



Parish Council Meeting

The meeting on Monday discussed the state of the Church Wall, the position of the proposed illuminated speed restriction signs, litter, the saga of resurfacing Capel Close, a mirror to help drivers leaving Paddock Way, and the use of “village gates” to warn drivers they are entering the Village - and so might reduce their speed. The poor state of Heath Road and the damage done by heavy vehicles visiting the sewerage works was a particular concern. Apparently all action is waiting for Spring to start...

The next Parish Council and Annual General Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.00 13th May 2013. The intention is to invite a doctor or surgery manager from the Ixworth Practice to give an update on their activities following the changes taking place. Everyone in the village is welcome to come along to raise questions and (hopefully) get answers.

From Nigel Pitcher, Parish Clerk

The Bull Site Development

On behalf of the Village I've written again to Tony Hodgson of Greene King, who is responsible for planning the development.

“As I am sure you will understand, there continue to be strong views in the village about the future of the Bull public house. A boarded up building in the centre of the village is having a detrimental effect on house prices in the locality and some people are getting very angry.

The Parish Council had its regular two-monthly meeting on 4th March and councillors expressed anxiety that things seem to be taking much longer than we had been led to believe at our meeting with you in December. In particular, the pub still does not appear to be actively marketed by Florets

and we understand that people phoning for details are being told that no particulars are yet available.

But perhaps more importantly, we have now received a quote from NK Power Networks for diverting the power line which crosses the proposed playing field. The figure we have been quoted is £10,391.43 which is way beyond the budget of the Parish Council. What's more, we have been told by the St Edmundsbury Borough Council that the cost of moving the power lines would not be eligible for a grant.

Clearly, the provision by Greene King of a site that can be used for a playing field is integral to the Parish Council's support for this project and, as things stand at the moment, the field could not be used for recreational activities while the power lines are in place. In other words, until some way is found to cover the cost of moving the power lines – not at the Parish Council's expense – we cannot support housing development on the existing site. Indeed, access to a good football pitch would also help make the Pub an attractive venue for local teams.

We very much hope that this issue can be resolved – perhaps by inserting a clause in the developer's contract that they should cover the cost of moving the power lines. Obviously this will be an issue of concern to the Borough Council when your application for planning permission is being considered. The advice that we have been given is that planning permission is unlikely to be given for the housing development if the power lines remain in their present position running across the proposed football field.

Finally, we have not yet been given any kind of plans or costings for the proposed play area, as agreed at the meeting in December. Alas, another unfilled promise.

Could you please let us have a progress report on how things are going as soon as possible and details of what Greene King proposes to do to resolve the issue of the power line.”

Draft from Roger Anderson, Chairman of the Parish Council

Honington School

We will be holding our Easter Fayre on Saturday 23rd March from 10.00am to 12 noon. There will be lots of Easter activities and games for the children, Tombola, raffle, refreshments and lots more. All are welcome to come along. We close for the Easter holidays on Wednesday 27th March and the children return on Monday 15th April. Do please continue to keep an eye out for anything suspicious around the school concerning possible break-ins and if anyone hears the school alarm sounding would they please ring the Police straight away to avoid any delay.

This year is the school's 150th Anniversary and we hope to put up a display that reflects the life of the school. If anyone has photographs, reports, newsletters or anything which would help to make this a real event for the children we would be very grateful. Let us know if you can help by ringing 269324.

From Brenda Burridge

What's happening in Honington?

Should we link up more over arranging and promoting events? For example:

- **Over Sixties Club:** Members meet monthly at Honington Village Hall and enjoy a game of whist or Bingo.
- **Craft Club:** If you would like to come along to our Craft Group you will be made very welcome. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9.00pm-ish when we enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit and share our knowledge of many crafts. Cost £2.50. Contact Tricia on

268442 for more details. Our meeting in March will be on the 26th.

- **Camera Club:** Last month we met in The Fox and everyone brought their photos along depicting local Wildlife. We then met again a few days later in the Village Hall for a practical session photographing smoke and mirrors. Do come along and join us, you will be made very welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in The Fox at 7.30pm.
- **The Fox:** A huge thank you to everyone for their generosity in supporting the various charity events at The Fox during a truly memorable year. £475 was raised on behalf of CLIC with special thanks to Tom Milford and the RAF Band for their Carol singing around the villages. This year's Poppy Appeal raised £230, well done all. During the year The Fox regulars raised a staggering £1,000 for the rehabilitation centre at Honington Camp and a further £400 was raised by Martin Jones who grew his hair for a full year – well done that man. Amy and Karl Rumsey hosted an event at British Sugar in aid of Endofest and the monies raised are to be confirmed. On Sunday 10th March we will be hosting a Family Mothering Sunday lunch with a sumptuous 3-courses for only £10 and £6.50 for children under 14yrs. Please book early 269 522
- **Local Carers' Group:** If you are caring for a member of your family or a close friend you are invited to the Carers' Group who meet at the High Street Café in Ixworth. This support group, which originates from Ixworth Surgery, meets monthly, usually on the first Monday in the month at 2.15pm. Should you want to know more please contact Sue Nutt at the Surgery, 01359 230252 on a Monday morning (or leave a message and she will

get back to you). Advisers from the Alzheimer Society and Suffolk Family Carers attend the meetings. A very important date to put in your diaries is Monday 8th April, 12.30-3.30pm when FIAS advisers will be available to give Benefits advice to carers and those they care for, in the Cousins Room in Ixworth Village Hall. Suffolk Family Carers are organising this and they will also be there with a lot of helpful information. Do come along and see what you are entitled to – you may be pleasantly surprised!

