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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Palgrave held in the Community Centre on
Thursday 9th May 2013**

Present

Councillors: Mrs S Bunbury (Chairman), Ms J Hicks (Vice-Chairman), E Barlow, E R Ling, Ms V Pudney, Miss M Sneddon, N Weston and M Bootman

Also present: Former County Councillor Charles Michell, Newly Elected County Councillor Jessica Fleming, District Councillor David Burn, PCSO Ben Oswick and Katherine Jones (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 17

05.13.1 Apologies: None

05.13.2 Mrs Bunbury opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and informing the meeting there would be a change in the running order of the agenda to hear the report from the outgoing County Councillor as both he and his successor were due to attend another Parish Council meeting. The report from the Community Council and the History Group would also be moved up the agenda to allow Mr Alan Spoor to leave early. Mrs Bunbury informed the meeting that copies of the reports would be available on the website and summaries included in the minutes.

05.13.3 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Charles Michell had stood down at the recent County Council elections after many happy years. He wished to say 'thank you', 'goodbye' and introduce new County Councillor, Jessica Fleming.

The freezing of the council tax and severe reductions in the annual government grant meant skill and good management are required to deliver county council services at an affordable price. Since the start of his career there has been changes to the governing of the county, we are now talking in terms of economic growth, competitive attitude within our region, a growth strategy for Suffolk, a different focus on business, emphasis on employment for young people and delivering superfast broadband. Meanwhile we have an aging population. The County has to provide for these changes and it will.

Representing the public at Council level has been a huge privilege and immensely fulfilling. A Councillor's job is not for money or glory, getting Councillors to stand for office today is difficult. County Councillor Charles Michell considered the implications

of District and County Councillors receiving payment for public service, and changes in public attitude.

County Councillor Charles Michell gave his farewell to the parish of Palgrave, being a Councillor had been highly fulfilling and brought lasting friendships and he looked forward to continuing his connection with the parish in the years to come.

Full report is attached.

County Councillor Charles Michell and County Councillor Jessica Fleming left the meeting.

Mrs Bunbury outlined the format of the meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council along with the District Councillor and Clerk and handed over to Mr Alan Spoons, Chairman of the Palgrave District Community Council (PDCC).

05.13.4 Report from the Community Council (PDCC)

As Chairman of the PDCC, Mr Spoons worked with a group of dedicated volunteers furthering the aims of the PDCC and helping the community. He outlined the many tasks they undertake including; preparing and cooking food, organising events, designing promotional material, running a monthly newsletter, researching funding along with managing the actual building and grounds. Mr Spoons outlined the many groups that use the community centre and the activities that have taken place there and felt the work of the Committee should be congratulated.

Mr Spoons outlined up and coming events and attractions, which included the Annual Fete, garage sale and Christmas Function and was sure there would be many more.

As one of their most loyal members the PDCC were saddened by the death of Mr Ken Nockles but were honoured to host his funeral.

Restructuring of the PDCC means there is a bar committee, along with a fund-raising committee, a systematic evaluation of the building is being undertaken to prioritise repair and refurbishment.

The growth of the Palgrave Film Event was exciting. Two members of the PDCC serve on the Wind Turbine Working Party. Mr Spoons said that running the PDCC was hard work but quoted "It's more fun if you get involved".

Full report is attached.

05.13.5 Report from the Palgrave History Group

Mr Spoons said that the History Group had made great progress although they were short in a couple of key areas in the village which included the history of Palgrave Church. Mr Spoons acknowledged the work of Mr Ken Nockles in setting up the History Group and said he was determined to continue his legacy.

Mrs Bunbury thanked Mr Spoons for both reports. Mr Spoons left the meeting.

05.13.6 Parish Council Report

Mrs Bunbury summarised the full Parish Council Report. The Parish Council currently had two vacancies due to the resignations of Bob Honnor and Ian Thorburn and Mrs Bunbury thanked them for their contributions. Mike Bootman and Rosie Gunning had joined the Parish Council along with a new Clerk, Katherine Jones.

The Parish Council had eleven meetings over the course of a year, matters of particular public interest had been the Operation of the Recycling Centre at Eye, the wind turbine at the Community Centre and an application for Village Green status which the Parish Council had commented on.

The Parish Council had two Sub Committees/ Working Parties and report to the main Council on matters relating to Public Footpaths and the Churchyard and Cemetery. Issues include discussing ways to prevent vehicular access to The Lows, preparing a Footpath Leaflet and extending the Millway Lane Cemetery carpark.

The Parish Council has representatives on the Palgrave Welfare Trust, St John's Hospital and the Wind Turbine Working Party.

The Parish precept for 2013/14 had been set at £12,848, an increase on the previous year and takes into account specific proposals; possible flashing traffic speed warning sign and additional dog bins. A detailed budget is attached.

Grant aid was given to bodies which benefit residents of the village along with contributions towards the enhancement of the pond on The Green.

