



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
2017 at the Community Centre Great Notley**

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Meeting commenced at 7.35pm

Present: Councillors Heady (Chair) Crawford, Ricci, Cunningham,  
Cooper and the Clerk

Two representatives from the Carpet Bowls club, two representatives from  
the NGCA, a representative from the Scouts and a representative from  
Sustrans.

No other members of the public were present

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Councillor Price. Apologies for late arrival received from  
Councillor Cooper. The tree warden Allan John also sent apologies.

**2. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting held Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

The Minutes from the last Parish Assembly held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were  
**approved** by members and signed by the Chair.

**3. Financial Report**

The draft accounts for year-end March 2017 which will be presented for  
approval at the Annual Parish Council meeting were made available to view.  
It was noted that some money has been set aside for specific projects.

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

David Wright from the Scout group showed the meeting the large frying pan  
that had been purchased using the grant money awarded by the Parish  
Council and explained how it has made it easier to cook for large numbers of  
children. As well as being used by the 160 Scouts (supported by 40 adults) in  
the Great Notley group it will also be made available to Scout groups in  
Braintree. The fact that the purchase had been funded via a Parish Council  
grant is explained in the Scout newsletter, in the article for the Great Notley  
Times and in publicity at the village fete.

Terry Weeks from the Carpet Bowls club thanked the Parish Council for the  
grant received which together with a grant from District Councillors is being  
used to replace old and worn bowling carpets. He explained that there are  
around 40 current members of the club. He will be arranging a photo  
opportunity when the new carpets arrive to thank the Parish Council and  
District Councillors for the funding. In addition efforts are being made to  
dispose of the old carpets to a local organisation. He asked whether the old

carpets may be stored in the Parish Council storage unit for a couple of weeks if need be. The Chairman stated that this would be considered and a response made to the club.

Neil Parkinson from the NGCA explained how the grant for the fete had been utilised in funding some administrative matters such as the fee for licensing and that the majority of money had funded the hire of the zorb balls and bungee trampoline which were provided for free at the fete. He confirmed that £5,500.00 was raised by the fete which was utilised in grants to good causes such as the Scouts, Air Cadets, WI, Ducklings and the money raised by the dog show benefitted the Dog's Trust. The fete which is not simply designed to raise money provided a very good day for villagers with approximately 3,000 people attending during the event. Ken Yap from the NGCA asked whether Ducklings being both a section of the NGCA and also an independent organisation may apply for a grant. The Chairman confirmed that in view of the technical nature of the enquiry a response would be made in due course. Sandra Reynolds from Sustrans explained how the grant money received had been used to move a fingerpost. Cycle route 16 passes through the village along the main spine footpath. The fingerpost had been located in bushes close to the London Road which had been the previous route of the cycleway. The Parish Council provided a grant for it to be moved but unfortunately it had been vandalised. Arrangements were made to paint the post and after investigations were made the post was re-installed funded by a further grant from the Parish Council using steel anchors further along the path where it has so far remained in situ. She hopes that this piece of artwork will inspire people to walk and cycle.

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

The Chairman presented his annual report which will also be published in the Great Notley Times magazine.

**6. County Councillor's Report**

Councillor Roger Walters had provided an annual report in relation to County matters which will be published in the Great Notley Times.

**7. District Councillors' Report**

Councillor Cunningham confirmed that the main issue for the District Council in the past 12 months has been the formulation of a Local Development plan up to 2033. The plan has been agreed by the Local Plan sub-committee and will be recommended to full council at a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The recommendation will include an allocation of land to the east of London Road in the Black Notley parish as an area of growth for development for housing.

**8. Any other matters raised by Residents.**

A question was raised as to the future of the Oakland's Inn public house. It was confirmed that as a result of efforts of a group of local residents the pub has been added to the list of assets of Community Value held by the District Council which will delay the brewery in relation to any sale of the property. The latest information received by the Parish Council is that a developer has shown tentative interest in the pub with the wish to maintain it as a public house.

A question was raised as to who is responsible for highways and it was explained that this is Essex County Council and that issues may be reported using the online reporting tool on the Essex County Council website. An issue was raised in relation to damage to the road outside the Oakland's Inn and the Chairman noted this and stated it would be reported on to Essex County Council.

A question was raised by an NGCA representative in relation to an approach being made to the brewery to keep its land clean and tidy. It was explained that the Clerk has been in liaison with the brewery and as a result the current hedges fencing has been erected to protect the site. It was confirmed that the brewery has refused permission for the NGCA to use the car park and it was requested that the Parish Council raise the issue with the brewery. The Chairman confirmed that the matter would be raised by the Parish Council.

A question was raised regarding the bus service and whether it would be improved in view of future potential development. It was noted that the number 34 service was simply not used enough but the number 9 service has been diverted to provide a form of substitute.

The issue of access to the green was raised and a representative from NGCA stated that the bollards are not in the correct position to afford access to the green for the fete. As this is land owned by Braintree District Council the issue was directed to the District Councillors present.

A comment was made in relation to the recent fair on the green and the fact that the travelling fair expected to be able to source water from the pub and had not been made aware that the pub had closed and that this should be fed back to the District Council.

The issue of police in the Parish was raised and the perception of increased anti-social behaviour.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Cooper arrived.

It was requested that the Parish Council make efforts to liaise with the Police to obtain some form of patrol from a local PCSO rather than the occasional drive through by a Police car.

Meeting concluded at 8.20pm