

PORINGLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Poringland Community Centre.

1. **Attendance** **ACTION**

Tim Boucher (Chairman)
John Henson
David Gooderham
Lisa Neal
John Overton
Jenny Kereama-Ellis
Trevor Spruce
James Landshoft
Chris Walker.

The Clerk and 88 members of the public were also in attendance.

Apologies: Steve Aspin, David Hewer.

2. **Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2016 were **approved**.

3. **Matters Arising**

None.

4. **Guest Speakers**

a) David Wilson Homes – Heath Farm Development

Robert Holbrook, Managing Director of David Wilson Homes, addressed the meeting together with three colleagues. He issued an apology to those present, acknowledging that the activity on site had affected residents. The priority now was to work with local residents and to minimise the impact of the development, moving towards a new working relationship. He noted that the problems with Phase 1 were due to lack of preparation works and controls on site. Poorly maintained third party pipes and an extreme flooding event had resulted in the problems with surface water run off. There had been no further flooding issues like this.

Phase 2 was beginning, and would be built in a clockwise motion with the open spaces being put in between the two phases. Existing ditches and ponds would be improved, and drainage / road infrastructure would be in place before any houses were built. Building would take place in zones, and it was anticipated that this would stop a repeat of the issues seen on Phase 1.

The Chairman invited questions from the meeting.

Question: Where will the water be draining to?

Answer: The development is required to mimic the existing catchment. There is a high point in the middle, the drainage will follow the same route and use pipes and attenuation tanks.

Question: There has recently been a long dry spell, have the drainage calculations been independently checked?

Answer: The Lead Local Flood Authority have to check and sign off the figures as part of the planning process. The drainage is measured in litres per second, and planning would expect to see a 50% improvement from measures put in.

Question: Will large diameter pipes be used?

Answer: The drainage will use basins, swales, tanks and pipes.

Question: Who will be responsible for the future maintenance of the drainage infrastructure?

Answer: Part of it will be adopted by Anglian Water, and anything attenuated will be dealt with by the resident's management company. All residents are contracted to contribute towards this cost.

Question: Will DWH be responsible for maintaining ditches?

Answer: Yes, the on site ditches in the open spaces and areas owned by the developer and will be maintained by the residents management company.

Question: Will ditches and infrastructure be periodically checked?

Answer: The tanks have a lifespan of 120 years, with little maintenance required. They will be inspected at regular intervals. There will always be money in the pot, from the contributions made by residents and handed to the management company. Residents could set up their own management arrangements however there are strict rules in place about this.

Question: Who owns the ditch at the southern boundary?

Answer: The ditch is in the red line of David Wilson Homes and therefore owned by them, however some residents have riparian ownership. The ditch will either be transferred to residents or will be handed to the management company. Where something forms a strategic feature (eg a watercourse) it has not been conveyed with the property. It is assumed that there is no part-ownership of the ditch adjoining the properties on Stoke Road, as this was transferred by the vendor at the time of purchase. The riparian ownership would give a right to discharge water into the ditch, and does give an obligation to maintain. As far as DWH are aware, the land was conveyed with clean title.

Sean Marten addressed the room regarding the removal of the oak tree. He noted that surveys had been carried out to establish levels for the footpath, and concern had been expressed about the tree. A tree surgeon had advised, following survey, that the tree was not in good repair and it was ordered for removal by a member of staff. Due diligence checks were not carried out and steps had been taken to ensure this did not happen again.

Question: Henry Gowman introduced himself as the tree warden, and noted that he was exceptionally cross about the removal of the tree which was of value to the community as both an amenity, and personally to residents. The contractor removing the tree had stated that it was healthy and that he didn't

want to cut it down, however it was in the wrong place. The tree had been under planning condition not to be removed, and to do so was incompetence. If it was to be replaced, this would need to be with a substantial mature oak of around 15-20 years old which would require specialist care. It was expected that this would cost around £20,000, however this was no-where near the value of the original tree which would absorb around 70 gallons of water from the surrounding area per day, helping to alleviate flooding.

Answer: In response, Sean stated that the independent investigation had concluded that the tree needed to be removed. A meeting had taken place with South Norfolk Council and the Parish Council where DWH accepted that they were wrong. DWH were willing to work with the developer to provide a suitable replacement in an agreed location. The tree had been reported to DWH as not in a fit state. There was no need anticipated for felling on Phase 2, however if any were found then due diligence checks would be carried out. The tree did not have a TPO, and the Chairman noted that the Parish Council was considering the amenity value of trees in the village, with a view to preservation where appropriate.

