

## **Minutes of the Thwaite St Mary Parish Meeting**

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Thwaite St Mary

**Present:** Christine Hamilton (chair), Jane Love (minute secretary), and 19 residents

1. **Apologies for absence:** had been received from a number of residents
2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018:**  
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 were agreed to be correct.  
The chair pointed out that she had experienced some problems circulating attachments to emails, and therefore some residents had not received a copy of the draft minutes.
3. **Broadband update:**  
The chair reported that B4RNorfolk's plans for a community broadband project delivering 1000Mb broadband seemed to have failed, and there was no immediate prospect of the project being revived. In the meantime a resident stated that it was possible that the church might apply for permission for a mast on the church tower, also subject to permission from the Parochial Church Council. There may also be a possibility that funding from the District Council could be available for new masts.
4. **Dark Hole update:**  
The chair had attended an open day on the Ditchingham Estate in July and subsequently she and the vice chair had been invited to, and had attended, a meeting with the Estate Manager, the Estate Owner and a representative from Savills. The chair outlined the discussions that had taken place. Residents expressed their wariness of the Estate's intentions, and concerns that there could be creeping development on this site. Thanks were expressed to the chair for her efforts on behalf of the village, and the feeling of the meeting was that the parish should continue to engage with the Estate and wished to see any plans at such a time as they were ready.
5. **Report from District Councillor Brendan Bernard:**  
Cllr Bernard reported that South Norfolk Council (SNC) had carried out consultations on housing and ward boundary changes – Ditchingham ward would be merged with part of Gillingham ward, to give a two-councillor ward at the election in May 2019. The council's budgetary performance was good, with an expected £2million shortfall being replaced by development funding. Co-operation with Broadland District Council was continuing, but this did not constitute a merger.  
Cllr Bernard reported that the 4 Villages Good Neighbour project had disbanded, but another group, the Borders Community Group, had been formed to do similar work. A resident commented on how helpful the Four Villages Good Neighbour project had been with transport to hospital.  
Ditchingham Village Hall was planning an extension, using CIL money earned from the Maltings development project.  
Residents asked Cllr Bernard about progress with the Gypsy & Traveller Local Plan, but he reported that nothing had progressed due to a difficulty with defining the terminology to be used.
6. **Any other business:**
  - a) Phone box – the chair suggested that anyone who wished to help with maintenance of the box should contact the new owner directly;
  - b) The chair confirmed her wish to resign in March 2019 when she would have served a two-year term;
  - c) Residents commented on the research into the names on the war memorial that had been conducted by a fellow villager, and announced that a World War 1 sausage and mash supper was planned for Saturday, 3 November 2018 in the church, and a short presentation of the research would be part of the evening. Comments on pricing for tickets were requested, and a fixed charge of £15 per ticket for two