

D R A F T

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH WILLINGHAM

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 12 MAY 2016

Attended by:

Councillor D Challender

Councillor P Cutts

Councillor M Edmundson

Councillor P Elliott

Councillor N Harris

Councillor R Fry (East Lindsey District Council)

Paul Fuller

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

1 Chairman's Report:

The past 12 months has seen several important developments which has kept the Parish Council fully occupied.

For many years there have been applications pending in relation to additional walking routes around our village. This year, due to a common sense approach and goodwill from Christopher Heneage we now have two additional walks for villagers to enjoy. I would like to thank Councillor Elliot in particular for his work in enabling this to come about.

Councillors have continued to attempt to obtain superfast broadband for everyone in our village. To date we are yet to know the outcome of this as BT seem to be unable to give a firm assurance to South Willingham. Thanks to the Councillors who kept the pressure on BT / Openreach.

We have entered the Best Kept village competition again this year and the first round of judging is likely to take place in June. I hope that all Councillors will support this effort and in particular assist

Councillor Challenger who has shown great enthusiasm for the competition.

Towards the end of 2015 the Parish Council organised a questionnaire to gauge the views of our residents on a number of topics. The results showed that some residents welcomed efforts for a few changes whilst others were totally against this. A majority of residents however supported a small increase in the Precept which was duly applied for and I believe they will expect Councillors to use this money to improve our village.

Possibly the hardest choice the Parish Council had to make this year was over street lighting. East Lindsey District Council asked us whether we wished to retain street lighting in our village at a cost per household of about £10 a year. I am certain that had we gone to the village for feedback then the view would have been divided in a similar manner to the questionnaire. Councillors therefore voted on this subject and the majority voted to turn off the lights. This led to a number of residents writing to the Parish Council to voice their disapproval but as has been said in the South Willingham newsletter the vote was conducted fairly.

The Parish Council has continued to support our church, the village newsletter and website and the village tidy up arranged by Councillor Harris. I am sure this will continue in the future.

Much of what is achieved by the Parish Council would not be done without the invaluable work by our Clerk, Margaret Charman. She is a fantastic support and her work is of a very high standard. Both myself and Nigel Spencer who was my Vice-Chairman last year believe Margaret should be paid on an hourly basis for this work and I hope Councillors will look at this possibility seriously.

As you know Nigel Spencer and myself have resigned from the Parish Council. Councillor Paul Cutts may well resign in the near future. Both Nigel and Paul have given up their time to work as Councillors and I would like to thank them and our other Councillors for making time to attend meetings and take the required decisions.

Finally I would urge our Councillors to refrain from the view that all changes are bad for the village. The additional Precept raised should be spent on small improvements which will make our beautiful village even more so.

David Nutton. Chairman 2015/16.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2015 were agreed and signed with the following amendment: Paul Fuller attended the meeting.

3 Open Forum:

No issues for discussion had been raised by residents.

The next Annual Parish Meeting would be arranged for May 2017.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman, South Willingham Parish Council