

THRIPLow PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday the 14th March 2016 in the Thriplow Village Hall Committee Room at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors: Jane Gough, David Easthope, Owen MacKay, Derek Pinner
Barbara Pointon, David Rhodes, Terry Smith

County & District Councillor Peter Topping (Part-time)

Clerk to the Council: Martyn Corbet

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Lynn Driscoll

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th January 2016

These minutes having previously been distributed, were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Amendments to the minutes were as follows:

Reference to the next meeting being on the 9th March should be 14th March

3. Matters arising not otherwise covered by the agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Health & Safety

Cllr Easthope said that a number of the larger potholes in the roads had been repaired. Health & Safety itself needs to be updated. It was decided that this should be re-visited after the Parish Council Elections. A post on the triangle at Ano Domini has been knocked down. Cllr Pinner will ask Simon Hitchcock to repair it.

DP

5. Update on:

(a) footpath at 7 The Green

This needs to go on the list of things for the next meeting with CCC. Cllr Gough will liaise with the Parish Clerk over this.

JG,MC

(b) watercourses in the village

Cllr Pinner said a copy of Shirley Wittering's map had been distributed some time ago. He will provide a copy for Cllr MacKay.

DP

(c) fence/gate at Pepperslade

This work has been completed. The Parish Clerk will chase Kester Lilley for an invoice.

MC

(d) flooding at Church Street

Cllr Gough referred to the email she had received from Mrs Seaton. Both Mrs & Mrs Seaton and Robert Smith have done all they can be expected to do. The matter needs to be discussed again with CCC.

MC

6. Parish Recreation Grounds and Village Maintenance

(a) Public footpaths on Heathfield

No problems have been reported

(b) Parking and Playground at Ringstone

Cllr Smith said the new playground at Ringstone is being used. The Parish Clerk is liaising with RoSPA to carry out its inspections.

MC

(c) Village Maintenance

Cllr Smith has obtained 2 quotes to paint the 12 seats around the village. One was from David White for £314.00 including materials. The other was from "Paul the Painter" for £235 excluding materials. Cllr Pinner proposed the former quote be ac

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accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Gough and agreed

(d) Drains at the Village Hall

Cllr Pinner said the work would start next week. One resident had queried whether the road would need to be closed. This is not the case. The work will be carried out in the middle of the road allowing for passage of vehicles. Cllr Pinner was thanked for his work on this project.

(e) Grass Cutting in the Parish

Cllr Smith said that Heathfield was cut last Thursday by the new contractor (Norse). The village verges will not be done yet. The Parish Clerk mentioned that the grass around the bollards opposite 85 Kingsway had not been cut. Cllr Smith said the Heathfield Playground had not been cut. This was because access could not be obtained. It was also because of the old car tyres lying around. Cllr Smith will be attending an HRA Limited board meeting on the 21st March.

TS

7. Tree Planting, Tree Works and Village Maintenance

Cllr Gough said she had asked Cllr Topping to represent the Parish Council at the Planning Meeting on the 3rd February. This meeting was to consider whether the Interim Tree Preservation Order made in respect of the trees at 7 & 9 The Green should be made permanent. Cllr Topping did not attend or tell Cllr Gough he was not going to attend. Cllr Gough feels that Cllr Topping let the Parish Council down. It was important that the Parish Council should have been represented.

Cllr Gough has had a complaint about dead trees on the corner of Middle Street and Church Street. These need to be dealt with. It is believed they belong to CCC. The Parish Clerk will write to them.

MC

Tree Works at 6 Middle Street – no objections

Tree Works at Thriplow Bury – no objections

8. Planning matters

(a) Responses to applications

S/3153/15/LB – Work to building 13, IWM – no objections- approval recommended

S/3099/15/FL – Glasshouse at Gravel Pitt Hill – no objections but clarification required whether there would be internal lighting – approval recommended

S/2999/15/FL – Change of use & conversion first floor of school house, Thriplow School – no objections – approval recommended

S/3081/15/FL – First floor side extension and new cartlodge style double garage 4 Middle Street – no objections but doubts were expressed about the siting of the garage. One parish councillor observed that no consideration had been given to how the proposal will affect 6 Middle Street

S/2619/15/FL - Installation of 2 electricity substations and cable route to solar farms – one parish councillor did not object to the proposal. All parish councillors wonder what the cable is for. There is, once again, a lack of information about the application. Parish Councillors object to the disturbance of land and drainage. The proposal will damage a fragile ecological system and affect birds and wildlife – refusal recommended

S/3202/15/FL – Erection of a new dwelling with new access from Church Street – all parish councillors objected to this proposal. One parish councillor commented upon the poor, or lack of, design.