Question: Will access to Phase 2 be only from Stoke Road?

Answer: Yes, this is what has been agreed through planning. There will be an emergency link to Phase 1.

Sean Marten acknowledged that DWH had communicated badly with the community and that newsletters should have been issued to update on progress in Phase 1, and prior to commencement of Phase 2. Contact details would be issued to residents and to the Parish Council, and DWH would be accessible throughout the development.

Question: There are no Give Way markings coming from the development onto Caistor Lane, and there has already been one accident.

Answer: Sean agreed to take this back and request temporary signage until the road markings were put down.

SM

Question: Will the houses parallel with Stoke Road have ridge heights the same size as those behind Norwich Road?

Answer: The properties will be a maximum of 2 storeys, and all have been consented through planning. Bungalows are included in the development. There will be affordable housing within the development which will be for local residents in perpetuity.

Question: Could the term 'discounted marketing homes' be explained?

Answer: This will be explained in the newsletter, including the criteria and eligibility. The resale of the properties will be at the discounted market rate for local residents in perpetuity, and six homes are available on this basis.

Question: Will Phase 2 construction traffic continue to access via Phase 1, and in early mornings?

Answer: The cabin is serving both phases, and Sean agreed to speak with the Site Manager to deal with vehicles arriving before 6am. The compound was being moved to the middle of the site to allow Phase 1 to be finished, after that access will move to Stoke Road. Phase 1 completion is expected in

SM

May 2018, with Phase 2 commencing in late June/early July 2017 subject to completing the Section 106 agreements and pre-site works.

Question: Why is earth being moved around the site? It is making everything dirty.

Answer: There won't be as much need to move earth on Phase 2, and it is being stockpiled for later re-use. The installation of roads at an early stage in Phase 2 will help with the dust issues.

Question: Will a fence be put up to mark the boundary with Norwich Road?

Answer: There are no boundary treatments planned for Phase 1, however this is open for discussion.

Question: When will the landscaping be completed?

Answer: It is hoped that this will be before Christmas, subject to planting conditions.

Question: Could the piercing noise from reversing mobile plant be toned down?

Answer: Sean agreed to investigate this.

SM

Question: The trench which has been dug for Phase 2 has disturbed the roots of existing third party hedges. Can a fence be installed to replace the destroyed hedge?

Answer: It was suggested that specific requests like this should be made directly to the developer, and could be done through the Parish Clerk.

Question: Will the levels and heights be raised in Phase 2 as they have for the paths in Phase 1?

Answer: Elevational drawings have been circulated, and although the heights are correct, the ground levels have been raised. This will be explored in further detail.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of David Wilson Homes for their attendance.

b) Anglian Water Works Update

Four representatives of Anglian Water briefed the meeting on the current Anglian Water works in the village. They explained that the project was to replace around 11KM of water main, and that additional works had been identified as the project had progressed. The works were expected to extend until October 2017, and there were now two project gangs on site. The works included laying new pipe, testing, and then making the pipe live. Services would then be transferred to properties. It was inevitable that workers would return more than once in a location. While testing was taking place, it could take days for results to come back, and the works could not progress to the next section until the results had come back as clear.

In relation to the Fiveways Roundabout, Highways were requiring four way traffic lights which would be manned for an extended peak period, to encompass school hours.

The Chairman invited questions from the meeting.

Question: The works near the Fiveways roundabout is scheduled during the school exam period. Could they be delayed by a few days to avoid this?

Answer: The programme is dependent on other works in the project and could slip past that date. If necessary, there will be longer manning of the traffic lights, with phasing included.

Question: What will the working hours be on site?

Answer: The gangs work 7.30am – 5.30pm, however for the four week block at the Fiveways roundabout they may work longer hours. Weekend working is not permitted by Highways. Although some residents would welcome longer working hours, those closest to the affected area often have a different opinion.

Question: Why has there been five weeks of traffic lights on The Street, with no works happening?

Answer: Work started on 27th April to excavate the service connections. This includes pressure testing and sampling. The first connection was made last week, and the next connection will be Friday. There is an allowed 100M working space.

