

**WEREHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7pm**  
**Wereham Village Hall**

**Attendance:**

<b>Cllr Gail Koopowitz</b>	<b>GK</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Nicola Cooper</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>Parish Clerk (Minutes)</b>
<b>Claire Dorgan</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>Principal Planner – Planning Policy</b> <b>Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk</b> <b>(BCKLWN)</b>
<b>Alex Fradley</b>	<b>AF</b>	<b>Graduate Planner – Planning Policy BCKLWN</b>

**Members of the Public: 27**

**1.0 Welcome and Apologies**

- 1.1 GK welcomed all and thanked them for attending. Unfortunately the outgoing Chair of the Parish Council; Jo Bruce, was unable to attend as she has been admitted to hospital. GK was therefore nominated to chair the meeting and this was agreed unanimously. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Jo Bruce, Cllr Colin Sampson (BCKLWN), Cllr Martin Storey (Norfolk County Council)

**2.0 Last Years Annual Parish Minutes**

- 2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

**3.0 Chairman’s Report**

**WEREHAM PARISH COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (MAY 2014-MAY 2015)**

The last twelve months have seen much progress mainly thanks to a more settled council & clerk. Obviously there is always an impact on what we can/can’t do when changes are made to our structure. It will undoubtedly take a few meetings for this new Council to settle in & learn the ropes.

But I want to take this opportunity now to thank my fellow ex-councillors, Dave Deighton, Karin Newell & Roger Lankfer for their hard work & support over the many years we have all stood together. It’s certainly not an easy job, as the last meeting particularly highlighted. So that’s why it’s important to recognise their contribution to the village now, & thank them all for their service. This job is after all voluntary.

For Karin I will miss her knowledge of the councils ways, not many of you will know that she undertook CiLCA training in her own right to learn more about what we could/couldn’t do. She was our main councillor for all things cemetery & took pride in ensuring that area of the village was always well maintained & no issues arose. Her & Bill have often been spotted trimming back the hedge in their own time & I’m sure I’m not doing her justice as there are many things she’s done over the years that we’ll never know of as she just got stuck in when she saw it & sorted it out.

Dave, will be greatly missed, particularly in November when we start to talk about the next years precept! He was our finance man, and many of the projects the village has already undertaken or can now afford to be done in the near future are thanks to his sharp business mind. Whether it’s been clerk’s appraisals, interviews or any other HR issue he’s helped the less experienced councillors such as myself ensure we are compliant & able to operate. Not only does he have the brains but also the brawn & many little jobs that have needed doing around the village have been done by him. The saving of time & expenses to the village has been great.

Roger has had the shortest recent reign of the 3 exiting councillors; let’s not forget he has had many years of experience under his belt before re-joining us in 2013. He was appointed as the man to keep a watchful eye over the village grounds maintenance team & has ensured all areas of the village are kept to a good standard. Always willing to voice an opinion & happy to go &

speak to parishioners if he felt the personal touch would get things resolved quicker.

I'm very pleased that we still have some experience left on the council; it will certainly help things moving forward. So I'm not going to leave Gail, Brian or Nicky out of my list to thank. Their support has been greatly appreciated. It can be a lonely place sitting up here so thanks to them for sticking with it. And well done to Jacki for putting herself forward this time.

I can honestly say that not one of the councillors I've mentioned tonight has ever done anything other than think about what's best for the village. You cannot do the job if you don't leave all personal thoughts & relationships at the door. We're not here to make friends.

So with 2 places to fill within our small team of 7 I challenge you all to think about what contribution you could make to the village by standing as a councillor! It's not too late. Anyway moving on to what we have managed to achieve over the last 12 months.

In May we adopted new standing orders to ensure we were operating within the new guidance issued to councils. Agreed the ordering & positioning of 2 new dog poo bins for the village. Replaced the paths edging boards in the cemetery. And agreed to carry out monthly play area inspections to ensure safety and other issues were picked up & dealt with swiftly. We set up a PC Facebook page to ensure we were more accessible to all.

