

Lound Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting
Monday 1st June 2015 at LOUND VILLAGE HALL
Commencing at 7.30 p.m.

(Subject to amendment until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting)

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Apology from Sue Kershaw; the Chair advised the meeting that Rita Flatt has resigned leaving the Parish Council with a vacancy.

2. Confirm Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 16th May 2014.

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report 2015

I would like to start by thanking Parish Councillors and Parishioners for their support over the last year. I know a lot of you do a lot of work to make Lound the pleasant village it is.

We are very fortunate to live in a village like Lound. As well as being set in peaceful countryside, it contains a number of thriving establishments, including an excellent pub / restaurant, a beautiful church, a couple of garden centres, and a more recently opened café. Lound is a small village, and the resident population could not, on their own, sustain these establishments. They all rely to a greater or lesser extent on visitors from outside the village. If parishioners want these facilities to stay in Lound we must actively support them. This means not only using the services ourselves, but just as importantly maintaining Lound as an attractive and welcoming place for visitors who will also support them.

Lound is a rural village with a number of footpaths and open spaces. We must make sure that areas with public access such as the Mardle, Snakes Lane, the village green, and the Heath are kept tidy and litter free. We should have a zero tolerance for litter and dog waste. The attractive countryside helps to bring in the visitors, and we must do what we can to preserve it.

The Mardle.

The Mardle is an attractive feature of the village with many visitors every day. It is owned and managed by the Parish Council.

The reeds and other marginal plants which have been put along the edges of the Mardle in recent years are slowly becoming established. The appearance of the Mardle is evolving and becoming more natural, with the wire cages along the road edge being progressively covered by new growth. This process will continue with more planting each year. Pictures of the Mardle from 50 years ago show extensive reed beds, especially at the Southern end. While I would not want to see the Mardle completely choked by reeds, I think we need to encourage them to spread a little more.

A couple of years ago the Parish Council looked at the possibility of dredging the Mardle. We have decided that this is not necessary at the moment, so this idea has been shelved.

15A/2

The Heath.

The Heath is designated as an area of common land, and is owned and maintained by the Parish Council. It has become a haven for wildlife, with many insects, animals and birds.

At the end of last year a branch fell off the large beech tree at the North West entrance to the Heath. When inspected the tree was found to be dying with extensive rot in the trunk, and a tree surgeon was engaged to cut it down. However before he came to complete the work, the tree was blown down, thus saving the cost of felling it.

I would like to thank Peter Larcombe who keeps an eye on the Heath on behalf of the Council, and cuts the pathways to stop them becoming overgrown.

New house on The Street.

In September 2014 planning permission was granted for a new house on land next to number 2 The Street. The proposal is to build one single storey house which is to be partially sunk into the ground, and which will have a soil and grass covered roof. The house will be powered largely by renewable energy, but will not require a lot of energy input due to the insulation provided by the earth surround. Normally new houses on green-field sites in rural areas such as this are not permitted. This house was allowed as an exception to the policy because of the excellence of the design and the fact that it will be unobtrusive.

We await with interest the completion of this innovative project.

5. Police Report

2015 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF LOUND.

Please give my apologies as I am unable to attend however PCSO Chapman will be representing the Lowestoft North

I have reported on individual crimes throughout the year at your parish meetings and given crime prevention advice. Since my absent from work, The North SNT team have been covering rural North with patrols and dealing with the day to day police work.

Crimes for Lound were 16 for the previous year and from May 2014 to April 2015 also 16 recorded crimes, for Flixton there was 1 recorded crime compared with 3 the previously.

Burglaries have also been reduced but are a nasty personal crime and they do occur in rural areas and not always at night, often the intruders get to the back of a property and take easy pickings, for example jewellery and small electronic devices, please take photos of valuables and remove them from the master bedroom and place in a safe; if you see anything or anyone acting suspiciously please dial 101 this is the non-emergency police number- You are near the Norfolk border here – so please request Suffolk police-if you wish to contact me again dial 101 or email lowestoftnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk I do have a few days off so if urgent please ask to speak to another .

Raves do take place in rural areas last year one took place near Decoy Farm Flixton, if residents do hear loud music or see several vehicles congregating do call 101.

As from April 1st of this year, Sgt 264 Hogan Green is responsible for rural North Lowestoft ,with Inspector Hill over- seeing the entire S.N.T. of Lowestoft.

C.S.W .continue to do an excellent job in advising motorists of their speed- on behalf of Suffolk Police I would like to convey thank you for the time and effect given.

Kind Regards,

Sue

PSCO 3080 SUE KERSHAW.

SNT NORTH LOWESTOFT

6. Lound Bowls' Club

During the 2014 season the club had a membership of 18 players who enjoyed playing in the Lothingland League against 13 other local clubs. At the end of the season we finished 6th, winning 13, losing 13. The league winners were Gorleston Conservative Club.

We also entered into the Bob Whitley Memorial Shield getting through to the second round, and the Dorothy Stringfellow Memorial Shield in which we reached the final but sadly lost to a very good Oulton Broad team.

Members also competed in the leagues Triples, Pairs and Singles knock-out tournaments, but this year we failed to take any silverware at all.

The members attended a club drive every Friday evening and also had an all-day tournament and lunch Sunday in July which ended with a sudden down pour of rain that completely flooded the green.