Everyone thought the design was totally out of keeping with the area. The proposed development tries to hide behind a hedge which is not as high as illustrated on the proposal and in some places might not exist. The hedge or more particularly its height would be difficult to control by the planning authority. Some future owner might wish to remove the hedge or reduce its height, leaving the house open to view. It was also felt that the development is totally inappropriate near a Grade II listed property. The flat roof is inappropriate. The building was thought to be “sterile” looking.

(b) Planning decisions received

S/3099/15/FL – Glasshouse Gravel Pit Hill – approved

(c) Planning appeals

No notifications of planning appeals have been received

(d) Preparation of a list of community assets

Cllr Pointon and the other members of the sub-committee had met and prepared a list of assets. In so doing they had been guided by SCDC. Cllr Pointon went through the list and it is reproduced below

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Sub-committee's report to the Parish Council – 14.03.16

1. Following the Parish Council's approval of the proposed list of assets on 11th January, the list was sent to Kathryn Hawkes (SCDC). together with the reasons for our choices. She replied with a very helpful comment on each item, including how we might amplify some of our reasons and where more evidence was needed e.g. about the nature of the public's access (especially as of right or permissive). She asked us to consider answering the following questions:

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- Who benefits from the use – does it meet interests of whole community, not simply the users?
- Who would lose out if the usage were to cease?
- How longer will it continue?
- Does the local community have legal and authorized use of the land or property? (i.e as of right, or with permission).

2. At our meeting on March 9th we met to discuss Kathryn's comments, determine which assets complied with the criteria and added more evidence to those which were lacking. The result is:

Assets which meet the criteria – a clear Yes from Kathryn's comments

The Village Hall
The Village Shop
The Green Man
The Recreation Ground**
The Cricket meadow**
Pepperslade play area
Ringstone play area

Assets which don't meet the criteria or are not allowed anyway– a No

The Greenway and all footpaths
Peggs Close (public access only at Daffodil W/end)
Private houses and gardens
C of E Churches

Assets which require further evidence or are doubtful of meeting the criteria

The sub-committee added this extra information to the original descriptions on the list in the light of Kathryn Hawkes' general advice:

1. *The Primary School* – more about how it's used by public out of school time; playground serves as an important car-park for people attending the church, especially weddings and funerals. Recent work at the Church makes it more useful for community events. (Church has no parking).

Assets requiring further evidence or comment, cont'd

2. *The Smithy* - Living Museum (Historic crafts e.g.Blacksmith courses) Icon for the village. The smithy is available to be opened to any member of the public by arrangement via the shop.

3.*The Tithe barn (Middle St)*. Doubtful. Important cultural role as the oldest secular building in the village. In the process of being listed by English Heritage and the boundaries clarified.

4.*Village Green***. Need to clarify the outer boundaries (i.e. the 'verges') and the kind of use by the public.

5. *The Orchid meadow*. In theory yes, but it is only open to the public at flowering time and with permission from the owner. Used by the School's Nature Club...doubtful....

6.*The Spinney, Lower St*** . Its main use is as a visual amenity, especially for people patronising the pub. Query whether access for public use needs permission from the owner.

7. *Public Open Space, Hurdles Way*. It is known as 'the village green' but if we put it in by that description, there are extra requirements to be met and it has to have had 20 years' use.

8. *Kingsway play area* and

9. *Whitehall Gardens* . Because these are owned by the HRA, we need to clarify that all residents pay a fee for maintenance of the whole estate, including the POSSs, but it is not confined to use by the residents only – anyone can use them.

10.*Parlour and Fishponds* Need to clarify that they are publicly accessible at all times and are not used by a utilities company.

