



September '13

Parish Council Meeting

The saga of the Greene King and the Bull was again the first item on the agenda. The outline planning application for five houses, and the change of use of agricultural land to recreational use, will go to the Borough Planning Committee in October – or more probably, November.

The Parish Council believes, in principle, that the development could be good for the village. Alas, the provision for the children's play area and positioning of the football pitch, does not offer "equivalent or better facilities" as required by Planning Policy L5/DM42.

It was disappointing, but in some people's mind not unexpected, that the draft plans shown to the village had been changed in the actual application. The children's play area had been reduced from 500 square metres to about 450, and the equipment clustered very closely together. There was no bench and picnic table. Also, no longer was new equipment offered – just a sum to move the existing swings and slides etc. (A possible, new "haystack" climbing frame was suggested in a later letter from the Estate Agent).

Further, it was agreed that a field, no matter how large, which had not been levelled, or seeded with grass, and had a power cable running across it, could not be regarded as an equivalent of better football pitch! Even by those who have witnessed the Old Trafford pitch last season.

Questions from Villagers

Who was shooting at 5.30 in the morning? It was the general opinion that this was probably a duck hunt on the Mere. Or do you know better?

The question of untidy gardens was raised again. Apparently, there is a Volunteer Centre who may be able to help clear gardens and their number is

01284 766 126. The Borough will also take away unwanted junk, furniture, fridges etc – for a fee. Of course, our local scrap metal dealer, Mr Scott, is also available on 01359 269 378.

Like night following day, the poor state of the Bull's garden was mentioned, and the Clerk will phone Greene King's agent – again. Please also contact the Clerk when the bottle bank is about to overflow – 01284 763 098.

A question was asked about who was responsible for removing the fire damage at the entrance to the playing field? Who was responsible for repairing the litter bin? Frankly, who was just responsible? It was agreed that the Parish had been well served by volunteers in the past and now the efforts of the usual few. It was agreed the Parish should advertise for a "handyman" as there were a number of maintenance jobs to be done. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Chairman, Graeme Norris 01359 268 082.

The last question raised the possibility of applying to make the pub a community asset. There was some doubt, however, that villagers would want to raise the quarter of a million thought needed. But who knows? It was decided to wait and see what happens in the next chapter of the saga – which still has a long way to go.

Borough Councillor's Report

From his mother's wheel chair, Councillor Christopher Spicer, said that as he had been incapacitated by his fall, he had little to report. (Except, perhaps, that facilities for the disabled left something to be desired).

The Borough continued to try to find economies while not decreasing services too much – but experienced officers were being made redundant and morale was not high. He feared Villagers would have to be more active in checking on issues like planning and keeping a close eye on compliance when any building work started.

Naturally, he would continue to support our views on the development of the Bull Site. He had arranged for the Parish Councillors to meet the Chief Borough Planner and Policy Officer who would both have a decisive role to play.

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Becky Hopfensperger had sent an e-mail regarding Heath Road, stating that Mr French is currently on leave but she has asked that he gets the plainings delivered without more delay. She understands that he has spoken to Anglia Water about the use of Heath Road but as yet she has not been updated.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Councillor Hopfensperger to ask what arrangements have been made for not only delivering a heap of plainings, but also actually putting down the material. This is an urgent matter as the road is an absolute disgrace.

On a happier note, better mobile phone reception around Troston should be available soon. VAS sign posts will be erected next week in two locations – on the Livermere Road and the Street. What this really means there is no idea. Is reception better?

A grant of £1,500 per person is being made available to Suffolk based employers who commit to offering 16 to 24 year olds employment through an apprenticeship programme.

The money is in addition to the training costs which are met in full for young people aged between 16 to 18, and 50% for those aged 19 to 24. Small businesses in Troston are encouraged not to delay – phone 01473 260 922.

Excellent Customer Service

Bury town council are running a competition for businesses the public feel are delivering great service. To be eligible the business must have excelled in any aspect of trading and, of course, be located in the town.

If you know a business you believe deserves an award, let them know! Closing date for nomination forms (returned to Bury St.Edmunds Town Council Offices) is 2nd October. Further information can be found on the website www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

Perhaps we could start the Troston Raspberry Award for rubbish customer service? But then there could be too much competition.

Police Report

Our local officer, PCSO Teakle said there had been a string of arson incidents in the village. Although relatively minor they could lead to more serious matters. The young suspect had been spoken to and she was sure there would be no more problems.

The flashing speeding indicator board had been deployed four times on the entrances to the village and warning letters sent. On the next occasion, prosecutions would follow.

Alas, there has been a spate of bicycle thefts, mostly very expensive ones, and also motor-cross bikes, throughout Suffolk. Four bikes had been stolen from a garage in Church Hill, Pakenham, between 19th August and 27th August. She asked people to be vigilant and to make sure that cycles were stored securely.

Please also take the time to put tools that you may have in your garden out of sight if possible, garden power tools are always a favourite to be stolen and can be expensive to replace.

Also a vehicle had been stolen from the driveway of Bird's Croft, in Great Livermere, between 1am to 5.30am 3rd September 2013. The night before, at Mere View, a car on the driveway had a small rear window broken. If you have any information, no matter how slight, that you think might help find the culprits, please contact us on the usual non-emergency number 101, or e-mail us at stedsruralnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk.

From PCSO Claire Teakle, Ixworth Police Station

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.30 4th November 2013. Please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk (01284 763 098) with any issues you would like raised at the Meeting so they can be put on the Agenda.

The idea is to encourage villagers to come to the Council meetings and help decide how we can tackle some of the questions which are within our power, as a small community, to resolve. With more cuts to come in Local Council funding, difficult decisions on prioritising our tiny budget will have to be made.