Question: Why have other stretches been completed and tested much more quickly?

Answer: There were factors that were out of our hands on The Street, the system was not ready and potable. Testing and connection will be taking place in parallel.

Question: The testing in Shotesham Road was completed in 2 days, however the testing in The Street has been taking place for 6 weeks. Why is this, and why was the reason not communicated?

Answer: The samples didn't come back quickly, and pressure testing took time. Communication is being improved with the introduction of a new monthly newsletter, which will communicate deadlines and give progress. Newsletters will continue to be displayed on the Parish Council website, along with more immediate updates.

Question: One side of the road is taking 100% of the traffic which is going through at speed sometimes. When will The Street be fully re-opened?

Answer: It should be re-opened week commencing 25th May, and the current works are a two man job.

Comment: Some residents would like to see longer working hours, and improved traffic flow in both directions. The wait is sometimes up to 40 minutes. A further watchman could be in radio contact on the lights.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of Anglian Water for their attendance and discussion.

c) Anglian Buses

Two representatives of Anglian Buses invited comments and views on the

bus service through the village. A resident thanked them for a superb service. It was noted that there was a peak time problem with buses having to navigate obstacles in the road during school drop off and pick up. It was noted that the buses sometimes went around the corner on Upgate too quickly, and were stopping opposite the junction with Burgate Lane. It was acknowledged that buses took more of the road, and that they were parking for 10 minutes layover in the timetable. The timetable had now been altered to remove this layover, and allow for two minutes standing at the church. It was queried whether a route could come down Shotesham Road into the new Rosebery Park development, and through to Norfolk Homes and out onto Devlin Drive. It was agreed that the routes would be reconsidered regularly to ensure key areas were captured. It was noted that this area was still under development, and that the through road was not yet built.

Question: Where there is not a fare stage stop, drivers don't always stop on request. Where is it safe to stop if there is no fare stage?

Answer: This depends on the registration of the route, if it is registered as 'hail and ride' then the driver can pick up and stop off wherever is safe and convenient. If it is registered as bus stop only, then this cannot happen.

Question: Now that Anglian use the bus station it means that disabled passengers are disadvantaged as there is no stop on St Stephens.

Answer: The route has now been changed to allow for use of St Stephens, finding extra time in the timetable.

Question: Some drivers require that passengers get off at the bus station as it is the terminus. They will not allow passengers to ride round to St Stephens.

Answer: There is no reason for this to happen, and drivers will be made aware that passengers can stay on for St Stephens. There are sometimes service changeovers, however drivers should assist passengers with their onward journey.

Question: Can buses go down Shotesham Road to service Albion House?

Answer: This could be considered, however the issue is serving Surrey Street as the turnaround time in Upgate has been lost – reintroducing this would mean losing the St Stephens stop. This could be considered for future timetabling of services.

Question: Will the quality of buses be upgraded? The current ones are rattley and noisy.

Answer: Anglian and Konect are part of the same company and are able to share fleet, and it is expected that the 88 and some 87 services would soon have leather seated vehicles, with WiFi. Newer vehicles are planned for around June 2017.

Question: Can Anglian tie in with competitors to put on some hourly services?

Answer: Although Anglian are always happy to co-operate, it is a competitive market.

Question: Sometimes the buses are thrown around, which isn't pleasant for families. Also, First offer family tickets – will Anglian do anything similar?

Answer: Loyalty schemes are currently being considered.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of Anglian Buses for their contribution.

5. Parish Council Reports

a) Chairman's Report

Tim Boucher gave his report (Appendix 1). He paid tribute to former Chairman of the Council John Ellis, who had passed away in the year. He noted that the Parish Council had met with both Anglian Water, and David Wilson Homes, to try to iron out the issues in the village. The Council was in the process of agreeing the Strategic Action Plan for the forthcoming year.

b) Financial Report

The Parish Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer presented the financial report (Appendix 2).

6. Reports from Village Organisations

a) District Councillors

John Overton reported that in the year he had been Chairman of the Eastern Rivers Neighbourhood Board, looking after 49 parishes. He had allocated grants to various organisations. Lisa Neal had been Vice Chairman of the planning committee, and Chairman of the scrutiny committee.

