

# **DRINKSTONE VILLAGE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the Village AGM held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in All Saints' Church

## **Present**

Cllrs A. Clarke, S. Cousins, M. Goldstaub (Chair), C. Harbutt, C. Munford, P. Nolan, MSDC/SCC Cllr P. Otton, the Clerk and 14 residents.

## **1 – Apologies for Absence**

An apology was received from CPO Annelly Miles

## **2 – Chairman's Report for 2012/13 by Moira Goldstaub**

This last year has seen some significant comings and goings on the Parish Council. In September we unhappily received the then Vice-Chairman, Councillor Hannants resignation. This left us not only one member short but without a Vice-Chairman. After some discussion it was agreed to suspend the rule allowing Chairman and Vice –Chairman to serve for 5 years only until the end of this present Council's term of office (May 2015) and I agreed to continue to serve as Chairman for another two years, if nominated and elected each May. In addition to being our Vice-Chairman for virtually the whole of her time on the Council, Councillor Hannant was also our Tree Warden and had overseen the very successful Hedge Survey. So she left a gap, which has now been filled by four people! She was a lively and active member of the Council and has been much missed. As a result of the vacancy, we went through the Statutory Procedures advertising the post to enable an election to be held if the required number of villagers requested it, and we were able to co-opt Councillor Christine Harbutt as our new member. Councillor Harbutt has a long association with Drinkstone and surroundings and is well known to many. As she lives in Park Road she extends the Parish Council's range to cover that part of the village which has been unrepresented in recent years. We are very grateful to Councillor Harbutt for volunteering to join us. At the February meeting Councillor Clarke was unanimously elected, as Vice-Chairman and we are most grateful that he accepted the position.

Our Clerk, who remains both a model of efficiency and reliability, advertised the post of Tree Warden and we were delighted to receive replies from Jock McClaren and Peter Holborn. Both are well qualified to take on the post and so we snapped both of them up and immediately benefited from their expertise as to how to move the Cricket Hedge, which had not flourished as had been hoped in its current site. They agreed that the Hedge should be lifted at the end of February and all flourishing specimens should be sited, temporarily, at the Rattlesden Road allotments. The Wardens offered to do the work and it was carried out in March with assistance from villagers. Peter Norman very kindly confirmed that he was happy for the plants, which had been a gift to him from his family to mark his eightieth birthday, to be replanted elsewhere in the village. Some will be used in the landscaping at the new village hall and some will augment the allotment hedges. So there will be more Norman hedges than originally thought!

Hot off the press we are able to welcome back our hard-working County Councillor Penny Otton who was successfully re-elected at the elections on 2 May. We are pleased, as we know how hard she works for this and other Parish Councils in the area, as both County and

District Councillor. Unhappily to complete the history of comings and goings, I have to report that we are losing Councillor Alan Johnson, whose increasing business commitments make it difficult for him to get to as many Council meetings as he would wish. So we are again looking for volunteers.

Despite the changes in personnel we have managed to take matters forward over the last year; Councillor Cousins and our Clerk drew up a risk assessment in relation to the land and premises for which the Council is responsible. This took several hours of their time and is now a requirement for our external auditors, so we are grateful for their effort, which allows us to be signed off as compliant. Central Government has passed a number of Acts which affect the way Local Government works and we are all trying to keep abreast of the new measures and what they entail. In September all the Councillors signed up to the new Suffolk Code of Conduct which the Localism Act made necessary.

### Planning

Since our designation as a village in countryside, the Council deals with fewer applications for planning permission and these refer in the main to extensions and modifications. We do not usually raise any objections to these. Exceptionally we may do so if the nature of the application could result in the over development of the site or to the loss of character in the case of a listed building.

We held a special meeting in May to consider the proposed detailed development of the Cherry tree site and the very real anxiety felt by some of the neighbouring landowners about loss of privacy and the density of development on some parts of the site. The outcome of the meeting was to write to the planning officer concerned to convey these fears and to request that she insured that the new properties would not infringe unduly on the privacy and amenity of existing dwellings. In September the Council was contacted by Strutt & Parker on behalf of a client and asked to consider the use of a redundant farmyard in the village for a small development of affordable housing. Strutt & Parker sent representatives to address the Council at the November meeting and it was decided that there should be a Housing Needs Survey to establish the views of the village regarding the need for such a development. The Council drafted a letter to accompany the survey and the envelopes containing the material were delivered to all the houses in the village in March and the results will be given to us this evening.

