

Lound Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting
Friday 16th May 2014 at LOUND VILLAGE HALL
Commencing at 7.00 p.m.

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

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Paul Ashdown, Carl Ashpole, Sue Kershaw and Anna Moyse

2. Confirm Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2013.

With a date correction, the minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

I have been Chairman of the Parish Council only since February of this year. Keith Jarvis was Chairman up to then, but for personal reasons he decided to leave the Council. I would like to thank Keith for his work as Chairman and a Parish Councillor over many years. He has freely given his time to improve the village, both with major projects such as building this village hall and working on the Mardle, and with smaller works such as trimming hedges and installing noticeboards. Lound would not be such a pleasant place to live without the largely unseen work done by volunteers like Keith. Keith has lived in the village all his life, and has a comprehensive knowledge of village affairs. His sound common sense and good advice were much appreciated by the Parish Council, and will be missed.

At the beginning of the year the Parish Council clerk, John Burford, was seriously ill and had to spend a couple of weeks in hospital. I am very pleased to say he quickly recovered, and was able to resume his duties after a short break. I would like to thank Rita Flatt who took minutes of our meetings during John's absence.

The Mardle.

The Parish Council has continued with its project to improve the appearance of The Mardle, which is a very attractive feature of the village with many visitors every day. The Willow tree by the village sign has been cut back as it was overhanging the road and the neighbouring garden. It was also shading that corner of The Mardle, which prevented anything else from growing.

The Essex and Suffolk Water company kindly donated some planters last year which were put along The Mardle bank. These now need to be refilled with fresh plants. We also have more reeds and rushes to plant along the water's edge. A planting party will probably be arranged in the next month or so.

14A2

The water company did also offer to help with dredging The Mardle, but are not now able to do this. The Parish Council will consider whether any dredging is necessary, but any work needs to be carried out very carefully as the natural clay bottom of The Mardle must not be disturbed. It would be tragic if all the water drained away!

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.

This year the footpath steps leading up through the trees have been repaired, making it easier for walkers on their way to Somerleyton.

The Parish Council have agreed that a memorial bench can be installed on The Heath. I would like to thank Peter Larcombe who keeps an eye on the Heath on behalf of the Council, and keeps the pathways clear.

Lothingland School Site.

As has been reported in the local press, Lowestoft College are to take over the Lothingland School site. They will run adults' courses from the location. The buildings are currently being refurbished and decorated, and courses are expected to start in September. The Parish Council is pleased this site will continue to be used for educational purposes.

Parish Council Vacancies.

In addition to Keith's resignation, Derek Bessey has also resigned as a Parish Councillor. I would like to thank him for the interest he has shown in the village and the work he has done for the Council. This means there are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you care about Lound and would like to become a Parish Councillor, please speak to me or to the Parish clerk.

5. **Police Report**

2014 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF LOUND

Meeting to be held on 16.05.14 at 7 pm

Please give my apologies I am unable to attend.

For all parishes I have reported less crime than the previous year, this reflects the same picture across Lowestoft North, with crime being down by 7.3 % with 223 fewer offences reported.

I have reported on individual crimes throughout the year at your parish meetings and given crime prevention advice.

Burglaries 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-

Signed: Clerk: Date:

You are near the Norfolk border here – so please request Suffolk police-if you wish to contact me again dial 101 or email lowestofnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk I do have a few days off so if urgent please ask to speak to another officer.

Your parish has a worthwhile N.H.W scheme up and running, Suffolk Police continue to support residents that are part of this crime prevention neighbourly group. If any other residents want to join or start a scheme I am happy to call and give more details.

I have reported less fly tipping in the parish.

It has been a busy year and with our priority of the North SNT to be town centre to reduce street drinkers and begging I have been deployed there for some of my shifts. I have continued to engage with the residents and businesses in the parish and making new contacts. I have spoken to give crime reduction advice at public meetings and residents in the parish.

C.S.W .continue to do an excellent job in advising motorists of their speed. On behalf of Suffolk Constabulary I would like to thank the volunteers for their time and effect.

(Louis will read a separate report on behalf of the C.S.W)

I shall continue to patrol and support your Council and work with your Councillors to keep the parish of Lound a safe and lovely place for residents to live.

Regards, Sue

6. Lound Bowls' Club

During the 2013 season the club had a membership of 19 players who enjoyed playing in the Lothingland League along with 13 other local clubs. At the end of the season we finished 3rd, winning 18, losing 7 and drawing 1. The league winners were Oulton Broad.

We also entered into the Bob Whitley Memorial Shield and the Dorothy Stringfellow Memorial Shield, both played in a knockout format. Unfortunately we did not progress further than the first round in either.

Members also competed in the leagues Triples, Pairs and Singles knock-out tournaments. Again we were very successful with our Ladies winning the Singles and Pairs, in the Men's singles both finalists were from the Lound Club and we also had a finalist in the open Pairs.

The members attended a club drive every Friday evening and also had an all-day tournament and lunch one glorious sunny Sunday in July.

An open evening was arranged in May, with posters put around the village, but unfortunately this was not supported by any of the villagers.

At the end of the season the green was in pretty poor shape, we gave it a good scarifying and then applied 8tons of top dressing and reseeded the green. This year we have had to have the pavilion roof refelted and we have also painted out the interior. So now all we are hoping for is a sunny and warm summer so that we can once again have another great season playing bowls.

Mike Willeard, Chairman Lound Bowls Club

7. Village Hall and Village Green

1. Lound Village Hall

The hall was designed and built by residents of Lound to replace the old ex-army hut which previously served as our village hall. The new hall was opened in 1996 and is managed as a charity for the benefit of parishioners.