Blue Sky Developments, wholly owned by South Norfolk Council, had developed the office block and Rosebery Park area in Shotesham Road, and a site in Long Stratton.

South Norfolk Council had been a finalist in the Council of the Year competition, finishing in the top 6.

South Norfolk Council was looking at the parish boundary review, which was done every 15-20 years. Ongoing discussions were taking place regarding boundary features and merged authorities. Any changes would be administrative and would not change the postal address or name of the village. The final decision would be made by South Norfolk Council. District ward boundaries had also been reviewed and Poringland and The Framinghams would be going to a three member ward, including Trowse, from May 2019.

The Local Plan Call for Sites had caused some concern to people, and it was clarified that it was only an opportunity to put forward suitable sites, and that many would be considered unsuitable at the assessment stage. There would be an opportunity to contribute to the consultation process in the autumn of 2017.

Bin lorries were being fitted with GPS so that they could be tracked and diverted to cases of fly tipping, saving time and money.

Wymondham Leisure Centre had undergone a £4M refurbishment, and had seen an increase in membership by 800 in 12 months.

Question: Does South Norfolk Council profit from the by-product from the brown bins?

Answer: Unknown, John agreed to find out.

Question: Will the new Greater Norwich Local Plan be published in October?

Answer: Lisa Neal confirmed that it was expected that the sites would be consulted on in October. The production of the Local Plan was a very long process, and would not be completed for some years. She agreed to find out the timescales.

LN

Question: When will building begin on the site in Bixley?

Answer: This was not in the Poringland area, and it wasn't clear when works would begin, this was up to the developer.

Question: Can more defibrillators be bought for the village?

Answer: There is one at Budgens, however South Norfolk Council did not supply these. Brooke Scouts were looking into having one. The District Councillor could possibly offer funding towards a defibrillator, provided a suitable location could be found.

b) County Councillor

The Chairman noted that the County Council election was taking place the following day, and that the current County Councillor, Roger Smith, was not standing for election.

c) Strategic Six Group

David Gooderham reported that the Group had discussed issues around traffic, policing, community governance review and other matters relevant to all the parishes in the cluster. He noted that the Community Governance Review was open for consultation, and comments would be welcomed regarding joint working arrangements, or boundary changes. Comments should be submitted to the Clerk by 15th May, for inclusion in Poringland's final submission.

d) Police

No report.

Question: The mini roundabouts approaching the Norfolk Homes developments have no road markings, and incidents have been reported. The roads are 20mph, and are adopted highway. Could white junction lines be painted onto the roads approaching the roundabouts?

Answer: The Chairman agreed that this would be raised with Highways at a forthcoming meeting that was being set up.

A member of the public suggested that they would like to see more cycle routes around the village.

A member of the public complained about the amount of gravel and dirt on the roads and pavements. It was suggested that this should be reported to the Clerk who could direct it to the relevant authorities. It was noted that the Parish Council had taken on verge cutting, increasing the frequency to every three weeks rather than five times per year.

e) Youth Representatives

- The Six Youth Council representative had sent his apologies due to a family emergency, report attached at Appendix C.
- No report from Churches Together.

f) Welcome Home and Memorial Playing Field Trust

John Overton reported that the reorganised governance arrangements for the Trust had settled in well. The facilities were used by Poringland Bowls Club, and Poringland Wanderers Senior and Youth Football Clubs. The Pavilion was available for bookings, and the Trust was looking to update the heating, shower and changing facilities.

g) Fuel Allotment Trust

David Gooderham gave a report of the activities of the Trust, attached at Appendix D.

h) Sand and Gravel Charity

Chris Walker gave a report of the activities of the Charity, attached at Appendix E.

i) Men's Shed; and Tree Warden

Henry Gowman reported on behalf of the Men's Shed, noting that the group was housed in the Old Blacksmith's Forge in Brooke. Electricity and water had been restored to the building, and a toilet had been installed. The drainage had also been improved. The group met on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and welcomed people with any level of capability. The main focus of work was recycling and mending, with many items being donated, or being fixed for local people.

Henry also gave a report as Tree Warden, attached at Appendix F. He requested that he be involved in the works to identify trees for TPOs.