We also have to gather details about the owner, their contact details etc.

A large form has to be filled in for each of the nominated assets.

The committee agreed that David Easthope and I would provisionally fill in the forms and accept Kathryn Hawkes' offer to go to her office and work through all the submissions for errors or omissions before it is sent off for consideration by the SCDC panel dealing with this policy, who may not grant listing to everything. We now seek approval of the list from the Parish Council and for the next steps to be taken.

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Barbara Pointon. 14.03.16

Footnote: PVAA status)(Protected Village Amenity Area) is marked by ** - NB Only proposed as yet see Maps

(e) Miscellaneous Items

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to the owner of Bacon's Farm and ask for a meeting. This will preferably be on site with Cllrs Gough and MacKay also attending.

A letter had been received from UK Power Networks in respect of work on The Green. The plan attached was studied and the works were agreed.

9. Financial Matters

(a) Authority was granted to pay the following:

	Amount	VAT	Total
Parish Clerk salary – 12 th Jan to 14 th March 2016	496.36		496.36
Parish Clerk - Expenses	16.70		16.70
HMRC – PAYE on Parish Clerk's salary	124.20		124.20
John Baker Mower Services . mower service	68.50	13.70	82.20
T Smith – reimbursement re padlocks etc	26.82		26.82
Cambridgeshire CC – electricity supply	840.35		840.35
Ryecroft Data – printing APM Leaflets	390.00		390.00

Items received too late for publication

Fowlmere Joinery – Invoice 00826	360.00	72.00	432.00
Fowlmere Joinery – Invoice 00836	140.00	28.00	168.00
Simon Hitchcock Building Services	250.00		250.00
NALC – Subscription 2016	17.00		17.00

(b) Credits received

No credits had been received

(c) S106 monies

The monies held in respect of Hurdles Way are invested on a 1 year fixed term with Saffron BS. The monies held in respect of Ringstone continue to be invested with Cambridge BS but mature on the 17th March. The remaining S106 monies are invested with Cambridge BS. The Parish Clerk has withdrawn £6,700.00 of these monies which were set aside for the playground at Ringstone.

Monies on deposit with Cambridge BS

The monies held on fixed term deposit in respect of Ringstone mature on the 17th March. The Parish Clerk explained that in common with other financial Institutions there were no fixed fee deposit products available at with the Cambridge BS. He suggested the monies be held on an Instant Access Deposit. This was proposed by Cllr Gough seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed

Release of Accounts to Internal Auditor

The release of the Parish Council's financial records to the Internal Auditor was agreed.

10. (a) Parish Clerk's Review

Cllr Easthope and Cllr MacKay had conducted a review with Parish Clerk. Various ideas had been put forward to try and make things work a little more smoothly. It had been decided to recommend an increase in the Parish Clerk's salary. This was proposed by Cllr Pinner and seconded by Cllr Pointon and agreed.

(b) Provision of Payroll Services

As part of the same review it was recommended that the present provider of payroll services, Oz Flynn, should invoice the Parish Council on an annual basis for the work he does.

MC

MC

MC

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11. Queen's Birthday Celebration

After some discussion it was decided the parish Council would not plan any events to mark the occasion.

12. Improvements to Heathfield Playground

This had been discussed previously

13. A505 Junction with Gravel Pit Hill

Cllr Pinner said he thought it was inegituous that the Parish Council was expected to help fund improvements to the junction between the A505 and Gravel Pit Hill. He felt the real problem was inadequate signage. Cllr Gough said she thought the lighting was also inadequate. Cllr Topping said that the Parish Council needed to put in a bid for funding to cover minor highway improvements. Cllr Pinner thought this was wrong. Cllr Topping said that CCC would say this is not an accident blackspot. Cllr Easthope said there are 2 reflective posts instead of the 4 there used to be. Cllr Topping thought this could be dealt with. Cllr Gough said the 4 had been knocked down. Mike Cooper had restored them but put 2 posts on each side of the road. Cllr Topping thought the posts should be replaced as they originally were. Cllr Gough thought that CCC are not listening. Cllr Topping suggested another meeting. Cllr Easthope said a meeting had already taken place. There should be an improvement in the signage. A sign should be placed on the IWM side to say there was a junction coming up. It was agreed that a further meeting should be arranged with CCC Highways Department and that minutes of the meeting should be kept. It should be on a Friday morning.

