

Minutes of annual Parish Meeting for 2010

Held on Thursday 13th May in Granby Village Hall 7.00pm.

Being present Cllr. Mr A Betts Chairman of the Parish Council took the chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.

Apologies received from: - Cllrs. Straw and Miles. Councillor Cranswick, Councillor Suthers, Mrs Cranswick

Present Cllrs. Humpreys, Lineker, Preece and Watchorn and 9 parishioners plus Parish Clerk Ann Coy.

Minutes of the APM for 2009 were summarised, copies were available for those present and the agenda had directed readers to the parish council website to view the minutes before the meeting.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the 2009 meeting.

Matters Arising. None

Reports were invited from the following groups:-

PCC All Saints Church – Jane Thompson.

A busy year for the Church with the replacement of the church roof in two stages during the year to accommodate the bats. Church Warden Mrs Brenda Preece was responsible for raising the vast majority of the cost of the roof replacement through grant applications to a variety of sources and without her commitment the project would not have been such a success. The total cost was well over £100,000. The church now has three services a month and several special events held through the year. This year the Harvest Supper had a new format with a quiz and refreshments. It was over subscribed and the Spring Lunch was also well attended. Last weekend on Saturday afternoon / evening the church was broken into and the Elizabethan silver chalice and wafer dishes were stolen, there have been a number of church thefts in recent weeks in the vicinity and we would appreciate any information that may aid the recovery of the church silver which has been in the village for hundreds of years. Two new church Wardens were appointed John Hunton and myself

Granby & Sutton WI – Jane Thompson

Another busy & successful year for Granby & Sutton WI. With a variety of speakers & visits throughout the year. With a very successful open meeting being held last month when Nick Hamilton from Barnsdale gave a talk.

£204.47 has been raised for the chosen charity of the year The Air Ambulance.

Prizes had been won at the Newark Show for the best craft, the best staging and interpretation and overall winner of the WI competition.

Parish Council – Cllr. Betts.

This marks the end of my first year as Chairman of the Parish Council. I was elected Chair last May following Richard Watchorn's decision to stand down. I would like to record our gratitude to RW for the time and energy he put into his term as chair. I remember thinking at the time that I agreed to take on the role that at least we had an experienced Parish Clerk who would help to make the transition run smoothly and provide me with advice and guidance as to how I should proceed. Things didn't quite work out as I had expected as he resigned in my first week and I ended up doing his job as well for several weeks!

Minutes of Granby cum Sutton Annual Parish Meeting May 13th 2010

This proved to be a baptism of fire but we got through it because of the superb support and efforts of fellow parish councilors who took on extra responsibilities at the time. Special thanks to Erika Humphreys for her support as Vice Chair. Every cloud has a silver lining and ours was the appointment of Ann Coy as the new Parish Clerk. It was clear from the start that what Ann lacked in terms of experience of council business was more than compensated by her commitment, social skills, local knowledge and enthusiasm to learn (not to mention her strategic address next door to the village hall). Our thanks to her on behalf of PC for making all of our lives a little easier.

The Parish Council meets monthly on the second Thursday evening with the exception of August. In addition to our everyday concerns, our agenda this year has been influenced by the work of the Parish Plan group. The Parish Council adopted the Parish Plan in 2009 and works collaboratively with the PP group, led by Shirley Taylor, to achieve the goals that local residents have identified. It is an exciting time to live in Granby and Sutton because of the developments that are happening, largely as a direct result of the Parish Plan.

These developments are exemplified by an impressive number of working groups for such a small community. This work has produced tangible benefits to Granby and Sutton residents such as an improved bus service, regular social events organised by the Events Committee, a new website, plans for regenerating the play area, gardening club, Neighbourhood Watch, monthly walks, coffee shop, scarecrow competitions and exercise classes. These are in addition to the more established organisations such as the WI, Parochial Church Council, Thursday Club, Luncheon Club, Bell ringers and Open gardens. An impressive list for a community of approximately 350 people.

Last year Granby was runner up in its category for the Best Kept Village competition. We hope to go one better in our entry this year and will be looking for volunteers over the next few weeks for village clean up duties.