From Nigel Pitcher, Parish Clerk

Our Church

My mother-in-law used to say that the older you get, the faster time passes. It certainly seems that way. Summer holidays are memories and snapshots—or perhaps I should say “computer images”. Schools are open again, and we fall back into our regular routines. The Men's Breakfasts at Livermere Village Hall resume on Saturday 21 September, and Tuesday lunches at Troston Village Hall will be starting up again.

As I write this, there is definitely a hint of autumn in the air, and the grains have been “safely gathered in”. Our Harvest Service is on Sunday 22 September; I hope you will be able to join us.

Autumn marks a major change for Jeanne and me: after 32 years in Troston, we will be moving to Great Livermere. From 1 December, our address will be 1, The Birches, Great Livermere, IP31 1JL. We are hoping to keep our telephone number, which we have had since we arrived in Capel Close all those years ago. I will still be taking services in Troston, and Jeanne will still be attending the WI and the Book Group. We will still see many of you around the village and in church.

From Rev Doug Neupert, Asst Priest

Village Heritage

Before the Reformation, Church services were held in Latin, and were perhaps something of a mystery to the ordinary parishioner. After the Reformation, and the great translation work of William Tyndale, who was burnt for his efforts of scholarship, the Bible and service were in spoken English. There was also a greater emphasis on preaching – and passing on the national news. To facilitate this, in the early 17th century, Church wardens were instructed to equip their Church with a “decent pulpit”. The lowest seat was for the chairman of the Parish Council, the next for the incumbent, and a few steps higher, his pulpit.

Following the recent restoration of the church pulpit and reading desk, we now have a “decent pulpit”. The panelled front and side frames are moulded and carved on the underside of the horizontal rails, which suggests it was intended to be viewed from below. It may have been the re-use of something like a fire over-mantle from the Hall. The two marquetry panels are of a design type that had become popular in Holland.

The heritage appeal group is now considering what next? How best to use our remaining money?

One proposal is the cleaning and treating of the floor tiles, or panments, which have become 'tired' with the passing of time and the presence of protected bats! Another idea is to add to the information board kindly produced by Sue Bennett, and publish a leaflet about the eminent old Trostonian Capel Lofft. He was the subject of a fascinating talk on his exploits at this summer's heritage festival.

Although the group's remit is care of the fabric, it was also suggested that we enquire about any help needed to update the Village Book. By the late Janet Barnard, it recounts the history of the village and is an interesting and valuable teaching

resource. Perhaps we could include it on the village website? If residents have any ideas, please contact me 01359 269 574

From Sue Sollohub

Honington School

For the past two years, no Troston children have applied for Honington School. Despite fears from villagers, places were and are available.

Our new classrooms were completed two months early and we are looking forward to using them for our Year 5 pupils.

From Brenda Burridge

Women's Institute

The summer has seen us have a Garden Meeting at The Hewes', thanks to Paul and Jenny for welcoming us to their home again; a social evening at the Walkers, thanks to Anne and Richard for their hospitality; and our outing was a walk around Bardwell with a guide. The Grafton Group Meeting was kept spell bound by the Magician Michael Rose. The competition was a rabbit in any medium, which was won by Sally Fogden for her rabbit pie! All of these were enjoyed by a select few.

Now that the autumn is here and the holidays are over we hope that members will all try and support the programme:

Wednesday 11th September at 19.45 at Troston Village Hall - Mary Grace Browning (late of Hall Farm) is coming to discuss "The Modern Myths of Japan". Mary Grace teaches Japanese at County Upper and regularly leads school parties to Japan. Members' husbands and friends of MG are warmly welcome to join us.

Wednesday 9th October - 19.30 at Barnham Village Hall, we shall be joining Barnham WI for their 'special evening': "Jane Austin - My Sister", by Frances Hart, who will come dressed as

Cassandra Austen. The talk will be illustrated with slides. Cars will leave Troston at 7pm.

Wednesday 13th November at 19.45 at Troston Village Hall. Come and hear Chris Gowers talk about his "Life as a Pilot". Members husbands are welcome to join us.

Wednesday 11th December - Our Christmas Celebration.

Guest are always welcomed to join us. For further information on the WI please contact Jenny Simmonds on 269219 or Carol Littlewood on 269769.

Please note: Barnham & District WI invite you to their Autumn quiz on Friday 4th October at Barnham Village Hall, 7 for 7.30. £5 per person on the door to include refreshments, teams of four - everyone welcome.

The Village Hall

Our attractive village hall has been booked for two small wedding receptions in October and our regular bookings continue. To book the hall, please ring Sue Bishop on 269467 (or, if unavailable, Cathy Eaglen on 269753). Remember, we also hire out tables, chairs, games and a marquee.

You can also check availability on line @ Your Hall. I'm happy to show people around, just give me a call to arrange a mutually convenient time.

From Sue Bishop

Most Active Village Award

Next year a competition will be held for the most active village in West Suffolk. The prize is £1,000 plus a celebrity local sportsman or woman for the day!

The idea is to encourage local people of all ages to become more fit by running, biking, walking or taking part in sports. (Presumably a useable

recreation ground and football pitch is a prerequisite for entry?)

Anyrate, if you're interested in taking part please come to the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss how we proceed.

Thanks to all contributors. Hopefully their articles have been edited in correctly enough. Please send possible material for the next Newsletter to graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk or by post to Church Cottage, Church Lane, Troston, IP31 1EX or short phone message 01359 268 082.

Website

It would be great to enter the 21st century. Please let me know of anybody with knowledge of how to rebuild our village website and help put the content together. A good effort was made in the past but the site has lapsed.