7. **General Parish Issues**

A member of the public asked when the old village hall would be replaced, as it was considered an eyesore. The questioner was aware of the planning permission on the site. The Chairman replied that the building was owned by the church, not the Parish Council, and that although it was not in the jurisdiction of the Council, the comments about the state of the building were noted.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for all the work that they did for the community.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

CHAIRMAN

Appendix A**Chairman's Report**

Dear Parishioner

It has been another busy year for the village and parish council with a series of challenges to report on. Firstly I'd like to acknowledge the sad loss of our former Chairman John Ellis who passed away in September 2016, John was an excellent Parish Councillor and Chairman and missed by all who knew him in the village.

We have also had challenges with the continued roadworks to replace the Anglian Water Main through the village, which are due to be completed later this year and the continued development of new homes within the village and surrounding areas, a trend we are seeing across the country.

One of the highlights of the past year, was the Queens 90th Birthday celebration held at the Community Centre, with a street picnic, games and competitions. This was hugely supported by local people and our neighbouring Parish Framingham Earl.

We have made progress on a number of issues which are reported on in further detail in the annual report, including:-

- Replacement bus shelters installed
- Progress on the Community Land Project
- Tree surveys and remedial works carried out
- New War Memorial unveiled
- Speed monitoring and awareness campaign
- The Community Centre growing from strength to strength
- Fete planned for July 2017 to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the Community Centre opening

Looking forward, we have some exciting plans for 2017 and beyond and will be engaging much more closely with the public to understand what you wish to see happen in the village and where the Parish Council can assist with those ideas.

Tim Boucher, Chairman

Appendix B

Financial Report

Expenditure	Actual 2015/16 £	Budget 2016/17 £	Actual 2016/17 £	(Over) Under Spent 2016/17 £	Budget 2017/18	Inc / Dec on 2016/17 Budget
Salaries	93,674.11	101,989.00	105,190.93	(3,201.93)	106,953.93	+4.87%
General Admin	10,196.04	12,600.00	13,209.19	(609.19)	12,150.00	-3.57%
Burial Ground	7,836.58	19,550.00	12,019.73	7,530.27	8,000.00	-59.08%
Community Centre	50,322.95	47,636.26	53,700.71	(6,064.45)	67,866.26	+42.47%
Outside Spaces	11,616.15	26,419.45	22,554.11	3,865.34	10,630.00	-59.76%
Playing Field	11,219.01	10,643.52	14,218.80	(3,575.28)	10,310.00	-3.13%
Youth Activities	2,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Section 137	625.00	250.00	275.00	(25.00)	500.00	+100%
Professional Fees		1,500.00	542.00	958.00	1,500.00	0%
Public Consultation	5,277.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Land Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	
Contingency	1,028.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	2,200.00	+46.67%
Total	193,895.43	222,088.23	221,710.47	377.76	222,610.19	+0.24%
VAT	14,199.78		18,654.88			
Commuted Sums & Earmarked Reserve Expenditure	10,072.45		17,567.31			
Grand Total	218,167.66		257,932.66			

Income	Actual 2015/16 £	Budget 2016/17 £	Actual 2016/17 £	Over (Under) £	Budget 2017/18	Inc / Dec on 2016/17 Budget
Precept	114,820.26	122,921.78	122,921.78	0.00	142,829.18	+16.20%
Shortfall Grant	8,493.00	5,829.00	5,829.00	0.00	3,714.00	-36.28%
Interest	2,329.53	2,500.00	2,567.01	67.01	2,000.00	-20.00%
Burial Ground	4,930.00	3,500.00	8,006.00	4,506.00	4,500.00	+28.57%
Miscellaneous	741.91	300.00	1,966.89	1,666.89	500.00	+66.66%
Grants	5,277.59	5,459.72	13,738.71	8,278.99	4,067.01	-22.51%
S106 Commuted Sum	0.00	0.00	32,975.36	32,975.36	0.00	-
CIL	0.00	0.00	1,557.90	1,557.90	0.00	-
Memorial Repairs	4,900.00	0.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	0.00	-
Community Centre	69,299.31	57,000.00	89,645.81	32,645.81	65,000.00	+14.04%
Use of General Reserve		24,577.73	0.00	(24,577.73)	0.00	-
Total	210,791.60	222,088.23	280,958.46	58,870.23	222,610.19	+0.24%
VAT	16,840.00		18,946.99			
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves			3,000.00			
Grand Total			302,905.45			
Tax Base (adjusted no. of properties)		1,483			1,693	
Band D Tax*		£82.89			£84.36	
% inc/dec Band D Council Tax		+4.60%			+1.78%	

