



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 16th May
2016 at the Community Centre Great Notley**

Meeting commenced at 7pm

Those present: Councillors Heady (Chair) Ricci, Crawford, Price, Cunningham (late arrival) and the Clerk.

Also in attendance: Allan John (Tree Warden), Paul Ashworth (Scouts) Jennifer Hyde (Citizens Advice), Isobel Reid (WI), Neil and Nicky Parkinson and Ken Yap (NGCA), County Councillor Roger Walters. Four members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Councillors Butland, Paul, Cooper and Mr Stuart Ellis the Head Teacher of Notley Green School.

2. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting held Monday 9th March 2015.

The Minutes from the last Parish Assembly held on 9th March 2015 were **approved** by members and signed by the Chair.

3. Financial Report

The draft accounts of the Parish Council for year end March 2016 were presented. They are due to be formally approved at the Annual Parish Council meeting.

4. To hear from organisations that received a grant from the Parish Council in the last financial year.

Paul Ashworth from the 1st Great Notley Scouts spoke to thank the Parish Council for the grant of £597.00 which had been used to purchase 3 bar serving tables. He confirmed that as well as providing Scouting events the pack are involved in community events and the Scouts provide catering at the village fete and the tables will be used at that event which will take place this year on 2nd July 2016.

Jennifer Hyde the CEO of Braintree Halstead and Witham Citizens Advice thanked the Parish Council for the grant of £500.00. She confirmed that assistance had been provided to 3,045 clients this year or which 120 came from the Great Notley ward being 4% of total clients. She provided an overview of the service provided and the fact that there are 9 paid staff and 30 volunteers. As well as advice to the public the service is involved in research and campaigning. This year the bureau are looking to improve the telephone service as they are aware that due to funding cuts and clients' needs they

need to consider ways of providing advice other than the traditional face to face meetings. She also provided leaflets about the 'healthy homes active advice' scheme.

Neil Parkinson spoke on behalf of the NGCA and confirmed that the grant of £1,725 from the Parish Council was used to provide the Zorb balls and climbing wall free of charge to users at the fete. The profit from the fete last year was £4,230 which was distributed to the affiliated groups and the Scouts. This year's donation from the Parish Council will cover the cost of Zorb balls and bungee trampolines.

5. Parish Council Chairman's Report on the Year.

The Chairman read out his report (copy attached) which will also be made available in the next edition of the Great Notley Times.

6. County Councillor's Report

Councillor Roger Walters had provided a lengthy written report and a precis will be included in the next magazine. He confirmed that Essex County Council have increased Council Tax by 1.99% plus a further 2% being the Social Care levy. The effect will be a rise of 84p per week for a band D property and it is the first increase for 5 years. This is due to the fact that very substantial savings need to be made by Essex over the coming years. Also attempts are being made to work more closely with Districts in the county to try and form a unified arrangement which would be headed by an elected Mayor. Councillor Walters will shortly be stepping down after 16 years of service as a County Councillor.

7. District Councillors' Report

Councillor Ricci confirmed that Braintree District Council are currently working on the new Development Plan which will shortly go out to consultation with the public. Although Council tax has increased this year he noted that the Great Notley Parish still has one of the lowest Precept rates in the District.

8. Any other matters raised by Residents.

A resident asked for information on the current stage of development of Skyline 2. Councillor Ricci stated that although Countryside Properties had stepped away from the project, the area is still earmarked for economic development. The project is currently on hold.

The same resident asked what could be done to improve the amount of parking outside the GP surgery. Councillor Ricci explained the process residents would need to follow with the North Essex Parking Partnership if they wish to propose a form of parking control.

A resident raised a question in relation to the fun fair that was sited at the Green last week. Specifically he asked about consultation and whether the Parish Council would object to such an activity in future and why the County Park was not used. It was explained that this was a small District Council licensed fun fair that has been working in the District for some years. The event was an attraction for youngsters and seemed to be enjoyed by them. It was a surprise to the Parish Council that the fair arrived earlier than had been expected as this had not been effectively communicated by the District Council so communication could possibly have been a little better. However

the land is owned by Braintree District Council and it is to be expected that events may occur on a village green. In response to questioning it was confirmed that if such an event were to be proposed in future the Parish Council would make comments on a case by case basis having first asked searching questions and would not necessarily object if acceptable answers were forthcoming.

Councillor Walters confirmed that the Country Park is not owned by the District Council but by Essex County Council.

It was noted that Braintree District Council were making what they considered to be best use of their asset and do not require the consent of the Parish Council for its use. It was noted although some residents objected to its presence many other residents enjoyed the event.

Meeting concluded at 7.45pm