

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF COLLINGHAM PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, LOW STREET,  
COLLINGHAM ON 13 MARCH 2014**

**1. Apologies for absence:** Mr Dowell

**Present:** C Allen, S Dove, D Evans, C Moody, G Norcott, T Ozbourne, M Parkin, R Scott (Chair)  
V Wright

**2. To receive and accept the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 14 March 2013 and reports from the Minutes** – it was proposed by Mrs Moody that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Mr Ozbourne and agreed by those present at that meeting.

**3. Chair's report on Parish events** – see separate report.

**4. Financial report for the previous year and auditor's report** – see separate report.

Mrs Wright thanked Mrs Scott for her leadership and the amount of time she gives to her role as Chair of Collingham Parish Council. Mrs Wright also thanked the Clerk for her hard work.

**5. Open forum for parishioners and representatives of voluntary groups within the Parish to report on their progress in the last year and plans for the future:**

Andrew Hindmarsh from Nottingham Wildlife Trust spoke. He gave a resume of events at the reserve formerly known as Besthorpe Reserve. The new name is Trent Vale Collingham Reserve. The areas in the Reserve have been given different names; the original names came from birdwatchers and were often confusing, for example the Northern Extension, south of the Southern Pond!

To choose the new names maps from 1790 were looked at, new names include Meering Old Works, Besthorpe Meadow, Mons Pool, Ferry Lane Lake, Northcroft Pond, Cow Wath Island and Collingham Great Meadow.

At the start of last year the Reserve was inundated with water. £8000 was spent repairing the damage done. This was paid for by money allocated for habitat work at Mons Pool. The river bank was stabilised using willow and footpaths reinstated. The lagoon at Meering Islands was reprofiled successfully.

Besthorpe Meadows is under investigation. Coppicing and replanting has been carried out at Mons Pool. Herons use the island at Mons Pool and surveying of them began in 1995. In 1996, several chicks died or were deformed. The Environment Agency was involved and through their enquiries it was discovered that the adult Herons were bringing back toxic food to the island. The source was identified and there have been no deformities for 5/6 years but the breeding stock is depleted with only 17 nests.

Cormacks are in decline; this could be due to harsh weather and may reflect a lack of nesting sites. It has been a poor year for Barn and Tawny Owls with only 18 chicks ringed, usually there would be 70. This is due to road kill whilst hunting, if the weather is bad it means no food.

Little Egrets are nesting at Mons Pool; this is the first nesting site in Nottinghamshire. A Pectoral Sand Piper has visited from North America and the sighting of a bird from Russia has also been recorded.

Butterflies exceeded the number expected at the Reserve.

Mr Hindmarsh said that Collingham is lucky to have two Nature Reserves in our Parish, which enhance the area. He asked those present to assess the benefits of membership of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

Mike Ditchburn from Collingham Tennis Club spoke. As he spoke, it was also a momentous night for the Club; it was the last night that tennis would be played under the current flood lights. Thanks to Gusto Construction, the lights would be taken down tomorrow and new lights erected next week.

There are now 4 courts and membership has increased from 133 to 202. Tonight 8 under 11's are playing and 20 in the 11-18 age group, including lots of Tennis Young Leaders. Because of the increase in membership and all the hard work at the Club, it was awarded the Sports Club of 2013 award by Nottinghamshire County Council. World Tennis Day offered members the chance to bring a non-member along for 1 free half hour session. 3 People came, one was a member of the Friends of John Blow School and now all 5 and 6 year olds from the school are using the courts. A teddy bears picnic at the Club is planned by Collingham & District Preschool, while the children play mothers can play tennis.

Mr Ditchburn said that the courts are there, please come and use them!

The Club specialises in those who have never played or haven't played for years. There are now 20 members of the Gentle Tennis group. A Tennis-a-thon is planned with all village groups being invited to take part.

NCC Maureen Dobson spoke. She has had a fascinating first year and terrific support received from and given to the Parish Council. Mrs Dobson wants to finish what the last County Councillor, Vincent Dobson (her husband) started. Bridge Ward has some deprived areas and is getting a new road and park. A new footpath is needed and 8 people have formed a 'footpath group'. Mrs Dobson has asked them to form a mini-Parish Council. Village are very different to urban areas. Village are close knit and volunteers make villages special.

In her second year Mrs Dobson wants to deal with the A1133 with the support of Collingham Parish Council and NCC. 2 interactive lights have been put up at Langford and will be moved to Besthorpe. A petition to extend the 30mph entrances and exits to Collingham has been presented to NCC. Mrs Dobson will be speaking to Noble Foods about their lorries using Nottinghamshire roads when they have access to the A46 using Lincolnshire roads. The A1133 was not built for 40 tonne HGV lorries.

Mrs Dobson thanked Mrs Scott and the Parish Council for their support.

Mr Allen spoke on behalf of the Youth & Community Centre. He welcomed everyone to the refurbished hall. It has a new kitchen with 5 star environment certificate, new lights, 5 new doors, boilers with hot water to toilets, secondary glazing and has had a total repaint throughout.

The old school bell has been restored by a resident and will be rung in the future!

There is a plaque in the entrance hall to show that Lafarge Quarries provided the grant to refurbish the Hall. An event is planned on 5<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the works completed.

A new grant has been applied for £8000 for new furniture, a projector and screen.

Bookings are increasing, in addition to Pilates, Upholstery and the Parish Council groups using the Centre include Weight Watchers, Tambourine Tigers and Pyjama Drama. Children's parties have been popular, as has the new bunting, available in 3 different designs! There has also been one off bookings from Poor Close Allotments, the Tennis Club and the Photo Club.

Fund raising continues with a presence at the May Fair and Collingham Show. The 200 Club this year will raise money to mount and frame a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century map of the village that has been donated. Another map dated 1790 has also been donated. Tickets are available with 2 draws of £75, £50 and 3 x £20. Please continue to the Centre.

Mrs Moody spoke about the Mayfair Committee. The first meeting was very successful with over 20 people attending. The group made the decision to continue with organising the May Fair. The venue has moved to the Cricket Club, this will mean no road closures and the Fair can run from 12-4pm. Setting up and clearing up will be easier too. The raffle will be run by any group that wants to take part; each group will sell tickets and keep 50% of the proceeds. Pitches can be rented at a cost of £10 or £15 depending on size. Mrs Moody is Chair of the Committee, Mrs Solder is Vice-Chair, Mrs Herbert is Secretary and Mrs Wright is Treasurer. Grants have been applied for and a local resident has offered his field for parking. It is hoped that families will come and have a picnic. The Tennis and Bowls Clubs are offering free taster sessions. A May Queen needs to be chosen. A Facebook page has been set up. Mrs Moody thanked all those who had volunteered to help keep the event going.

## **6. Close of Annual Parish Meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.29pm

0 members of the press present

19 members of the public present