Reconciliation

Opening Balance @ 1st April 2016	337,956.02
Total Income	302,905.45
Total Expenditure	257,932.66
Closing Balance @ 31st March 2017	382,928.81

Represented by:

Current Account	49,236.90
Barclays Deposit	33,121.92
Petty Cash / Bar Floats	550.00
Nationwide Instant Access Saver	60,351.12
Julian Hodge Bond 1	22,000.00
Hampshire Trust Bond 1	55,000.00
Cambridge & Counties 120 Day Saver	73,100.00
Fidelity Investment	30,000.00
Hampshire Trust Bond 2	20,000.00
Julian Hodge Bond 2	55,000.00
Less unrepresented cheques	15,431.13
Total	382,928.81

Catherine Moore, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Appendix C**Six Youth Council Report**

This has been another successful year for the 6YC and they have been involved in a wide range of community projects, with the support of their out-going Youth Support Worker, Karen Buchanan. The 6YC has been involved in supporting the Strategic 6 traffic survey, a Cake and Car Wash Event in June, the Christmas Fair in Stoke Holy Cross and with making Valentine Boxes, the proceeds of which went to Stoke Holy Cross Dementia Group and the Good Neighbours Scheme.

This year, Karen Buchanan has had to leave the 6YC (so she can concentrate on her main role as a College tutor) and her place as Youth Support Worker has been taken by Peter Armitage, who has a background in Youth Work, Special Education and has worked for many years on School and Youth Councils. He intends to try to sustain and increase the membership of the 6YC, to help them identify the key issues for local young people and to gain knowledge of the democratic institutions and local organisations that will enable them to have a positive impact on their community. Peter intends to make links between the 6YC and the local schools; Framingham Earl High School, Poringland, Stoke Holy Cross and Trowse Primary Schools.

The next meeting of the 6YC will take place on Monday 8th May at 7.00 pm at Stoke Holy Cross Pavilion and is open to any young person between 11 and 25, interested in improving their local community.

Peter Armitage, Youth Leader

Appendix D

Fuel Allotment Trust

We are one of nearly 500 historic relief charities in Norfolk that were derived from land enclosures or philanthropic gifts of land or money by private individuals.

The Charity was established by Trust Deed in 1805. The objective was the relieving of need, hardship or distress of the residents of Poringland .

The Trustees are required to maintain the level of capital but may distribute the income. In the mid 1990s, the Trustees decided to sell most of their land to Norfolk Homes and Budgens and to invest the money.

At the same time , the Charity broadened its charitable objectives allowing them to support the inhabitants of the parish, and to address education and training as part of their activities. The Charity continues to support local people and community projects.

The total value of the capital held is in the region of £680,000 of which just over 60% is invested in the stock market in low risk income based funds following a recent financial review conducted for the trust by Boswell Financial Planning .

In the 2016/17 financial year, the total income from investments and interest earned was just over £16k and total expenditure was £12.5k of which £8.5k was on grants. A cautious approach to grant awards was taken last year due to the low level of investment returns and the need to review our financial objectives. It is anticipated that the level of grants awarded will be closer to income levels in future years .

Eric Proctor resigned last year after many years' involvement as a trustee and the charity are indebted for his service over those years . He has been replaced by Peter Sayles but the charity continues to look for a further trustee , ideally someone with a legal background .

David Gooderham, Trustee

Appendix E**Sand and Gravel Trust**

The Poringland Sand and Gravel Allotment Charity makes grants available to clubs, groups and societies comprising Poringland parishioners.

The Charity is run by 4 Trustees who are each appointed for a 4 year term by Poringland Parish Council but who are not necessarily parish councillors. Presently the Trustees are Pat Easter, Jenny Huxtable, Caroline Milton and myself. I am a relatively recent appointee.

Our financial year ends on 30 June and our accounts are independently examined each year. During the 2015/16 year, the latest available, we received income of just over £1,570 from our various investments and interest earned. Expenditure was just over £2,200, of which £2,050 was by way of grant awards to organisations. As at 30 June 2016 our funds stood at over £56K.

Local clubs, groups and societies who wish to seek assistance from the Charity should apply in writing to the Chair, Mrs. Pat Easter, 11 Greenacres Drive, Poringland, NR14 7JG.