Throughout the year the Council have been trying to set up a meeting with Planning Officers from Mid-Suffolk DC to explain the impact of new government guidance on planning and the many new suggestions on relaxing planning constraints, which appear to be in the government's mind. Thanks to intervention on our behalf by Councillor Otton, Jonathan Free, Head of Communities MSDC, addressed us at our April meeting. He gave a very clear account of how Mid-Suffolk is attempting to deal with the new statutory measures introduced by central government. His view was that small villages like ours are not under threat of significant development and our zoning as a village in the countryside, with limited development potential, remains unchanged for the foreseeable future.

We have continued to attend the quarterly liaison meetings with MSDC. Your Councillors also attend any courses, which may be beneficial to the village, but we always keep in mind the cost of these things that have to be met out of the precept. You will hear from Councillor Cousins about the difficulty we have experienced in trying to keep the precept increase to the current level of inflation. Central Government had offered a grant to try to ensure that

Council tax levels did not rise, which was passed on pro rata, to parishes in a letter of mind-boggling inscrutability.

You will hear reports on various aspects of village life in the course of this evening; I would like to thank CPO Annelly Miles for her diligent attendance at our meetings. We have never been so well served by police representation, in my experience, as we have on her watch. My thanks also to Councillor Cousins who will address you on our financial situation and Councillor Munford who will keep you on track with the footpath situation, to Councillor Nolan and all the Councillors for their consistent hard work and regular attendance through what has been a long, hard winter in an often chilly church. As always it is a pleasure to draw your attention to our Clerk, Sharon Rose, who continues to be the backbone of the Parish Council and keeps us going with good humour and quiet efficiency, very great thanks are due to her.

Notwithstanding the temperature on occasions, we are naturally very grateful to the PCC for the church's warm hospitality in making the building available for our meetings over the past year.

We now look forward to being able to resume our meetings in the village hall in the not too distant future, and we will hear when that is likely to be from Sue Foulsham this evening.

Looking forward to the year ahead we are excited at the prospect of meeting in the new village hall. You will be hearing when that is likely to become possible in Sue Foulsham's report.

### **3 – Village Clubs and Classes – Presented by Sheila Beswick**

Amazingly all the village clubs and classes except one have managed to survive the two years without a village hall. Sadly, the French Class could only muster 8 members and 10 were needed to continue. So this year the class moved to Thurston Community College as part of the Adult Learning programme. The remaining groups all hope to return to the new hall and are eagerly awaiting that historic day.

The Tai Chi and Yoga classes continue with fees paid direct to the teachers.

The Table Tennis Club fund which has been closed for a number of years has been wound up and the funds together with contributions from other groups have meant that a cheque for £1000 has been donated to the village hall.

The Tuesday Club has continued to be well supported and numbers attending have increased this year.

The village photocopier and laminator continue to be available for use by villagers. It is hoped that this will be moved to the office in the new hall.

Without a village hall there have been no Hut Theatre activities this year. Hopefully this will change once the new hall is up and running.

The Art Club continues to thrive and around 20 members regularly meet in All Saints' despite the sometimes very cold weather.

The Local History Group has continued to hold regular monthly talks. It is hoped that membership will increase once the move is made back to the new hall. In December a very enjoyable session was held when Ray Bland came along to talk about the history of farming in Drinkstone. The evening was rounded off with a glass of wine and a shared feast. It is hoped that Ray will be able to come back at a later date to continue his story.

It has been a great year for both Junior and Senior Youth Clubs, despite the sometimes difficult conditions in the church. However, the clubs appreciate the vicar allowing full use of the facilities and also the Education Trust for contributing to the running costs. A grant was

received from the Suffolk Foundation which made it possible for lots of extra activities to take place including; archery; golf; skiing; wall climbing; bowling; swimming; playworld and a sleep over in the church. The highlight of the year was a trip to Thorpe Woodlands Activity Centre. The group enjoyed six exciting new activities under professional instruction as well as two night's accommodation with excellent meals. The group hope to make a return trip later this year.

Balances for the various clubs (including floats) are as follows:-

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| History Group    | £ 731.91 |
| Youth Clubs      | £4329.69 |
| Art Club         | £ 531.04 |
| Hut Theatre      | £2591.66 |
| Tuesday Club     | £ 171.29 |
| Photocopier Fund | £ 255.41 |

#### **4 – Cllr Ottos Report from District and County Councils**

Cllr Otton said she was delighted to have been re-elected as the County Councillor to represent Drinkstone and the neighbouring villages in the recent election. The political make up of the new council has changed considerably leaving the Conservatives as the ruling party but with a reduced majority of just three. She then went on to give some highlights of an interesting year at both councils.