After the season closed we once again set too to improve the green, we gave it a good scarifying and then applied 8tons of top dressing and reseeded it. During the spring we improved some the poorer areas and spent time nurturing them so that now the green is the best it has been for some time. A skip was hired so that we could dispose of about 20yrs worth of grass cuttings and leaf mould, although we tried hard we could not get all of it in so still have a quantity of well-rotted compost if anyone wants some for their gardens.

We now look forward to a summer of enjoyable games of bowls.

Mike Willeard, Chairman Lound Bowls Club

7. Village Hall and Village Green

The Village Hall is running nicely. We have a core income from several groups that meet regularly as well as one off events. This more than covers the expenses of the hall and leaves a reasonable surplus.

We had an open meeting last summer to gather opinions/suggestions about what improvements could be made.

Further to that meeting, it was decided that some immediate action could be taken which included redecoration, better lighting, replacement windows, new curtains, replacing the small tables and one picnic table. A heater in the ladies toilet, and improving the paving slabs at the entrance (a small cement slope was created as there had been problems with wheelchairs).

Other suggestions still to be looked at are the kitchen layout and a possible extension. So far this work has been met with approval from the hall users, as well as praise for the condition in which it is kept.

This is in the main due to the hard work of Val Baker, our caretaker, who goes well above her duties, and the Committee would like to extend their thanks to her. Also many thanks are due to Peter, who keeps the outside area neat and tidy and to Louis for cutting the green and some of the general maintenance.

8. Lound Church - St John the Baptist

Report for Lound Parish Council A.G.M

This year has been as busy as usual.

We still have 3 Sunday Communion Services a month with an average of 20 communicants.

Our Electoral Roll now stands at 21.

Unfortunately we have lost 2 of our regular congregation, Joan & Ray Coleman whose funerals along with Lennie Stevens and Russell Baker took place in Church.

Our A.G.M was poorly attended as usual even though it was well advertised.

We have to raise £13,654.00 this year for our Parish Share, money we have to pay to the Diocese.

We have enjoyed our festivals: Lent Lunch, Harvest, Christmas and Easter where friends from the village have helped in many ways. For example Reading, Flower arranging, Kitchen Duties and 2 people are among our regular Church cleaners for which we give thanks.

JILL HARROP (PCC Secretary) MAY 2015

9. Nomination of Parish Council, Village Hall representative

It does not have to be a member of the Parish Council

It was agreed by all that Peter Larcombe would continue this roll.

10. Allotments and The Heath

This has been covered under the Chair's report. The rent for 4 allotments; have been received, totalling £66.00 which is yet to appear on bank statements. A letter is being sent to the tenants who have yet to pay.

11. Community Speed Watch

The Community Speed Watch scheme has continued to operate in the parishes of Blundeston, Corton, Oulton, Somerleyton, Flixton, and Lound, and has now been running for over five years. Volunteers wear high visibility coats, and measure vehicle speeds at a number of locations in these villages using a hand-held radar gun.

In the 12 months from May 2014 to April 2015 we carried out 95 speed watch surveys and reported 375 speeding vehicles. This is a drop of 18% in the number of vehicles reported despite an increase of 11% in the number of survey sessions. I think most local drivers are used to seeing us and know that speeds are regularly monitored.

We also use a portable Vehicle Activated Sign. This is a sign which uses radar to measure the speed of passing vehicles and displays this speed in flashing numbers. The numbers are red if the speed is over 30mph, or green if the speed is 30mph or less. The sign is shared with other speed watch groups, and so is not in this area every week.

If you would like further details about the Community Speed Watch scheme, or would like to join the volunteers, please contact our PCSO Sue Kershaw by calling the police non-emergency number 101.

Louis Smith
Community Speed Watch co-ordinator

12. County Councillor Report

Talked about the completion of the spine road which would hopefully ease traffic in the surrounding parishes.

The Councillors were busy with Suffolk County Council trying to ensure consistency in service with more cuts imminent.

Still awaiting for more information on the picket fence.

The finger sign posts have been done and a 20mph in Back Lane has been agreed.

13. District Councillor Report

Elections this year have thrown things into chaos. The new offices are open and it's been estimated that it will take about 4 weeks to get everyone in. The Marina Centre will be closed and the offices moved to St. Margater's House during the referbishment.

It was good to see the old Lothingland School put to good use and working well.

Paul explained the new Community Levy scheme and suggested that if the Parish had any S106 money that it be used rather than loose it (see Financial Report).

**14. Parish Council Financial Report
Lound Accounts for 1st June 2015**

It can be seen from the documentation issued that the present balance is:

Business Account	£4,050.00
Community Account	<u>£1,479.53</u>
Total	£5,529.53

There is £936.00 of 106 monies to spend with a deadline of 26th August 2016.
The development was Cartshed site, Hall Farm Cottage.

The Clerk drew the attention of the meeting to item 1 which indicates the balance brought forward of £5,075 and item 7 which shows that £4,992 was brought forward to this financial year.

The Clerk offered to take questions; there were none.

15. Any Other Business

Dog bin at gate by Snakes Lane went missing two months ago and needs replacing.

Gatepost into an allotment broken, Louis to speak to holder to see if a replacement is required.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.