The long hard winter presented its own difficulties, the main one being the lack of grit to keep the roads passable, particularly Granby hill. We understand that the Highways Department is now reviewing its cold weather response and we will continue to lobby for improved services for the villages.

Once the long winter was over we were able to get on with working on the cemetery extension. The ground has been cleared and leveled, grass has been sown and new shrubs planted. This area will include a specific area for the interment of ashes. Our thanks go to Rushcliffe Borough Council for financial help with this work

Management of the village hall takes up a considerable amount of PC time. It is a building that demands constant attention and renovation. This year we have replaced the curtains in the main room and installed a dehumidifier to try and reduce the ongoing damp problem. We are also seeking quotes for some window restoration work. On a positive note, the hall is used by many different groups and the planned improvements to the play area will further increase its assets. Our thanks to Ron Merryweather, our caretaker, for his continued excellent work in meeting and greeting bookers and keeping the hall looking its best.

We continue to work with the local police and now have representation through Philip Straw on the Local Area Group. This group meets quarterly to consult with local representatives and review the policing priorities. Speeding has once again been identified as the main issue for small villages in this area.

Our financial position is relatively healthy at the moment and this enabled us to cut the precept this year with a resultant decrease in council tax. We are mindful that money will be required to support the play area development and planned village hall renovations.

The newsletter and the new website are the main ways of communicating with residents. Both are dependent on villagers providing information to the editors. If you have not yet seen the website please take a look at granbysutton.org.uk and forward any information that may be missing. Thanks to Kiran John and John Cranswick for their help with the website and the newsletter respectively.

Minutes of Granby cum Sutton Annual Parish Meeting May 13th 2010

Erika Humphreys is leading the organisation of Open Gardens this year. The date is Sunday 13th June. Other events being organised are the scarecrow competition, summer barbeque and a dance early in September

Thank you to County Councillor Martin Suthers and Borough Councillor John Cranswick for attending our meetings whenever their busy schedules allow and for supporting the work of the parish council financially.

Finally my thanks to the Parish councillors for their continuing support and encouragement.

Andy Betts

Parish Plan steering Group – Mrs S Taylor.

Since the launch of the Village Plan in March 2009 the main objective of the Steering Group has been to monitor progress against the **Action Plan** and seek to carry out its objectives. In particular, the SG members have continued to work towards improving village amenities and the lives of those who live here. There are currently 15 Members and meetings are held every two months.

One of the purposes of the Village Plan was to enable the two villages of Granby and Sutton to seek outside funding for village amenities. This year the Steering Group has received grant aid from Nottinghamshire County Council and has been awarded a grant from the Play Partnership.

The grant of £1000 from Nottinghamshire County Council has allowed the Group to purchase:

- o A leaflet rack for the village hall
- o The materials for a new Welcome Pack for new residents
- o The materials for a new Footpaths Brochure
- o The purchase of a new village website
- o Other administration expenses

More significantly, a grant of £15,000 has been awarded by the Play Partnership towards the refurbishment of the playground at the village hall. A further application has also been sent to Biffa for the remainder of the refurbishment costs. The outcome of this application will not be known until later in the year. The Group would like to acknowledge the work of Philip Straw and Andrea Jex, both of whom put considerable time and effort into this project.

One of the successful outcomes this year was the extension of the bus services. After some negotiations with Nottinghamshire County Council, an extension to Sutton has now been included in the number 22 service to Nottingham. In addition a one-year contract was issued for a regular evening service to Bingham/Cotgrave/Nottingham. This is subject to an annual review and its continuation will depend on the level of usage.

All of the initiatives arising as a direct or indirect result of the Village Plan continue to thrive. The clubs and social activities are still well attended and supported. Granby & Sutton residents have a range of social activities that would be the envy of many larger villages, thanks to the support of residents and the hard work and commitment of a relatively small group of villagers.

However there are areas which still require more volunteers and any suggestions for recruiting more help would be welcomed. In particular, the number of volunteers prepared to undertake speed checks has dwindled. Help and ideas for improving the appearance and road safety of the villages would also be welcome.

Both villages now have Neighbourhood Watch schemes and closer relationships with the local police force continue to be maintained.