Chris Walker, Trustee

Appendix F**Tree Warden**

IN MANY WAYS THIS LAST YEAR HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. I HAVE DEALT WITH A LOT OF NEIGHBOURLY DISPUTES OVER TREES ON BOUNDARIES – ALL RESOLVED AMICABLY

I AM PLEASED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE CONTINUING WILDING OF PORINGLAND LAKES AND THIS WINTER PLANTING SEASON SAW A FURTHER 400 TREES PLANTED TO FORM A THICK HEDGE OF NATIVE PLANTS ALONG THE BOUNDARY WITH THE NEW DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS PARTLY TO PROVIDE A PHYSICAL BARRIER AND PARTLY TO PROVIDE VALUABLE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE.

AS THE CHAIR OF THE NEWLY FORMED SOUTH NORFOLK TREE WARDEN NETWORK I AM DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT WE PLANTED SOME 3000 TREES ACROSS SOUTH NORFOLK THIS WINTER.

I WILL CONSULT WITH THE PARISH BEFORE PROCEEDING BUT I WOULD LIKE TO CARRY OUT A PLANTING SCHEME ALONG THE RIDINGS TO BOLSTER THE AGEING HEDGE THAT BORDERS THE NEW VILLAGE GREEN. ADDITIONALLY A NEW HEDGE COULD AND SHOULD BE PLANTED ALONG THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE GREEN TO LINK UP EXISTING HEDGES BORDERING GREEN.

I AM AWARE THAT IN THE NOT TO DISTANT FUTURE, PORINGLAND COMMUNITY WOODLAND – CURRENTLY IN THE OWNERSHIP OF NORFOLK HOMES – WILL BE PASSED TO THE PARISH. I WOULD ADVISE THAT A SURVEY BE UNDERTAKEN AND WORKS ASSESSED AND CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE HANDOVER. THERE ARE MANY DEAD AND DIEING TREES IN THE WOODLAND AND THE COST OF DEALING WITH THESE TREES AND NECESSARY REMEDIAL WORKS TO THE WOODLAND WILL BE CONSIDERABLE.

THE DOMINANT SPECIES OF TREES IN THE COMMUNITY WOODLAND ARE OAK AND ASH. MOST OF THE ASH HAVE DIEBACK DISEASE. ON THE 8TH APRIL SNTWN CELEBRATED ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY BY CREATING POLLARDS OF BOTH ASH AND OAK TREES IN THE COMMUNITY WOODLAND WITH THE PERMISSION OF NORFOLK HOMES. POLLARDING ASH HAS BEEN SHOWN TO HAVE SOME SUCCESS IN SAVING ASH TREES IN EXPERIMENTS CARRIED OUT IN SWEDEN. WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME AN EXPERIMENT OF THIS KIND HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THE UK. THE POLL ARDS WILL BE MONITORED.

THE OAK TREES WERE POLLARDED AS PART OF AN INITIATE BY NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST WHO ARE CONCERNED THAT MANY OLD POLLARDED OAKS ARE DETERIORATING AND FALLING APART. MANY SPECIES OF WILDLIFE ARE ENTIRELY RELIANT UPON POLLARDED OAKS AND SO SNTWN ARE ENCOURAGING THE POLLARDING OF SUITABLE TREES AS REPLACEMENTS.

IT IS A CONCERN THAT THE PARISH HAS LOST SO MANY LARGE OAK TREES THIS YEAR. THIS IS NOT THROUGH STORM DAMAGE OR DISEASE BUT BY NEW OWNERS OF HOUSES CUTTING THEM DOWN AS PART OF MODERNISING THEIR HOMES AND GARDENS. MOST OF THESE TREES ARE IN GARDENS AND ARE NOT COVERED BY

TPO'S OR OTHER PLANNING CONSTRAINTS. I WOULD ENCOURAGE THE PARISH COUNCIL TO HOLD A MEETING WITH SNC PLANNING OFFICERS TO SEE IF THERE IS A WAY OF SAFEGUARDING TREES PERHAPS BY CREATING A TREE CONSERVATION AREA.

