

LANDBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Monday 9 May 2011 at 7.30 p.m.
in Landbeach Village Hall

- 1 **Present:** Mrs Melanie Hale (Chairman), Dr Ray Gambell, Mr Gerald Hinkins Mrs Tracy Hutchison, Mr Andrew Stevens, Dr Stephen Montgomery, (Parish Councillors), Mrs Maria Sylvester (Clerk), Mr James Hockney (District Councillor), Mr Michael Williamson, (County Councillor), and 23 members of the public.
- 2 **Apologies for absence** – were received from Mrs Tracey Brown, Mrs Grace Brookes, Mrs Colleen Dell, Mr Trevor Dell (Parish Councillor), Mrs Nicky Geary, Mr Simon Grainge, Mr John Halfpenny (Parish Councillor), Mr and Mrs Patterson, Mr Terry Pauley, Ms Susan Townsend, Mr Alan Wyatt, (Parish Councillor) and Mr Peter Johnson (District Councillor).
- 3 **Minutes** – of the APM held on Monday 29 April 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.
- 4 **Matters arising** – there were no matters arising.
- 5 **Guest Speakers**
David Bard, Portfolio Holder for New Communities and Keith Miles, Planning Policy Manager, SCDC.

Mr Bard said that the forthcoming Localism Bill covers a vast range of services on all aspects of local government and all aspects that touch local people.

Mr Miles outlined some of the changes the Localism Bill is set to make. Some of the changes will be optional, some of the other changes will affect the system. Councils will be given the Community Right to Challenge (e.g. to challenge SCDC or CCC policy). The Community Right to Bid will be introduced to allow local communities to bid for improved community assets that are in danger of being lost. The local community will also have greater power to decide how the neighbourhood develops (including a Community Right to Build). There will be rules and plans which usually require a Referendum where greater than 50% of those voting must be in favour for it to go ahead.

Andy O’Hanlon, Lead Officer for Arts and Culture, SCDC gave an informative presentation on various art exercises that had been carried out around Cambridge. There are already a number of suggestions for Public Art in Landbeach which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council. A Public Art Group will be set up to progress the project.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Mrs. Melanie Hale read out her annual report (a copy of which is on the web-site www.landbeach.org.uk, a printed copy is attached to the official minutes).

7 Accounts

The Clerk presented the draft accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011 (copies of which were circulated). Parishioners had no comments in relation to the accounts.

8 Village Reports

Reports were given by the following organisations (copies are attached to the official minutes and can be viewed by Parishioners on request)

- Village Hall – Written report read out
- Landbeach Women's Institute – Margaret Steane
- Landbeach Society – Robert Stripe
- Landbeach Bowls Club – Written report read out
- Landbeach Luncheon Club – Written report read out
- Village Teas – written report read out
- Landbeach Sports and Social Club - Gerald Hinkins
- Landbeach Mums, Baby and Toddler Coffee Group – Written report read out
- Helpline – Written report read out.
- Widows' Trust - Brian Marshall
- Events Committee - Margaret Patterson
- Friends of Worts Meadow - Ray Gambell
- Waterbeach School - Written report read out
- Neighbourhood Watch - Andrew Stevens

9 District Councillors

Written report read out on behalf of Mr Johnson who reported the following:

The introduction of the blue wheelie bin has been a huge success.

SCDC have given a grant of £25,000 plus £6,000 towards Phase 3 for the Village extension.

The development at Walnut Tree Farm has started and the emphasis is that it will be for Landbeach residents or people who have a strong connection with Landbeach.

Mr Hockney reported the following:

It remains a real privilege to be District Councillor.

SCDC works very hard to engage with Parish Councils and local residents. 3 out of the 4 speakers tonight are from District Council.

SCDC lead the way on affordable housing in the East of England; introducing the blue bins and having one of the highest recycling rates in the Country; keeping council tax low, amongst the very lowest council tax rates in the country.

As Scrutiny Chairman, he plays his part in supporting the council in delivering quality services.

SCDC has allocated £31K in grants to the extension of the Landbeach Village Hall. The Parish Clerk and Mr Hockney have worked to ensure S106 monies from the Walnut Farm housing development is put forward to the Village Hall extension.

In conclusion, Mr Hockney said that having lived in Landbeach between 1995-2008, he appreciates the importance of protecting the rural character of the village and will always do his best for the local community.

10 County Councillor

Mr Williamson reported the following:

There are going to be substantial cuts in the County Council budget from April 2011.

There is a new County Council Leader, Nick Clarke.

It is good to see the affordable housing development at Walnut Farm underway and the recent development in Waterbeach has shown the demand.

In relation to cycle links, money is tight.

Slap-up/Bollywood Spice junction continues to be accident black spot.

(Copies of these reports are held by Clerk).

11 Election of Pinder – Mrs Hinkins proposed Mr Diver, this was seconded by Mr Stevens.

12 Election of Town Crier – Dr Gambell proposed Mrs Hutchison, this was seconded by Dr Montgomery.

13 Any Other Business

The question of a cycle path to Milton was discussed and it was felt that a concerted effort to get a cycle path was a priority and Mr Williamson agreed to speak to Mike Davies Cambridge City Council as a matter of urgency.

It was also mentioned that the markings at the Slap-up are dangerous, Mr Williamson agreed to speak to the Road Safety Officer in relation to this.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.

Signed: Date: