

D R A F T

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH WILLINGHAM

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 14 MAY 2015

Attended by:

Councillor D Challender

Councillor M Edmundson

Councillor P Elliott

Councillor D Nutten

Councillor N Spencer

Apologies were received from Councillor P Cutts

No residents attended the meeting and no issues for discussion had been raised with Councillors.

Councillor Nutten chaired the meeting, and read the report of the previous year's activities which had been written by Councillor Cutts:

Chairman's Report:

I would like to express my thanks to fellow councillors for their hard work and commitment this year. I would also like to express sincere thanks to Margaret for the untold work that she does to make sure that the Parish Council runs smoothly and remain on a sound financial footing. This year Martin Doughty resigned from the committee following many years of dedicated service to the community. His contributions and insight will be greatly missed. We also welcomed Nigel Spencer back to the Parish Council, already making a significant impact with his work on pushing for superfast broadband to reach the village. I would also like to welcome two new councillors tonight – Debbie and Paul – and hope that they find their role rewarding and enjoyable.

The Parish Council has continued to follow its policy of supporting local causes that are of benefit to the whole community. We have given financial donations to LIVES, the Parish Hall and the Churchyard Maintenance fund. Despite this, we have managed to keep the precept at the same level for another year.

The Parish Council has also worked on improving the appearance of the village. This has included the re-painting of the bus shelter, new village signs and monitoring of issues such as hedges, footpaths and grass cutting, as well as the annual village tidy

up. This year the Parish Council is hoping to enter the village in the Best Kept Village competition.

In terms of planning, the Parish Council has continued to support planning applications that are in keeping with the character of the village. We also held a meeting with Egdon Resources about the proposed exploratory oil well site at Biscathorpe. We were able to make our concerns known both at the meeting and in writing to the County Council. We await the result of their application.

The Parish Council has also monitored the progress of the applications for footpaths around the village. Whilst disappointed with the County Council's decision not to support the application for the footpath to Benniworth, it was decided to keep the remaining three applications open. Some movement in the cases has occurred and will be discussed at the meeting tonight.

Once again I would like to thank all concerned with the work of the Parish Council for the time and effort they have put into serving the community. It is a relatively thankless task but one which is invaluable in a small rural village such as ours.

The next Annual Parish Meeting would be arranged for May 2016.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman, South Willingham Parish Council