Our Church

Please don't forget the weekly soup lunches, Tuesdays 11.30 to 13.30 at the village hall.

We plan to hold a village fete this summer but it will need willing volunteers to man the stalls and erect/dismantle the site. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact me on 268144 so that potential interest can be assessed. Thank you.

The new monthly service schedule is:

1st Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion, Troston

2nd Sunday 9.30 Mattins, Honington

3rd Sunday 11.00 Morning Worship, Troston

4th Sunday 11.00 Family Communion, Troston

From Jane Harland & Rev. Doug Neupert

Women's Institute

Our meeting Wednesday 13th March will be open to husbands, family and friends. The topic will be "Thailand, Laos and Vietnam: Unexplored – the far North". Carol Littlewood will be reminiscing about this recent trip and will show some of James' photographs from this 5 week adventure. We meet at 19.45 at Troston Village Hall.

Wednesday 10th April will also be an open meeting – so again, everyone is welcome. Rachel Thomas will tell us of her experiences of being a volunteer at the Olympics. Do come and relive your memories of last summer's remarkable London Olympics. 19.45 at Troston Village Hall. Refreshments will be served.

Our Annual Meeting and discussion on Resolutions for the NFWI Conference in June will be on Wednesday 8th May at 19.45 at the Village Hall.

If any member still owes their subscription for 2013, please could you let Anne Walker have your £33.00 as soon as possible or if you have decided not to renew your membership please let Anne know on 269360.

New members are always welcome, if you would like further information please contact: Jenny Simmonds (Secretary) on 269219 or Carol Littlewood on 269769

From Carol Littlewood

The Village Hall

A sparkling, new hob and fully functioning oven have been purchased and installed, thanks to a grant and practical help from villagers on the day. At the same time, all our equipment passed the PAT testing. We now have a kitchen capable of meeting all catering needs – weddings, business meetings, parties etc.

Regular bookings continue and, apart from one unfortunate, rather noisy event, (from which our Hall escaped relatively unscathed, thanks to dedicated work from Val and Bob Holden and Peter Fairweather) our delightful hall continues to attract more bookings. The National Trust has recently expressed an interest for a local meeting.

Our AGM is on Weds 8th May at 7.30pm in the hall and villagers are most welcome to come along.

From Sue Bishop

Emergency Plan

The Parish Council was asked to produce an “emergency plan” to cope with the possibility that the normal 999 service is delayed due to the scope or nature of the incident: for example fallen trees blocking the lane or high winds removing your roof.

For metal cutting equipment, tractors, lifting gear, warning cones, rope etc contact the ever helpful stalwart of the Village - John Benton 01359 269 214. For chain saws and long ladders contact, the equally helpful, Peter Hay 01359 269 250 or Urban Forestry on 01284 729 091. For pumps and drainage contact TBS on 01284 788 122. Also help might be sought by contacting St Ed’s Help Line 01284 763 233 or the Joint Services Unit 07920 466 340.

Other useful numbers to note are:

Ixworth Surgery	01359 230 252
Electricity	0800 783 8838
Water	0845 714 5145
Environment	0800 807 060
Community Police	01284 774 100
Airbase Guard Room	01359 268 296

Of course, there are also the professional builders, electricians, roofers, plumbers and other handy trades people who live in the village – who are also available for non-emergency work!

Local Trades and Services

Perhaps it might freshen up the list of local trades and services to have more of a description of what people do? Examples that have been sent in are:

“Fresh Home Care, your local property maintenance company. Polite, friendly,

professional service for jobs in and around your home. From painting and decorating, to single storey extensions. Please call Paul Green to arrange an appointment 07449326243 or 01284750931”

And:

“It’s Spring Again. Look at your array of Spring Bulbs. Has it got the “WOW” factor that you wanted? Now is the time to note the gaps, for this is one sensational season that cannot be rectified immediately. As an idea, why not photograph, or sketch, your display as a reminder when, in August, the Nurseries will once again have a range of Spring Bulbs.

Snowdrops and Aconites heralding in Spring. Swathes of blazing yellow Daffodils, short and tall, with dainty Crocus dancing beneath. Don’t forget the triumphant Tulips from dwarf rockery varieties to stately Lily and Parrot species. Carefully position Hyacinths outdoors to appreciate their abundant aroma, and finally Bluebells reminding us of unspoilt childhood woodlands.

Here at The Bill and Ben Garden Design and Nursery, we reopen after the winter break on Thursday 7th March, 10am to 4pm. Please come and visit us - we are situated on the same road as Pakenham Water Mill. We will be to open Thursday to Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Our passion as growers is displayed in our range of all year round Perennials and Shrubs, plus an array of Summer Bedding. The vast range of stone garden ornaments we manufacture makes us different.”

From Anita & Ian Jessop, Bill & Ben Nursery, Fen Road, Pakenham IP31 2LS

What do you think? Please send possible contributions to the Newsletter to graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk or by post to

Church Cottage, Church Lane, Troston or short
phone message 01359 268 082.