Minutes of Granby cum Sutton Annual Parish Meeting May 13th 2010

A Welcome Pack for new residents has just been produced and the first copies have been handed out. The Footpath Monitoring & Walking Group, which has continued to enjoy some very pleasant monthly walks, is planning to produce a booklet of local walks later in the year.

A new Village Website has been developed, thanks to the work of Andy Betts and Kiran John, which provides a platform for both the Parish Council and the villages' clubs and activities. Further work is on-going, in particular efforts to encourage more participation and interest from residents.

Meetings to discuss the broadband surveys have led to a number of "self-help" measures being adopted which have improved speeds for some users. Coincidentally, overall speeds also seem to have seen some improvements- perhaps BT has been listening in!

Discussions with possible gas suppliers, and individual Sutton residents, has established that the scheme for a gas supply for Sutton is not a practical one- the cost being too prohibitive. Ideas for "greener" technologies were also discussed.

There is still a growing interest in the possible provision of a new sports/playing field and allotments or community garden, and this is an area which it is hoped to target in the next financial year. Investigations regarding the provision of a village shop are still on-going.

The Steering Group is still continuing to monitor and facilitate the various working groups so that the progress which has been made so far can be progressed and consolidated. Any comments or queries about the group or its activities are welcome.

Events Committee – Mr S Higginbotham.

Summer BBQ 2009

During the summer of 2009 the Events Committee held a Summer BBQ at the Granby Village Hall and playground. The weather was fantastic and as a result the BBQ was enthusiastically attended. The event featured a BBQ, live band, bouncy castle, and bar. As a result of the excellent attendance the event generated an operating profit of £370, which, after the contribution from the Parish Council towards the band, resulted in an overall profit of £570. As a result of this success the Events Committee intends to repeat the event during the summer of 2010 on June 13th after the Granby Open Gardens

St Georges Fish & Chip Night 2010

Following the success of the St Georges Fish & Chip Night in 2008 the Events Committee repeated the event in 2010. Once again the evening was a sell out and proved very popular with those who attended. The event featured a fish & chip supper, raffle and themed quiz night. The event proved very successful and generated an operating profit of £425. Although not confirmed, the success of the event means it will more than likely be repeated in 2011.

State of Events Committee finances

It is the aim of the Granby cum Sutton Events Committee to be a self-funding and self-sufficient group that provides family activities for the benefit of the wider Sutton cum Granby Community. To this end the Events Committee has recently purchased a double fryer to reduce rental fees in the future while at the same time proving a wider offering. As of 12th May 2010 the Events Committee has a bank balance of £995. It is the intention of the Events Committee to maintain a fluctuating cash fund of around this amount to ensure it is able to fund any community events prior to the day of the event.

All Saints Church Bell Ringers – Mr M Tubbs.

Mr Tubbs reported that practise night had been revived on a Thursday night and would always welcome new volunteers.

Granby Ladies Thursday Club – Mrs D Watson

32 members, excellent and varied speakers, popular fashion show, summer BBQ and an excellent Christmas meal had been part of this year's calendar.

Coffee Shop – Mrs G James

The coffee and book swap is held on the first Saturday of every month. It continues to be well supported. This year the money raised has purchased a bookcase for the village hall. The morning provides an opportunity for residents to meet and chat as well as providing a means of communicating information about events which are due to take place in the village.

Granby Neighbourhood Watch – Mr L Shore

Neighbourhood Watch was launched in Granby last year. Smart water was issued. Signs have now been visibly displayed in the village and leaflets/ information are available in the village hall.

Sutton Neighbourhood Watch – No report.

Police – No report

Gardening Club – Mr D Lineker

The Garden club was now in its third year and has 27 members. They meet the first Tuesday of every month. Details of all speakers and events are advertised on the notice board. New members welcome at £10 annual subscription.

Granby Luncheon Club – Mrs D Watson.

A consistent membership of 30 – 32. Exceptional value at £3 per head. This year saw the retirement of Pat Kitchen and Sheila Milner founder members of the group.

Any other business

The question of allotments was raised, but after discussion it was thought that if land ever became available that a community garden may be more appropriate.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.45pm. The chairman thanked every one for attending.