##### Suffolk County Council

- **Schools** - Suffolk schools have recently come under intense scrutiny after it was announced that they were very near the bottom of the league table in exam results. The Council has now engaged Matthew Taylor from the Royal Society of Arts to help improve the situation – the project is called “Raising the Bar”. Cllr Otton has asked for school transport to be reviewed to ensure that all pupils entitled to free transport are getting it. The decision on whether to make Ixworth a free school will not be made until June. It has been proposed that Beyton becomes a sixth form centre from next year; although this has not been agreed yet. The new Council is setting up a Scrutiny Committee for education.
- **Budgets** – The Council managed to set a zero percent increase to the Council Tax with help from Central Government. During the year a donation was made from the Locality Budget towards the village Queens Jubilee celebrations and a grant is also going to the restoration of the memorial embroidery to be hung in the new village hall.
- **Transport** – The Council has reintroduced the young peoples smart card for discount travel however, an attempt to re-introduce the Bury Road Park and Ride was not successful.
- **Broadband** – The Council has allocated a considerable sum towards improving Broadband across the county
- **Speeding** – Speeding continues to be an issue and after discussion with the police it was agreed that the Community Speedwatch Teams could continue to operate in pairs.
- **Weather** – The severe winter has caused a lot of damage to road surfaces and a programme of repairs is underway.

## Mid Suffolk District Council

- **Joint working with Babergh** – Joint meetings continue to be developed with Babergh Council. Although statutory committees like planning will continue to be run by each Council. A major review of the planning department has taken place and the backlog of applications has been reduced. Applications with more than 5 objectors will not now be automatically referred to Committee.
- **Olympics** – The Council held a very successful Paralympics Torch Relay at Needham Lake.
- **Budgets** – Mid Suffolk also achieved a 0% increase to the Council Tax.
- **Communities** – An attempt at community engagement was made earlier this year and the outcomes will be published shortly. The new social housing at the Cherry Tree is well underway and anyone with a connection to Drinkstone is encouraged to apply.

### **5 – Police Report**

In the absence of CPO Annelly Miles the Clerk read the end of year police report: -

- Over the year Police received 73 calls regarding incidents in Drinkstone. 16 calls related to traffic matters and 2 related to anti-social behaviour. The actual recorded crimes break down as follows:- 4 x burglary outbuildings; 2 x dwelling burglaries; 2 x criminal damage; 3 x theft motor vehicle; 1 x other theft; 2 x public order offences and 1 x other crime.
- The Mid Suffolk South Safer Neighbourhood Team has seen a number of staff changes in the year. Claire Cox moved on to Thurston area and Sian Uttley resigned to take up full time training as a Police Constable. Community Police Officer Collette Denny is due to join the team later this month. The Team also said goodbye to their old offices in Elmswell and moved in to shared premises with the Fire Station. The move has been successful and has included an IT upgrade.

No crime figures were supplied for the month of April, however it was reported from the floor that there had been two incidents. Theft of some ring rolls from Woolpit Road and a burnt out caravan was abandoned in Tostock Road.

### **6 – Housing Needs Survey**

The Chairman reported that unfortunately the statistics from the Housing Needs Survey were not ready to be published. A short email had been received from the Housing Officer regarding the outcome but this needed further clarification as it was not clear whether the Cherry Tree houses had been taken into account. The Officer will be invited to give a full presentation to the Council to discuss the results and the recommendations.

### **7 – Open Forum**

Questions from the floor

1. A resident asked if any data was available from the Community Speedwatch Teams as speeding particularly in Rattlesden Road is still a problem. There are no figures available however, the Clerk agreed to contact the Police to see if any can be obtained.
2. It was reported that there is a broken drain cover in Park Road which needs urgent repair as it has left a deep hole in the verge. The Clerk to report to Highways.
3. A resident questioned the high cost of a Neighbourhood Plan; the Chairman explained that it was a long and drawn out procedure which involved expensive high tech packages and professional advice. The costs could easily soar if done in a

professional way. It is early days and the first Neighbourhood Plans are about to be produced – Mendlesham and Elmswell are almost there with their plans. Mid Suffolk have said there are grants available for parishes. However, with little development allowed in the village the PC were agreed at the moment that it was not worth the time or expense for Drinkstone to develop a plan at this stage.

## **8 – Finance Report by Cllr Sue Cousins**

At the beginning of 2012 we discussed the precept for this year, we agreed to an increase of 2.5% which equated to £78 divided between every household in the Village.

