

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **TUESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2006**, in Beeston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. G. Fowler.

Councillors Present: Mr. P. Burton, Mr. P. Carter, Mr. B Potter, Mr. J. Farrall, and Mr R Sharpin

Apologies for Absence: None

Members of the Public. Mr T Scott, Mrs D Walthew, Mr D Stott, Mr Gussman, Mr. C Holland

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of 26th April 2005 had been read and signed at the May A.G.M., but could be read out if requested. No request made.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Gloria Fowler, Chairman said that because of the ever-increasing work load, it was decided that monthly, rather than the previous six-weekly meeting, would make for earlier finishing times. The Council has generally met on the last Tuesday of each month. As usual, much of the time taken up with planning matters. Despite reports of a downturn in the housing markets, Beeston continues to expand, with new houses being built. The School continues to thrive, with the very welcome addition of new building and refurbishment of the School House.

This has proved to be an excellent year for the village, with well-supported events such as Remembrance Day commemorations, Village Shop Christmas Lights turn on, the various successful fund-raising for Church repairs and the enthusiastic support shown for the Village Appraisal. Without a doubt the highlight of the year was Beeston with Bittering winning the Eastern Daily Press Pride in Norfolk awards for Best Community Spirit, Best Play Area and to our great surprise, Best Village Green. The latter in spite of the moles!

We anticipate publishing the Appraisal shortly and on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to offer many thanks to the Committee, led by Julian Farrall, who have worked so hard to complete it. Finally, I should like to record my appreciation of the hard work and support by my fellow Council members and to the Clerk, who keeps us all on the straight and narrow and makes it all work.

## **FUEL CHARITY ACCOUNT**

Mr Potter, Chairman of the Fuel Charity Trustees reported that 46 people at Christmas received £26 from the Beeston Fuel Charity, of which 2 failed to cash them. The balance as at 26<sup>th</sup> April is £109.87.

## **REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **BEESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Mr. T Scott, churchwarden of Beeston Church reported that despite the closure of the nave of the church to the public, services are still held in the chancel. Number in congregation averages 7, although larger gatherings at Festival services. There has been 1 baptism and 1 burial during the year.

Scaffolding has been purchased and will be sold back upon completion of the repair work. This is cheaper than hiring it. All inspections by the various bodies have been completed and their reports, finalised by the end of the month, will be forwarded to English Heritage for their consideration. It is anticipated this could take some time, so no date can be given as to when the next phase of work will begin.

We record our thanks to the two lay readers who take services at the church, Dr. Baldwin and Tom Butler-Stoney. Also the Rector, Jonathan Boston. Also very appreciative of the people on the Flower and Cleaning Rotas who keep the church so well decorated and clean.

Rev. Boston is due to retire in September, so there will be an interregnum until a new appointment is made. The Church AGM is on 4<sup>th</sup> May, in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Everyone in the village is welcome to attend.

There is reorganisation going on with the Diocese, and probable that we may have the Dunhams and Franshams joining us, and Mileham and Stanfield joining the Gressenhall group.

**BITTERING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

No report available.

**FRIENDS OF BEESTON SCHOOL**

Report read out from Mrs Nash, Chairman of the Friends of Beeston School. In July 2005 presents to School leavers in Year 6 totalling £75.47, a Hog Roast at Village Hall raised over £1,000. Contributions to the School towards Egyptian Dancing £70, Doody's Balloons £200, playground equipment £53.15. A non profit making Christmas Social held, and Halloween and Christmas and Spring Discos and Plant sales held. T-Towels with the children's drawings on printed but this was not well supported. School trips to Theatre Royal and Kingswood cost £185. Other School equipment purchased such as portable drama lights, laminator etc. etc. As you can see we all work really hard, but do not always receive the full support hoped for. Next event is the Spring Market on 25<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall. Please come and support us.

**BEESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Report from Mr Gussman, Beeston Neighbourhood Watch coordinator that no incidents reported during last 12 months, which does not mean that incidents have not taken place within the village and surrounding areas. Over next few months will call a general meeting to try and generate some interest in the neighbourhood watch. In the meantime any suggestions would be welcomed. Latest balance is £123.03

**BEESTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

A report from Mrs J Tawana, Chairperson of the Beeston Playing Field Committee was read out. A new village hall committee formed in March 2006 consisting of 10 members. Have been extremely fortunate to have inherited a healthy set of finances and regular firm bookings for the year ahead. Aim to maintain and generate new bookings, whilst maximising the use of the hall to improve still further its financial stability.

Some monies set aside to possibly purchase a suitable lawn mower. This would enable extra cutting required for football teams, but this has yet to be agreed by committee. Mr Allsop is to remain cutting the grass under contract for the foreseeable future.

Some maintenance issues to be addressed, state of external woodwork poor and needs redecoration throughout. We will be approaching local residents to complete this task.

Village has expanded rapidly in recent years, but the infrastructure to support the needs of young people has been sadly neglected. Hope to address this issue.

A Partnership Development Manager has been approached in Kings Lynn and hope to have support and advice on funding, which is orientated towards sport facilities and coaching.

A village cricket match is being arranged (baseball for the children) for the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, followed by a BBQ from Litcham Butchers and a Celtic folk band in the evening. Fantastic opportunity for all members of the village to get together, young and old. Coffee mornings and jumble sales will be arranged throughout the year as usual.

Always open to new ideas, advice and lots of help.

Balances as at 24<sup>th</sup> April, Deposit account £5,047.85, Current £1,367.55 and petty Cash £25.00

**BEESTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

No report from the Beeston School Governors

**VILLAGE APPRAISAL**

Mr Farrall, who led the committee producing the Village Appraisal, said that there had been an 85% response from the questionnaires, which was very good. The A5 size Appraisal is due to be published and distributed very shortly. Mr Farrall thanked Anne Laws for her work in collating all the responses and everyone involved. He is looking for some photographs to add to the text. Chairman thanked the committee and Mr Farrall in particular, for all the time and effort put into the project, all voluntary.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting then closed.