MC

14. Transparency Code

The Parish Clerk and Cllr Gough will meet to discuss this.

15. Updating of Software for the parish website, updating the website itself and policy on advertising

It was agreed that further investigations should take place.

16. Courses for Parish Councillors

This issue will need to be dealt with once the results of the forthcoming election is known.

17. Parish Elections

The Parish Clerk handed out nomination forms. Cllr Pinner confirmed he is not seeking re-election. He said that he feels the time has come for new faces and younger blood to be on the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Pinner will be greatly missed.

18. Reports (if any):

(a) Neighbourhood Forum

Cllr Pinner had nothing to report

(b) Thriplow and Heathfield Recreation Grounds

This had largely been done earlier but Cllr Smith said that the Roundabout on the Thriplow Recreation Ground was sticking. He has contacted Playdale about it. The Roundabout is out of action for a while.

(c) Village Hall Management Committee

There are new taps in the toilets/. They turn off automatically and will save water lost previously. A hirer wants the staging for 3 days in April. This has been agreed. This provided the staging is stacked and put back properly. A new battery has been obtained for the heating system.

(d) Police and Neighbourhood Watch

There was a house burglary in the village at half term.

(e) Village Maintenance

Cllr Pinner said that there have been problems with the drain opposite the property owned by Alice Holmes. CCC had tried to clear the drain. Cllr Pinner had filed a report on the CCC website. New bulbs in the embankment had been washed out by heavy rain. A Sludge Gulp is needed to suck the "muck" out. The gulleys are always blocked up the water does not go down. When the water

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freezes there is a serious safety issue. Cllr Pointon said condition of the verges is getting worse. She mentioned one in Lower Street opposite the pub. The gutters are being squashed by cars which damages the drainage.

(f) District Council Information and (g) County Council Information

Cllr Topping had prepared the following report:

Reports to Thriplow Parish Council – March 2016

1. Money: county council and district council budgets

After a meeting of some 12 hours, the county council decided to increase the council tax by two per cent, ring fenced to protect social care, and to freeze other elements of the budget. The arguments put forward by those supporting this increase was that the 2% would provide some £4m towards a very hard pressed area of the council's work. Those opposing the increase, mainly from the more rural areas of the county, were of the view that given the considerable savings that would still need to be made in social care, the sooner the county started on its necessary transformation work the better, and not add to the tax burden of residents in the meantime.

The district council voted almost unanimously – after about an hour's debate - to increase its budget this year and next by 4%, although it starts from a very low base. For a Council Tax Band D property the tax each month will be £135.00 while Cambridge City is £182 and Hunts is £133. Average tax is £166 across the country.

2. Highways, road traffic issues, and even information highways

A505 junction

Highways have measured the lane markings at the junction following the site visit with them. When the resurfacing was done and the lines placed back the centre right turning refuge was narrowed slightly (by millimetres) as the straight through lanes needed to be made wider and this was deemed to be the safest option. It is within specification and no alterations are planned. If a bid is going to be made for improvements at the junction it has to be via the minor highways scheme – see below. Suggest a follow up meeting at Whittlesford Bridge with Evan, members of the PC and me. Please give me dates and I will arrange. We can bring up junction signage plans at that meeting too.

Heathfield

I am arranging for the Police Community Officers (PCSOs) to do a site visit at Heathfield after complaints about vans being parked at the entrance on the pavements and near misses with pedestrians.

Minor highways improvement scheme

I met with the highways officers to better understand how parish councils can put in a successful bid next year. As the scheme becomes the main route by which significant improvements can be made, there will be pressure to present bids in a structured way, based on:

- an analysis of highways issues as they affect the village;
- demonstrating public consultation and support for that analysis;
- how the specific bid fits in with the wider strategic approach (ie that a prioritization method has been used).

Bids where the parish can make a more than 10 per cent contribution will score more highly, as will bids that are jointly made from a group of parishes. It may be that Thriplow might want to set up a sub-group of the parish council to do this = I would be very happy to advise and work on this with you.