In May, last year, the Parish Council was pleased to present the cheque to the village hall committee for £5134 – which had been saved out of the precept over a number of years in a separate savings account.

All the figures quoted are excluding VAT as we are lucky enough to be able to claim it back from H M Revenue and Customs.

The only Community Event last year was the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The Parish Council was pleased to host an event on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the church for all the villagers. We were fortunate to receive £250 from Penny Otton’s Locality Budget. The Parish Council was delighted to present all children up to and including 12 years old with a Commemorative Mug. The purchase price of the mugs was £336 – 42 were sold at £3 each so the cost to the Parish Council was £210. Our other expenses for the day were £194 and we were very grateful for some food vouchers from the East of England Co-op.

Our Clerks salary increased by £160 this year to £767; this was primarily due to all the additional work involved with the two Extraordinary Meeting which had to be called to discuss the proposed development of the Cherry Tree site.

I am pleased to report that the grass cutting from The Old Parsonage Garden Services has again been excellent and the price of £469 is the same as last year.

Mid Suffolk started charging for emptying the dog and litter bins and invoiced us for £105. This year the figure has increased to £145.

We reduced our Charity contribution from £120 to £50 and donated it all to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Finally, as you know we carried out a Housing Needs Survey in March this year, we had 250 surveys printed at an estimated cost of £1 each – we are still awaiting an Invoice, this is the only expenditure from the last financial year which has not been paid for.

I hope this year, as far as finances go, will run smoothly.

## **9 - Recreation Ground Report – Clerk**

Over the last year the weekly inspections have continued and the Parish Council is grateful to Edna and Sheila for keeping an eye on the area and notifying the Clerk of any problems. The annual play inspection was undertaken last June and no major problems were identified – the goal posts did need repainting and this was done at a cost of £50. An official inspection for this year will be carried out next month. An amount of money is ring fenced in the deposit account for any repairs should they be required. The hedge along the roadside of the playing field has been removed and the area now looks much better. A strip of land adjoining the playing field has been transferred to Parish ownership this year however, no decision has been made on how to make good use of the area. This is something that the Parish Council will re-visit in the coming year.

## **10 – Allotments – Clerk**

The allotments are fully tenanted and there is no one on the waiting list. There are a total of 18 plots – some very small and manageable and others up to full size. If anyone is interested in putting their name down for a plot they should contact the Clerk and one will be allocated as soon as available.

Balances for the allotment accounts at 31/3/13 as follows:-

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| Balance brought forward  | £386 |
| Income (Rent/Wayleave)   | £218 |
| Expenditure (Water)      | £ 50 |
| Carried forward to 13/14 | £554 |

## **11 - Footpath Wardens Report – Cllr Munford**

Once again the 10.5 miles of footpath in Drinkstone have been very well walked by residents, ramblers and people from nearby villages. The persistent rain over the winter months did make some paths very difficult to access; although things are now much improved. Lots of repairs have been undertaken during the year: - fingerposts have been replaced; bridges installed; steps and stiles repaired. The County Council has confirmed that they will undertake two cuts over the summer months; one starting in May and the second round in August. The Council only cuts the paths which are easy to access; farmers are relied on to keep the others in good shape. Cllr Munford reminded everyone that the footpaths are out of bounds for horse riders and she also requested that people do not wipe their boots on the wooden bridges as it makes the surface very slippery.

## **12 - Drinkstone War Memorial Institute – Sue Foulsham**

I am deeply honoured to have held the reins as Chair of the Village Hall Committee for the last two years, during what has been an incredibly exciting time, and I make no apologies for the fact that the New Village Hall may well be mentioned several times in this report!

Although it is customary for AGM reports to begin at the start of the year and work forwards, this evening I think you will all understand why I intend to begin with current news. The Building Inspector will make his final inspection of the completed Village Hall building tomorrow, and, assuming that all goes well, our stunning new community facility will, at long last, be formally handed over to us on Friday 24th May.

This is a hugely significant event for the people of Drinkstone and I am positive that it will herald a new chapter in the history of our village. We are delighted that all the previous long standing clubs & classes will definitely be returning to the Hall, and the improvement in our facilities will provide us with an opportunity to extend the range of activities which we can offer, in order to benefit of the local community. However we will still have a long list of tasks and formalities to be completed, new furniture to be bought, and licenses to be applied for and secured, before the hall can be ready for everyday village use and for private hire. We are hopeful that we will be able to announce the dates for the re-commencement of the regular clubs and classes very soon.