The Parish Council is consulted on Planning Applications, which have included Tree Preservation Orders, householder, new dwellings, barn conversions and listed buildings works.

The use of the 'access only' road east of the school remains on the agenda and traffic considerations have received much attention over the year.

A large proportion of the Council's budget goes on maintenance. It is hoped to have a planned maintenance programme for the churchyard, village hedgerows and there is discussion of the grass cutting on The Green. Volunteers, for which the Parish Council is grateful often undertake projects, which this year has included the pond on The Green. Currently a Litter Picking co-ordinator is sought.

Our thanks go to David Whitehouse, who manages the village website and Jean Thorndyke who keeps a village scrapbook.

The Parish Council is just one of the village organisations providing services to residents and the Annual Parish Meeting enables these organisations to report on their activities in the village.

There were no questions for the Parish Council.

Full report is attached.

05.13.7 District Councillor's Report

There had been two major changes in the past year. The first being the Integration and Transformation Programme of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, which had started two years ago with the appointment of a single chief executive and ended this year with the completion of a single, much reduced management structure for the two councils, thus contributing to the high level of savings which is needed as a result of central government funding cuts. Currently the District Council is in the process of creating a single officer team and it is hoped it will be in place by the middle of 2013; this will achieve further cost savings but cuts to services are still likely.

The second change is the Governance Review which reviews the rules by which the Council manages itself. The outcome so far has been the reduction in the number of committees.

Underpinning all this is a new Strategic Vision which saw the Council embark on a Community Engagement programme, asking residents and representative groups what they expected from their Council. From the results the Council has drawn up a new Strategic Vision with the aim to achieve three strategic priorities which will be the guiding principles that will govern what the Council do for the 122 parishes that make up the District.

In regard to Planning the significant developments have been; The Stowmarket Area Action Plan and the Eye Airfield Development Framework. District Councillor D Burn quoted from the framework and full details are accessible on the Council website. Very

recently a proposal has also been made for a gas fired power station on Eye Airfield, this application will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Council has been working for some time on the systems that need to be set up for the Welfare Reforms which came into effect this year.

District Councillor David Burn said it was a privilege to serve and thanked the parish for their support.

Full Report is attached.

In terms of matters that affect Palgrave directly the District Councillor mentioned the Turbine Working Party; an interim report had been written and final findings would be presented to the PDCC. He urged affected parishioners who had not already made contact with the Working Party to do so and that it was important to notify the PDCC at the time of any disturbance so that its members have the opportunity of experiencing the impact as it is happening. The District Councillor was particularly keen to resolve this issue.

Turbine Working Party Interim Report available.

Background and current status of the Traveller Site on Lower Rose Lane and Tree Preservation Order in the village were given to the meeting.

There were no questions for the District Councillor.

05.13.8 Police Report

There were a total of 68 crimes recorded for the year and this was comparable to the previous year. PCSO Ben Oswick listed the crimes that had been recorded. Based on the Mid Suffolk North team meeting the focus will be on theft of Heating Oil and motor vehicles for the next three months, the next meeting will be 2nd July.

The response of the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) on the issue of Traffic Regulation Orders which had been raised at Palgrave Parish Council meetings was that they understood the issues Palgrave were experiencing and this issue had been forwarded to the Bury St Edmunds Roads Policing and Firearms Operations Unit (RPF OU).

The results of a survey showed that Suffolk residents feel safe and believe the Police do a good job, the statistics show a low level of crime in the area.

Tim Passmore is the first Police and Crime Commissioner replacing the Police Authority and Douglas Paxton is the new Chief Constable. There have been changes to personnel and new premises in Eye for the local SNT. Further cost saving will take place in future years although the policing element of the council tax will not be raised for 2013/14.

Full report is attached.

A parishioner asked for clarification on the incidents of crime and St John's House. PCSO Ben Oswick confirmed that internal incidents at St John's House were included in the Palgrave crime statistics but they were dealt with separately.

Councillor M Bootman advised the Police that vehicles over 7.5T using the 'Access Only' road alongside the church and school, whether legitimately or not, were not presented with the required weight restriction signage for the Village Green and Denmark Hill and so prosecution of any resulting offences could prove problematic. Parishioners were urged to report abuse of vehicle weight restrictions to the Police.

Mrs Bunbury also had an email from a parishioner in regard to a vehicle speeding through the village. Again the Police urged parishioners to report speeding vehicles depending on the seriousness of the incident to the control room or SNT Team.

05.13.9 Church Report

The Church had continued fundraising throughout the year, which included the Palgrave Apple Juice and the Christmas Market. The Church continued to run its Sunday Club and Music Group. Many visitors had been received throughout the year, one group included a choir from an overseas congregation who presented the Church with a drawing and a financial contribution to the roof restoration. Open The Book continues to take place with Palgrave Primary School on a Thursday morning and all are welcome to attend.

The Church are looking to purchase a new notice board and provide a kitchen and toilet facilities.

