

**Parish of Littlebury**  
**MINUTES OF LITTLEBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**  
**AT LITTLEBURY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Councillors Present:** Jean Cowell, Michael Scott, Philip Marns, Joanna Hancock, Bill Starr, Claudia Haisman-Green, Jan Menell, Ann Farrer and Michael O'Connor.

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

**Public:** 6

**Also present:** Julie Redfern (District Councillor)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Ann Farrer
2. **Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017:** The minutes were reviewed and all matters arising were dealt with after the meeting.

3. **Chairman's Report:** Jean Cowell read the Chairman's report.

Suddenly I find it's time for me to present my report for the Parish Annual Meeting. This gives the opportunity to reflect on the last year; however, having recently read some minutes from the 1980's I find the issues being raised then still appear on the agenda today; speeding throughout the parish; inconsiderate parking and issues with planning to mention just a few.

For the last year we have had one item continually on the agenda, namely 'Parish Council Vacancy.' All Parish Councillors are volunteers, they do not get paid and give up their free time to help the community, so perhaps that is why it's not an easy job to fill!

It was with regret that during the year we received Peter Farnsworth's resignation. Peter felt that due to his ill health he couldn't regularly attend meetings and therefore was unable to continue actively in this role. He has served on the Parish Council for over 20 years, naturally someone with this length of service is sorely missed. I am now pleased to advise that vacancies have now been filled as we co-opted both Bill Starr and Claudia Haisman-Green onto the Council and we look forward to their input in due course.

**Finance:** This year's precept is £27,500. For those who are not aware, the precept is allocated against various expenses, for example, the fortnightly green waste collection service; cutting verges, Hardy Landscapes for cutting the grass at the churchyards and recreation ground. Insurance, which also covers both Littlebury and Littlebury Green play areas; there are also costs of relevant inspections, remedial works and maintenance for the play equipment to mention just a few of the items.

I would like to thank Cllr Redfern for donating money from her Councillors Allowance which went towards some of the smaller projects, for example duck and frog signs and fireworks for Catmere End.

**Highways:** John Moran was elected as our County Councillor and he has attended meetings both in the village hall and on site regarding various Highway issues. Potholes are a continuing problem all over the Parish.

The issue with speeding appears to have increased throughout the parish as drivers often see our roads as a shortcut. Cars parked on the road mean drivers increase their speed to get past - regardless of oncoming traffic; therefore, if you feel

speeding is something that needs to be addressed then why not become a Speed Watch volunteer; please contact our clerk who will be able to give further details.

**Website and Parish Magazine:** You will have noticed that there have been changes in the format of the Parish magazine. The magazine is supplied to every house in the Parish and the co-editors for Littlebury are Joanna Hancock and Louise Johnson; please email your articles to: [wal.parishnews@gmail.com](mailto:wal.parishnews@gmail.com); Likewise, Lizzie Sanders keeps the website up and running with various items of interest; to view our website visit [www.littlebury.org.uk](http://www.littlebury.org.uk) . I thank them all for the considerable time and effort they put into both the magazine and website, also to the volunteers who deliver the magazines to your door.

**Broadband:** For over a year Mike Scott has been investigating the broadband service for Littlebury Green and Catmere End; the service received in the hamlets is inadequate and we are now waiting firm details on a faster broadband and the relevant timescale.

During last year, work to the flowerbed outside John's Farmhouse has now had a makeover. Thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers who replanted this area and then added a bug hotel, and to David & Pamela Day for maintaining the triangle outside Kent's Farm and for those who put up what is hoped to be the annual Christmas tree.

The condition of the trees at The Bumpy, Littlebury Green was highlighted. This area consists mainly of Ash trees which we've been advised, following a survey, could well be susceptible to Ash Dieback disease. Going forward the Council will look on options of replanting, hedging and or fencing (to keep out the deer,) but at the same time ideally be a haven for wildlife. The task will be to find the best cost-effective option as ideally any re-planting would need to be sustainable for future generations.

Litter picks have recently been carried out in both Littlebury and Littlebury Green and thanks go out to the volunteers who came out to help clear the assortment of rubbish found along the highways.

**Local Plan, Garden Village at Great Chesterford** – the Parish Council had several meetings on this subject and submitted a response to the draft local plan.

The Parish Council recently met with Louise Newman, the new Head of Audley End Estate and Tom White, the Estate Manager. This was an informal meeting to get to know Louise and introduce ourselves to her. We work closely with the Estate and during our conversation we discussed the historic Chestnut Avenue, Littlebury Recreation Ground, Hare Coursing and the effect it is having on landowners and the countryside, therefore we carry on our business as usual.

My thanks go to my fellow Parish Councillors who look after various projects with diligence and to our District and County Councillors for their help and assistance throughout the year. To our Caretaker for undertaking the small remedial works and to our Clerk, Tracy Coston, for her extensive knowledge and experience, which is essential in running a Parish Council.

With appreciation of the work of the Estate, and the local farmers who maintain the hedges and verges, but my final thanks are to you, the residents, who help in so many ways. Along with the volunteers previously mentioned, your assistance in helping to grit icy patches during the winter, tidy the churchyards or highlighting various concerns all help to make us a community of which, I hope you feel, we can be proud.

**4. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor:**

**County Councillor:** No report was received.

**District Councillor:** UDC has a 50% share of Chesterford Research Park which gives additional funding to UDC and other options of investment are being looked into. UDC are focusing on litter picking and flytipping in UDC. Action on flytipping has been taken. UDC are supporting the new college at Stansted Airport. UDC is supporter of the voluntary sector.

**Local Plan:** There are concerns about the infrastructure around the developments. Reassurance is required. Regulation 19 consultation is on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**Stansted Airport:** Concerns about the infrastructure to Stansted Airport not the increase in flights.

**Housing portfolio:** Lots of work in sheltered accommodation and building of affordable housing.

**New Homes Bonus money:** Cllr Redfern has funds available for this year.

**5. Financial Report from Responsible Financial Officer:**

Accounts circulated. Clerk to ask the auditors about recording of the assets.

**6. Report from Littlebury Village Hall Committee:** Isabelle Page presented a report. A profit of £ 2,871.00 has been raised. The PC thanked all the Village Hall Committee for their hard work.

**7. Any other Business:**

The PC thanked Jean Cowell for her excellent chairing of the PC over the last few years.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

**Signed .....**

**Dated .....**