Whilst on the subject of bookings & events, there is an issue which has to be clarified. A number of people have asked if we intend to run regular pub nights, with alcohol on sale. There are two very important reasons why we are unable to do this: Firstly our charitable status could be withdrawn by the Charity Commission if we run anything that could be considered to be a 'community pub'. The Charity rules allow us to sell alcohol, as long as the sale is not the "primary activity", so this rule will prevent us from holding 'pub' nights. However we will be allowed to sell alcohol, for example, during the interval of a performance, or as an "ancillary activity" in the course of one of our fund raising events, such as a village fete, a quiz night or a musical evening. The loss of our charitable status is unthinkable, as it would remove a range of financial concessions and make any profits liable to tax, which would obviously have a devastating impact on the future of the Village Hall project.

The second crucial reason relates to VAT as we were granted exemption from VAT for the build, which was worth some £60k to us. If we were to do anything that could be considered to be a 'business activity', such as running a regular bar that generates more than 5% of our annual income, the VAT exemption would be removed and we would immediately be liable to pay the whole of the £60k. Clearly we cannot allow that situation to arise. This constraint will continue for 10 years.

However, we will still be able to run events on a 'bring your own' basis, just like we used to in the old village hall, and we will also have 12 Temporary Event Notices at our disposal, which will permit the sale of alcohol for special fund raising events, and possibly for private hirers, if we should have any to spare.

Going back to the story of our year, our first fund raising event held last May was the Sale Trail, which got us off to a very good start, raising over £1100.

Shortly after the Sail Trail, on 29<sup>th</sup> May to be exact, I had the honour of signing the contract with the builders on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, and the New Hall build was finally off the starting blocks!

At our own AGM in June, after many years of service, Nick Lane stood down as one of the 5 Village Hall Trustees, but continued as a member of the Steering Group, lending his valuable expertise and experience to the build. The remaining Trustees - Robin, Merete, Liz and myself, were joined by Debbie Moss who has brought her own very valuable attributes to the position.

The builders arrived on site in early July, and from the first day proved to be very helpful and supportive. It was, once again, a challenge to run the village fete without a Village Hall and so close to a building site, but we did it, and many people said it was the most successful for some years. The Classic Cars brought in a completely new audience, the Drinkstone Dash and Tug of War provided fun for all, and where would we be without the Lyn's Dog Show, Edna's kitchen, Mark and Karen's Barbeque, Manju's Indian snacks and Robin's bar? Together with all the other attractions and stalls, to the backdrop of Trevor's music and under the control of Arena Manager Roger, a born master of ceremony, a good time was had by all. The fete added over £2,000 to the funds and we would like, once again, to record our very special thanks to Barry Evans for his ever-willing all-round practical support and to all the local companies who donated some amazing raffle prizes.



In October we launched our appeal to the village for donations towards the cost of furniture and fittings and the generosity of the residents of Drinkstone was, and continues to be, truly astounding. The names of all those who have made donations will be recorded in a Register of Support which will be displayed in the new hall.

In December the Fund Raising Committee turned its attention to the Christmas Coffee Morning and Hamper Raffle, calling once again on the services of that trusted band of volunteers who are always willing to support the cause by baking, selling raffle tickets and donating produce.

And that brings us round once again to the most recent of our annual events, the Sale Trail, which seems to grow in popularity every year. Hundreds of visitors once again completely took over our sleepy village for the day, and spent their cash at the 28 Garage Sales & 9 tabletops based in the church.

We must also make special mention of the Village Quilt project, which was initiated and led by Margery Ward and added a significant sum to the Village Hall fund. Images of more than 60 houses in Drinkstone have been lovingly crafted onto tapestry squares by their owners, and these are currently being expertly assembled by Margery into stunning panels which will be displayed in the New Hall.

Running parallel with the events already mentioned, there have also been a series of other fund-raising activities, such as the sale of donated surplus foreign currency and used stamps, and the sale of a number of quite unusual donated items on Ebay, all co-ordinated by Robin Sharp, our resident 'Del Boy'!

And somehow, alongside all of these other special projects and activities, the regular clubs, classes and groups have continued. For this we owe a debt of gratitude both to Sheila Beswick, for master-minding the programme of clubs and classes, and to Edna Gunnett for co-ordinating both the Bingo and the Village Draw. We would also like to thank Reverend Ruth and the Church Wardens for allowing us to use the church as the focal point for so many activities and fund raising events over the last couple of years.