Traffic survey

Melbourn Parish Council is seeking to link up with other parish councils in the area to fund a traffic survey.

Broadband coverage

There is a new campaign to identify where there are “not-spots” of poor wifi and broadband coverage across Cambridgeshire. The website is www.thinkbroadband.com/CambsNotspotter for more details.

3. Planning

The District Council Planning Committee decided to remove any Tree Protection Orders on the sycamore trees in a garden near the Green. I attended the site meeting the day before and met the planning committee, and the parish council's views were passed on to the planning committee.

Vetspeed chimney planning application

The county council has commissioned a report from an aviation expert into the proposals put forward by Vetspeed and their potential harm on flights at the Duxford IWM airfield. The report appears to indicate that the height of the chimney would not cause harm or increase the risks to aircraft. With regard to other key concerns to do with this application, the volume of traffic that would be generated by waste material being trucked to the plant remains a key one, together with the nature of the emission from the chimney, using its very new technology. The upside of the proposed method is that because of the volumes increase, the plant would be more closely monitored by the Environment Agency than is currently the case. There is still time for any final comments to Helen Wass at the county council, before the planning committee hearing in early April, which I will attend.

4. Housing

Devolution deal and housing

The government is very keen on a devolved government deal for the three counties of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, to be known as the eastern powerhouse. This may be announced tomorrow in the Budget if the last minute deal making is successful. The issue is controversial because the other two counties are very different economically to this county and to this part of Cambridgeshire. The government is however offering a deal that would see South Cambridgeshire having access to funds

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that would enable it to build more affordable and starter homes, recognising that if there are not more homes, then the current economic boom locally might start to fail. The other advantage of devolution is that it would allow major transport improvement, such as on the A505 and rail transport locally, allowing houses to be built further away, in places like Wisbech or Newmarket, so that people could commute into Cambridgeshire, reducing the pressures to build more locally. One issue that will come to the fore in the next few months is do we want "affordable" houses as in rented properties run by housing associations and/or the council, or do we want "starter" houses for young people on limited incomes.

Peter Topping

19. Correspondence and Information received

03.02.16 - Letter Cambridge BS re Bond Maturity

16.02.16 - Letter Mr C Arnold

Undated - Letter from CCC re Street Lighting Energy

Undated - Letter from RoSPA re Play Area Inspections

Undated - Letter from SCDC re Nominations Packs

09.03.16 - UK Power Networks -Proposed Electricity Works - Thriplow Village Green

10.03.16 - Letter from SCDC re Notice of Election

12.03.16 - Letter from Saffron BS re Terms and Conditions

Emails

13 Jan - Peter Topping - Thriplow Report 16/01

14 Jan - Electoral Services - PC Elections 5th May 2016

Caroline Odonaghue - Changes to the proposed scheme of delegation

15 Jan - Peter Topping - Trees on the Green

Matthew Hall - CCC News for Towns and Parishes

Ian Lorman - (Info) Thriplow Parish Council

16 Jan - Cllr Topping - TPO 05/15/SC - 9 The Green - Objection

18 Jan - APAS Planning - Correspondence regarding application

19 Jan - Ian Lorman - Date Change TPO 05/15/SC - Planning Committee

20 Jan - Patrick Adams - Agenda for weekly bulletin, Wednesday 20th January

Peter Topping - A505 Junction

22 Jan -Accountancy - Re Precept 2016-17

APAS Planning - Correspondence regarding application

26 Jan -Matthew Wood - TPC Precept

Tina Webb - Transparency Forms

Peter Gaskin - Land between Lower Street and Middle Street Thriplow

27 Jan - Peter Topping - Report

Patrick Adams - Agenda for weekly bulletin, Wednesday 27th January

Chris Anderson - Bacon's Farm

29 Jan - Helen Waas - Re Planning Application

Peter Topping - Report for this year

Helen Waas - Re Planning Application

01 Feb- LDF - Local Plan Skeleton programme published

03 Feb - Patrick Adams - Agenda for weekly bulletin, Wednesday 3rd February

05 Feb - APAS Planning - Correspondence regarding planning application

Middle Street

Parish Council Website - Funding is available for website design

08 Feb- Cambridgeshire ACRE - Survey Issue

08 Feb - Cambridgeshire ACRE - Ensuring continuing support for rural Communities

09 Feb - Cambridgeshire ACRE - Ensuring continuing support for rural Communities etc

Mishka Mayers - Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire - Final Recommendations