The hall has many regular users, with classes for Yoga, Pilates, Drawing & Painting, Sugar Craft, Sewing, and Computing, together with band rehearsals and dancing classes. During the winter there are monthly film evenings. The hall is also used for private parties and meetings.

This year a new noticeboard has been put up outside the hall entrance. This shows details of the hall management committee, and indicates how to contact the caretaker for anyone wishing to hire the hall. There is also a list of the hall bookings for the current month and space to advertise current events taking place in the hall.

The hall has also installed a broadband connection this year so that users of laptops and smart phones can access the internet.

Thanks to our regular users the hall is financially secure, with income from hiring's covering all running costs. Total income for the year to 31st March 2014 was £5583, with total expenditure £4685.

I would like to thank Val Baker who, with help from her husband Alfie, keeps the hall clean and looks after our hirers. I would also like to thank Peter Larcombe and his wife Enid who look after the flower beds and stop the weeds taking over the car park. They make the hall an attractive and welcoming place for our visitors.

2. Village Green.

The village green is maintained as an open space for everyone to enjoy. We ask that dog walkers clean up after their pets and use the dog waste bins provided.

The grass on the green is cut regularly during the summer, and the hedges are cut once a year. The cost of this maintenance work is included in the village hall expenses.

8. Nomination of Parish Council, Village Hall representative

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

After a discussion, it was agreed that Peter Larcombe become the Parish Council Village Hall representative.

9. Allotments and The Heath

Our thanks to Peter Larcombe, our volunteer warden for The Heath, who takes a strimmer round occasionally to keep the footpaths clear and generally keeps an eye on the place.

The damaged steps on the right of way in Earth Lane were replaced in March.

The Garages continue to supply a steady rental. There are still two outstanding invoices for the allotments, reminders have been sent out.

14A5

10. 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 four years. Volunteers wear high visibility coats, and measure vehicle speeds at a number of locations in these villages using a hand-held radar gun.

The objective of the scheme is to reduce traffic speeds through our villages. The sight of people by the side of the road in a high visibility coats with a radar gun usually results in drivers slowing down, with no further action required. However if a vehicle does exceed the prescribed limit, details are noted and reported to Suffolk Police. The Police decide what action to take; usually they send a letter to the registered keeper of the vehicle asking them to respect the speed limits in future.

In the 12 months May 2013 to April 2014 we carried out 85 speed watch surveys and reported 460 speeding vehicles. This is a slightly lower level of activity than the previous year mainly because the radar gun was away for a month being serviced and recalibrated.

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

11. County Councillor Report

Bertie Poole confirmed that the northern relief road was underway and should be completed by the end of the year.

Thanks was extended to Rita Flatt for the work she had done in ensuring that the Lothing School site was still being used for educational purposes.

Thanks was extended to Louis Smith for the work done within the Northern Parishes for Speed Watch.

It would seem that the Government now supports 20mph speed limits and Back Lane is being reviewed.

14A6

There is a 3.9 million pot available for the empowerment of local communities, up to 12k is available for each application.

1st Round - 27th June
2nd Round - 26th September
3rd Round - 19th December

May Gurney's work on pot holes can now be monitored by councillors

12. District Councillor Report

Firstly I must apologise for not being with you but I will be in Kent for the weekend as it is my son-in-law's 40th birthday and my daughter requires our assistance in the organisation of his celebrations.

The year 2013 to 2014 has once again for Lound been very quiet from a District point of view. Usual problems with fly tipping that have been expertly dealt with by Waveney Norse as soon as reported.

The continuing of speed watch in the area has been a major success and I am grateful to Lou Smith and his team for their continuing excellent work in helping to make our roads safer. Flooding after heavy rain and bad weather is still an on-going problem for residents in parts of the village however with working with our County Councillors and officer from SCC some relief has been obtained and I hope more will follow. The junctions of the roads leading on to the A12 are scheduled for work during this next fiscal year according to SCC Highways.

Lothingland School at last appears to be in the throes of being revitalised by Lowestoft College and I hope to see this come to fruition in the very near future. Persistence by Rita Flack has very much assisted this and nagging by our planning policy team in suggesting alternatives.

The Lake Lothingland Area Action Plan is now starting to show interest from developers and I hope we will see planning applications coming before committee in the very near future as this will bring much needed benefits to the whole area.

Our partnership working with Suffolk Coastal District Council continues to work well enabling us to save money without sacrificing front line services.

I do frequently drive around the village just to check all looks well.

My thanks also to Keith Jarvis for all his work as Chair of PC and I wish Lou Smith all the best in his new role and look forward to working with him.

Finally I should say that I am looking forward to representing the people of Lound for the next year and I am always contactable by phone or e-mail.

Cllr Paul Ashdown WDC

Signed: Clerk: Date:

13. Parish Council Financial Report

The clerk distributed a copy of the proposed together with the achieved balance sheet – at the end of the year the accounts were:

£1,377 in the Current Account and
£3,698 in the Business Bonus Account
£5,075 in total

Those present agreed the accounts.

14. Any Other Business

Blundeston Prison - The land is being sold off. There had been an open meeting to discuss the future of the site. The residents did not want the site sold to one contractor.

It was noted that there is a problem with dog fouling in Earth Lane and on The Heath. Dog owners need to be educated that fouling is not acceptable in any place where there is public access. More notices will be put up indicating that owners must pick up dog waste.

It was suggested that once up and running, it would be nice if the Lothingland Site could organise ‘an open day’ for the residents of Lound.

The new bus service seems to be working OK.

The un-surfaced service road behind the houses in The Street is in a poor state of repair. Waveney District Council have arranged for a contractor to inspect the road so that they can decide if any action is necessary. It is possible that WDC may seek a financial contribution from home owners adjoining this service road for any work proposed.

The Annual Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.