

Minutes of the East Hanningfield Annual Assembly 2012

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 20th. May, 2012 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT

Les Draper, Chairman of the Parish Council, in the Chair, County Cllr. Ian Grundy, John Peart, Village Agent, Revd. Pam Pennell and eleven electors of the parish.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Cllr. Richard Poulter, Borough & Parish Cllr. Mike Harris, Kerry Collins, Head Teacher EH School, Paula Hawes, Treasurer & Louise Warley, Chairman Preschool, Mike Plumridge, Treasurer Hanna's Field Charity.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting held on 11th. May, 2011.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

PARISH COUNCIL

Les Draper Chairman of the Parish Council presented the Council's Annual Report, copies of which were provided for those present. Amongst others he referred to the following subjects.

- A Village Design Statement group had been formed and would be holding its inaugural meeting within a month.
- With the co-option of Martyn Gard all seats on the Council were filled.
- PC continued to support local organisations providing financial support for HFC, Preschool and churchyard maintenance.

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- The village tidy-up in April had been a success and volunteers were thanked for turning up despite the wet weather.
- The Easter holiday play-schemes had been very well attended and there would be more sessions in the summer holiday.
- John Allenby the Parish Transport Representative was thanked for his reports to PC Meetings and his attendance at transport meetings.
- The Speedwatch group had been active throughout the year and were receiving feedback from the police. They would welcome more members to their group.
- A new housing survey was shortly to be undertaken for PC by the Rural Community Council of Essex to ascertain whether there was a need for affordable housing for local people.
- The Council's finances remained stable with the Precept at the same level as the previous year.

He thanked Councillors and Clerk for their support during the year.

HANNA'S FIELD CHARITY

Colin Warren, HFC Chairman presented his Chairman's Report from the recent HFC AGM referring to the following:

- Three new members had joined the Committee, but more new faces would be welcome. The facilities were managed by a few for the benefit of many.
- Fund raising events, quarterly Book Sales, Annual Art Exhibition & Village Fete, had proved successful and were to continue with the Exhibition on 7th. July and the Fete on 8th. September.
- Shelving had been installed in the loft to store & display the books.
- Sharon Crow had moved away and her job of booking secretary and caretaker had been taken over by Dan & Jessica Crow.
- HFC and PC were jointly registering the playing fields with the Land Registry.
- The Charity was planning improvements to both building and playing fields, and these were subject to grant funding applications being successful. HFC would be consulting residents about some of the proposed improvements.
- Although income had been down by more than £2,000 overall balances were up by £2,138.53 on the previous year to £25,395.59.
- The Post Office lease was due for review shortly and it had been agreed not to increase the rent.

COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILS

County Councillor Ian Grundy, also a Borough Councillor, attended on behalf of Cllrs. Richard Poulter and Mike Harris who were required at Borough Council. On Borough matters he reported that

- Mike Harris had done a splendid job as Deputy Mayor promoting the Mayor's charity.
- A royal visit was expected shortly to mark the achievement of city status.
- Waitrose and John Lewis were coming to the town.
- The Olympic torch would be passing through the town.
- Waste collection days were changing to make them more efficient and the new food waste collection was going well.

On County matters he reported the following:

- The Highways Dept had moved from using several contractors to using one on a ten year contract.
- The Highways panels which would consist of the county councillors from a borough and some borough councillors would have £1million to spend per district. White lining would be sorted out during the summer.
- Use should be made of the Highway Rangers for such work as cleaning signs etc.
- The switch off of street lights during the early hours was going ahead.
- Potholes that had been marked should be dealt with soon.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Reverend Pam Pennell described how All Saints' was active in the community.

- For children there was a dance group, Edward Bear Club for under 5s, craft mornings for Easter, Harvest & Christmas and the newly formed Rainbows had attended church for a blessing and St. Georges Day.
- She attends WI, Tots, Preschool and school assembly and makes home visits with two helpers.

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- The church is open some afternoons, there would be a musical event in the summer, a picnic in the churchyard at Pentecost and breakfast once a month.
- The Christmas crib service achieved record numbers. Arranged with Bethel, a carol singing event walked around the village ending at the Windmill for mulled wine. There was a Christmas social event for the single elderly.
- There had been eight weddings in the past year, some from outside the village.
- Although a planned games event would not take place, there was to be an “Olympic” event at the Fete. The church would also have a stall at the Fete.
- At All Souls there was a special service for the bereaved, and on Maundy Thursday there were meals in peoples’ homes followed by a service.

VILLAGE AGENT

John Peart, Village Agent briefly described his role as signposting facilities available for the elderly allowing them to stay in their own homes. He had seen 150 new people during the previous twelve months, fourteen of whom were from East Hanningfield.

WOMENS INSTITUTE

Flora Virgoe explained that she was recently elected president following Lilian Crace who had been in post for eleven years. There were 39 members, three quarters of whom were very senior. East Hanningfield WI was 95 years old, being one of the first, and would be having a party to celebrate. They would also be holding a strawberry tea for other local WIs. In addition to their monthly afternoon meetings they were investigating whether they could hold evening meetings to cater for women who are at work during the day.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Peart drew attention to the Rural Community Council of Essex’s new oil buying scheme. The Clerk said that she would include it in the next edition of East Hanningfield News.

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Comment was made concerning the condition of the Tye footway. The Clerk was asked to put it on the Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

There was also a complaint about the water leak near the Tye noticeboard. The Clerk reported that she had repeatedly reported it to the water company and the water company claimed to have tested the water and found it to be ground water. She had therefore decided to wait until dry weather to report again, when it would be obvious that it was caused by a leak. Unfortunately, the continuous rain had prevented the land from drying out.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.34pm.