The north facing side of the church roof is being repaired due to the risk of leaking. The cost of the building work including the initial investigation is £107,000, which includes £55,000 funding from the church and funding has been made available from English Heritage. The inclusion of a kitchen and toilet will make the church a more flexible space.

Details of the Church Annual Report are available at the back of the church. The Palgrave Church Council and the Parish Council are working together to create a

management plan of the churchyard to ensure it remains an attractive part of the village.

05.13.10 School Report

The Ofsted inspection in 2013 judged Palgrave Primary School 'Good'. The Federation Governing Body has received the rarer judgement of being 'Outstanding'.

The school is very pleased with the SATS results and levels of progression made by the children and will continue to maintain the level now set. The school has an extremely good and motivated team of staff with a good mix of teaching experiences.

Other focuses of the school include the Year 5 & 6s taking up an invitation from Dr Dan Poulter MP to visit the Palace of Westminster, the trip included a photo opportunity outside Number 10 Downing Street. Members of the Governing Body returned to the House of Commons on 30th April and were named as the National Governors Association Outstanding Governing Body 2013. Mr Wells paid tribute and expressed his thanks to the incredible support and interest governors show to the Federation as a whole. He also thanked all the staff led by Head Teacher, Mr Andrew Berry. The school now has 57 children on its role.

Financially the school is in a reasonable position and Mr Wells wished to thank the Parish Council for their financial contribution to the new play equipment and Patrick Harrington for co-ordinating the project. There is no money or appetite for new rural schools in Suffolk. Mr Wells wanted to make sure the school remains the focus for the community and continues to provide the level of education, nurturing and support that is expected.

Full report is attached.

05.13.11 Palgrave Walking Group

The Palgrave Walking Group is a very informal group and can have up to thirty walkers. The group started in 2000. Walkers meet at the Community Centre on the second Tuesday of the month, walks can range anywhere between 4 ½ to 9 miles. Details of walks to take place are provided in the Palgrave Star. A member of the Parish asked if the Walking Group was just for Palgrave Residents. Mr Beecroft answered that the walkers come not just from Palgrave, there is no bar to who wishes to walk.

05.13.12 Palgrave Gardening & Social Group

At the end of 2011 it was proposed that in recognition of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee effort should be made to improve the edge of the village pond and provide a bench overlooking the pond and commemorative plaque. Advice from Suffolk Wildlife Trust

was that the pond required draining and dredging. Trees and undergrowth also need cutting back. The group agreed to undertake this more extensive project.

Funding was found from the Parish Council, SCC Locality Budget, generous donations from villagers and fundraising by the PGSG. Increased costs were incurred in having to remove the water as use of the local drainage system was refused.

In May 2012 a partnership and working party was agreed between the Parish Council and PGSG with Bon Honnor and Val Pudney agreeing to be the link between the two groups and Bob Honnor submitting all the necessary applications to MSDC. Work commenced in August 2012, the pumping out of the pond water, confirming the pond is spring fed. October 2012 saw the first plants being introduced and the arrival of the bench. April 2013 began the planting of many varieties of native plants and the arrival of ducks. 1st June the PGSG will be celebrating the completion of the pond's restoration by the pond and thanking all those for their support and goodwill, everyone is welcome.

Full Report attached.

05.13.13 Palgrave Table Tennis Club

Councillor E R Ling wished to draw attention to the Table Tennis Club which had been running since the 1950s and had recently won the league.

05.13.14 Palgrave Welfare Trust

Mrs Bunbury read out the report from the Palgrave Welfare Trust. The Trust is set up for the benefit of residents of Palgrave and can help with things such as travel expenses for repeated hospital visits, grants for educational activities and unexpected costs not covered by state benefit or insurance. Anyone approaching the Trust will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Full report attached.

05.13.15 Open Discussion

A parishioner wished to ask if the flashing speed traffic sign mentioned earlier in the meeting could be located on Denmark Hill. Councillor M Bootman said the Parish Council were looking into a moveable sign thus being able to set it up in different places in the village. A parishioner felt that Denmark Hill was hazardous with the potential for an accident. It was mentioned that a footpath facility on Denmark Hill had not come to fruition.

A member of the public mentioned that Speed Watch was working well in another village. Councillor Bootman let parishioners know that the Police would only sanction

Speed Watch on Lion Road and Rose Lane, the nature of other roads meant they were unsafe for this sort of action.

A parishioner felt a Lime Tree on the Village Green was unsightly and should be considered for removal. *Parish Council Chairman will meet with the parishioner to confirm which tree and action would need to be taken with the Lady of the Manor.*

District Councillor D Burn wished draw attention to a roadshow on the proposed Gas Fired Power Station which will be held at Eye Community Centre on 17th and 18th May.

A parishioner asked if there could be an increase in the number of dog bins in the village. Mrs Bunbury said the Parish had budgeted for more dog bins but were open to suggestions of where they should be located. Suggestions were made for; Millway Lane, The Green, Priory Road, Top of the village by the Church/School.

Mrs Bunbury thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting ended 8.55pm.