The last 6 months or so have passed in a blur of activity for the Village Hall Committee. Many extra meetings have been called in order to apply for licences, formulate policies, and make plans and arrangements vital to the successful running of a modern Village Hall. We have also started to plan the official opening of the Hall and we hope it will be a truly 'community' event, which will celebrate both the completion of the building, and the incredible community effort that has allowed us to achieve it.

I would like to thank both the Village Hall Committee and the Fund Raising Group who have once again risen to the challenge of raising funds despite not having a village hall in which to hold events. Their ingenuity and enthusiasm never ceases to amaze me.

I am indebted to the unswerving commitment of my fellow members of the Steering Group, David Ford, Nick Lane, Liz Schmitt and Dave Woodward, who have all worked tirelessly for the past 2 or 3 years, and to Tim Moss, our Contracts Administrator, who has been our point of contact with the builders, Vaudrey and Son, throughout the build. This multi-skilled group have had to deal with a whole range of issues including grant funding, cash flows, and complex negotiations with the planning department, and have needed to be 'on call' and ready

to make the important decisions which are so vital to any new build. Our special thanks must also go to Tony Schmitt who, despite not being an official member of the committee, has taken on a whole range of highly technical tasks which have played a key part in the successful development of the project. It is to the great credit of all involved that the build will come in very close to budget which, for a project costing £310k, is no mean feat. David Ford will provide details of the finances for the year in his report.

On behalf of everyone in the Village I must repeat my grateful thanks to every member of my multi-talented 'can do' committee: Robin, Merete, Sheila, Edna, Debbie, Sue and Liz, an outstanding team who have 'worked their socks off', and can always be relied upon to 'be there', both for each other, and for the benefit of the village. I am extremely proud of the whole team for the role they have played in finally achieving what some people have historically considered impossible, a brand new Village Hall for Drinkstone!

Above all else, I would like to thank the many residents of the village who have so willingly given us their help and support over the years and who make Drinkstone such a great place to live. In the building of our fantastic New Hall, I think we have, as a village, shown what can be achieved when there is a collective will to succeed, even in today's difficult economic climate.

Sue Foulsham 13/5/13

### 13 Village Charities

1. **Winding up of Widows and Perambulation and Causeway Charities** – Both of these charities are now dormant. No income or any expenditure has been allocated for several years and it was therefore agreed to wind them up. The bank accounts for both charities have been closed and a total sum of £86.45 has been received and paid into the PC account. It was agreed that the amount should be split evenly and half given to the Wrenn Charity and half given to the Cambourne Charity; which are both still active charities in the village.

2. **Cambourne Charity** presented by Henry Riches  
Henry stated he was sad to report the death of Malcolm Robinson who had been a joint trustee of the charity for a number of years. No payments had been made from the charity account this year and it was agreed that the Clerk would draft an advert for the Parish Magazine to highlight the opportunity the charity is to school leavers who are starting work for the first time. The balances for the end of year are as follows:-

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Brought forward    | £1586.62 |
| Interest accrued   | £ 8.54   |
| Balance at 31/3/13 | £1595.16 |

3. **Wrenn Charity** presented by David Ford

The accounts for the charity have been audited by Lionel Denny of Woolpit.

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Brought forward    | £3153.23 |
| Income             | £1310.49 |
| Expenditure        | £1415.80 |
| Balance at 31/3/13 | £3047.92 |

Expenditure for the year included Christmas lunch and gifts for the senior citizens. 62 residents attended the lunch which was once again held at the Cock in Lavenham. It is hoped that this year the lunch will be able to return to the new village hall and residents will again be able to gather in one sitting. David said that the list of poor and needy residents was dwindling and he appealed for new names to be put forward as recipients of the Christmas gifts.

4. **Education Trust** presented by David Ford

The accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 have been checked by Richard Chaplin and formally examined by Robin Jackson of Churchgate Accountants Ltd.

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Balance brought forward | £ 972 |
| Income                  | £1827 |
| Expenditure             | £1680 |
| Balance at 31/12/12     | £1119 |

The value of the endowment policy has increased to £62,892; against the original investment of £47,371 from the sale of the school.

Awards for the year included paying hire fees for clubs and classes; children's trip to the pantomime; various awards for courses, universities and books.

The charity continues to look to support anyone in the village and publishes application forms regularly in the parish magazine.

#### **14 – Other Business**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their reports and said it was a great pleasure to hear that the village is thriving; the residents have a lot to look forward to in the coming year with the grand opening of the new hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:28pm

These minutes will be verified at the next meeting