In July we lost our previous Chairman & fellow councillor Phil Norris as he was moving outside of the village & so we had a vacancy to fill at the next meeting. Our first annual tree inspection took place by CGM & items requiring attention went out to tender for discussion in September.

September saw us co-opt Nicky Loake on to the council to replace Phil. We also donated £300 towards the village halls new gas heaters. And discussed the tree maintenance quotes & engaged CP Tree Services to carry out the necessary work later in the year.

There's not much to report from the November meeting. It shows how seriously we take the precept that it remained our main focus 2 months before it had to be submitted.

So that said, January was dominated by our annual precept setting exercise which saw no increase on the previous year even though the borough councils tax support grant was reduced. As a council we remain vigilant & committed to reducing costs to all our suppliers but we would not wish to compromise on the service we receive.

As usual the list of things to do is nearly as long as what we have achieved but rest assured we continue to progress things at a steady pace.

In response to worries regarding speeding vehicles on the A134 & access to the newly appointed post box near the pond. After a frustrating 12 months corresponding with the post office we decided we had to tackle the issue ourselves. Luckily we've successfully won a funding grant to cover 50% of the costs for both projects. The final stage is to formally agree the instalment of a dropped kerb near the postbox at the pond & the installation of a SAM2 speeding unit on the A134. Hopefully these will go a small way to making life a bit simpler & safer for residents.

Other big issues to tackle this year include maintaining the play area to bring it back to a respectable standard. Painting the railing near the pond & hopefully if the Borough agree to fund it we should see improvements to the crossing opposite The Row on the A134.

A special mention should go to our clerk Nicola who started her CiLCA training in September. I'm very hopeful that this time next year the chairman's speech will be reporting that she has passed with flying colours. We have every confidence in her, well done for a great 12 months. Without her this job would be twice as difficult!

So if you want us looking at things that concern you & your neighbours you need to let us know what they are. We are here to serve you & what you want. On that note if you attend our meetings then I would like to thank you for your support & in some cases patience! And to all those who don't normally attend I would encourage you to do so, your views are really important to us.

Finally I just wanted to congratulate the Village Hall Committee for their continued hard work & success, very well done to Victoria & all the team for getting through phase one of the lottery funding. I'm sure we all wish you the very best of luck, and none of us underestimate the work

it's taken to get this far. So very well done!

Jo Bruce  
Chairman, Wereham Parish Council

**4.0** A presentation on the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document: Clarification of the Process and Current Position was given by Claire Dorgan and Alex Fradley from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Key points noted:

- The development of the document commenced in 2009.
- Over 1000 sites have been looked at in the development of the document.
- The consultation round in January/February 2015 was the fourth round of consultation.
- The document was submitted to the Secretary of State on 23 April and it is now with the Planning Inspector before it is finalised.
- The Planning Inspector (PI) will review all comments and check the soundness of the document.
- The inspection will take approximately 3 weeks; probably starting mid July. It is normally undertaken Tuesday to Friday.
- The PI will look at all issues and establish which issues and places he wishes to discuss, who to invite, what should be discussed and whether he wants a written response or a formal hearing.
- Any new comments or evidence submitted now will be passed on to the PI but they must be additional information to support existing comments. Any comments from new respondents would be passed on but marked as late.
- Invitations for input are likely to be for a representative of a group, not all individuals within whole groups.
- Everyone who will be invited to make a representation will be written to in early June and the process from there will be explained.
- The PI will look at all proposed allocations and will check the soundness of the process followed to allocate sites, rather than discuss in detail the merits of all individual sites.
- If there have been a lot of objections a hearing is likely but cannot be guaranteed.
- If a hearing is not called in June then any person who has previously made a representation may raise it with the inspector again to re-request it.
- After the hearings any major modifications would have to be consulted on. Changes are likely to be discussed/ agreed at the hearings.
- The PI's report is not binding; Full Council has the final say and they will follow Council protocol, however an 'unsound' document could not be adopted as a basis to guide future planning decisions.
- It is anticipated that the finalised document should be adopted in December and all policies will come into force from that date.

## **5.0 Public Concerns**

6.1 There were no public concerns raised.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Chair..... Date.....