WHILST A TREE MAY BE IN THE OWNERSHIP OF A HOUSEHOLDER THERE ARE MANY OTHER STAKEHOLDERS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN A TREE. THESE MAY BE THE NEIGHBOURS WHO LIKE THE TREE, OR OTHERS WHO HAVE SHARED THEIR GROWING UP WITH A TREE OR GROUP OF TREES, AND ARE ADVERSELY EFFECTED BY THEIR NEEDLESS REMOVAL.

MANY STUDIES HAVE FOUND THAT HAVING GOOD TREE COVER IS BENEFICIAL TO HUMAN MENTAL WELLBEING. A TREE LINED ROAD ATTRACTS A HOUSE PRICE PREMIUM, PROVIDES A BUFFER TO DUST, POLLUTION AND TRAFFIC NOISE. WE KNOW THAT OUR CLIMATE IS CHANGING – WE HAVE JUST HAD AN EXCEPTIONALLY DRY SPRING – AND WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE SUDDEN VERY HEAVY DOWNPOURS OF RAIN DURING THE SUMMER. A MATURE OAK TREE WILL EXTRACT OVER 70 TONS OF WATER A DAY FROM THE GROUND, MEANING THAT LARGE TREES WILL ENABLE AN AREA TO RECOVER QUICKER FROM TORRENTIAL DOWNPOURS.

A MATURE OAK PROVIDES A RICH AND DIVERSE HABITAT FOR MORE SPECIES THAN ANY OTHER NATIVE TREE WHICH IN TURN PROVIDE BIRDS WITH AN IMPORTANT FOOD SOURCE AS WELL AS NESTING SITES FOR BIRDS AND BATS AND HIDEY HOLES FOR MOTHS.

ARGUABLY THE HOUSE OWNERS WHO ARE CUTTING DOWN MATURE TREES ARE ACTING OUT OF IGNORANCE OR SOME KIND OF GARDEN FASHION, IN THAT THEY HAVE MODERNISED THEIR HOME AND THE OLD TREE IS NOT PART OF THEIR VISION FOR THEMSELVES.

ON THE 1ST OF MARCH A MATURE OAK TREE ON A LOKE ON PORINGLAND ROAD OPPOSITE FRAM HIGH, WAS CUT DOWN BY CONTRACTORS OPERATING ON BEHALF OF DAVID WILSON HOMES. THIS TREE WAS PROTECTED BY PLANNING REQUIREMENTS AND IN MY PERSONAL VIEW ITS REMOVAL WAS EITHER CRIMINAL – IN THAT THE TREE WAS OWNED BY THE COUNCIL AND THE DEVELOPERS RECKLESSLY DESTROYED IT AS IT WAS IN THEIR WAY, OR CYNICAL – IN THAT IT WAS CALCULATED SNC ARE CASH STRAPPED AND UNLIKELY TO MOUNT A PROSECUTION FOR BREACH OF PLANNING PERMISSION. IT COULD HAVE BEEN A RESULT OF NEGLIGENCE OF COURSE BUT THE END RESULT IS THE SAME – A VALUABLE TREE – A COMMUNITY ASSET - HAS BEEN LOST. I WILL MENTION THAT I HAD PEOPLE CONTACTING ME WHO WERE SO UPSET THEY WERE CRYING.

I BELIEVE THAT THIS TREE SHOULD BE REPLACED – IN AS FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE – BY A SEMI MATURE OAK TREE – PAID FOR BY DAVID WILSON HOMES. IT IS POSSIBLE TO PURCHASE A LARGE ROOT BALLED OAK TREE, ALTHOUGH NOT POSSIBLE TO PLANT IT WHERE THE OLD ONE WAS. IT IS HOWEVER POSSIBLE TO FIND ANOTHER PLANTING PLACE AND I HAVE ONE IN MIND. THE COST OF SUCH A REPLACEMENT, INCLUDING SPECIALIST TRANSPORTATION – PLANTING PREPARATION ETC WILL BE APPROX £20,000.

TREES HAVE A VALUE BEYOND THE MONETARY AS I HAVE EXPLAINED – BUT SOME PEOPLE ONLY UNDERSTAND A BALANCE SHEET IN FINANCIAL TERMS – AND AN ORDER REQUIREING REPLACEMENT OF THIS TREE WILL SEND A MESSAGE TO OTHER CAVALIER COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

HENRY GOWMAN, PORINGLAND TREE WARDEN

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