Tina Webb - DIS Extra 877

Tina Webb - Good Councillor Guide 2016

10 Feb - Karen Shaw 100 - Dog Faeces

Charlotte Kirby - Dog Poo

Patrick Adams - Agenda for weekly bulletin, Wednesday 10th February

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- Jay Patel - Notification of Tree Works - Thriplow Bury
- 11 Feb - LDF - Planning Policy Monthly Update Feb 2016
 Tina Webb - County Association (Parishes) Consultation
 Tina Webb - Fw Improvement Bulletin - 8th Feb 2016
 Public Sector Executive - Finance Settlement - transitional cash
- 12 Feb - Editor - deadline
- 15 Feb - Public Sector Executive - Councils should use NHS land to build
 Supported housing
 Cambridgeshire ACRE - Community Fair 2016 - Save the Date
 Passenger Transport - Changes to Local Bus Services
- 16 Feb - Chris Anderson - Re Bacon's Farm Church Street Thriplow
 Local Council Public Advisory Service - Rights of Way and Byways
 Course
- 17 Feb - Graham Watts - Agenda for weekly bulletin, Wednesday 17th February
 Anna Jack - Tree Warden
 Fowlmere PC - Queens' Birthday Celebrations
- 18 Feb - clerk (Duxford) - Suspicious vehicle in Duxford this week
 Ryecroft Data - Invoice
 Fowlmere PC - Queens' Birthday Celebrations
- 19 Feb - aedwards - Notification of area inspection for TPC
- 22 Feb - Nick Swarfega - scanned image from Sharp Info
 Anglian Waters Pollution - Help us reduce pollution in your parish
- 23 Feb - Cambridgeshire ACRE - Cambridgeshire ACRE News Digest - Feb 2016
- 24 Feb - Barbara Chew - Dudley's Plaque
 Patrick Adams - Agenda for weekly bulletin, Wednesday 24th February
- 25 Feb - Jodie Midlane - Lets get a new playground
- 26 Feb - Cllr Topping - [INFO] TPO 05/15/SC
 Ian Senior - [INFO] TPO 05/15/SC
 Ian Senior - [INFO] TPO 05/15/SC
 Ian Lorman - [INFO] TPO 05/15/SC
 Cllr Topping - [INFO] TPO 05/15/SC
- 27 Feb - Nick Swarfega - Minutes of last meeting
 Nick Sawrfega - Minutes of last meeting
- 29 Feb - Barbara Chew - Dudley's Plaque
 Ian Senior - [INFO] TPO 05/15/SC
- 01 Mar - Paul Griffiths - Introduction
 Barbara Chew - Dudley's Plaque
 Passenger Transport - Changes to Local Bus Services
- 02 Mar - Peter Topping - TPOs
 APAS Planning - Correspondence regarding KWS Limited
 Ian Lorman - [INFO] TPO 05/15/SC - not confirmed
- 03 Mar - Passenger Transport - Changes to Local Bus Services
 Patrick Adams - Agenda for weekly bulletin, Wednesday 3rd March
- 04 Mar - aedwards - Notification of play area inspection for TPC
 Tina Webb - Speedwatch
 Tina Webb - Handling Complaints
- 08 Mar - Nick Swarfega - Website Matters
 Nick Swarfega - Daffodil Weekend
 Nick Swarfega - Minutes for Last Meeting
 Nick Swarfega - Minutes for Last Meeting
- 09 Mar - Editor - Deadline
 Patrick Adams - Agenda for weekly bulletin, Wednesday 9th March
- 11 Mar - Tina Webb - DIS Extra 879
 Simon Hitchcock - Invoice

20. Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting will begin at 8.00 pm on the 24th March. It is hoped there will be a good turnout.

21. Date of next meeting

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Annual Parish Meeting 24th March 2014

Annual Parish Council Meeting 9th May 2016

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending.
The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date