckland qualifier which was won by The Lophams team and displayed the trophy gained. The villages fared well in the final at the UEA Sportspark. A qualifier to gain extra points this year again at the UEA resulted in The Lophams team being awarded the Fair Play Shield.
- **Gardening Club** – Gill Osler outlined past and future events of the club with many good quality speakers. There is still room for new members of this very friendly club.
- **Lophams Ladies** – Sarah Frizzell reported on the past year's events, trips and referred to upcoming events. New members are welcome.
- **St Nicholas Church, North Lopham** – Jennie Vere gave a comprehensive report on the new group of Churches covered by the Upper Waveney Benefice which includes North Lopham, Fersfield, Roydon, Bressingham and South Lopham (Peter Reeder extended a welcome to this Church).
- **Lopham's Ramblers** – Mike Cox read a report from Ted Youngs, the new co-ordinator for the group where he outlined the walks held on the first Friday of each month, lasting between 2 ½ - 3 hours at various locations. A friendly group increasing in numbers each year with 20+ of the 30 members attending each walk.
- **St Andrews Pre-School** – Mike Cox read a report from Tonya Attwood, group leader at the pre-school. She outlined that it had been their best year for some time with 17 children on the roll. Unfortunately this will decrease to 8 in September with school intakes and new incumbents are welcome. Pre-school is open Monday mornings and all day Wednesday and Thursday.

At this point with no further presentations the Chair called the meeting to a close thanking everyone for attending.