

Village Meeting – Friday 12 April 2013

South Lopham Parish Council

Introduction

Thank you Granville - and Good Evening everyone. My name is Sarah Martin and I am acting temporary chairperson of South Lopham Parish Council. As many of you will know our last Chairman Robert McCaw, and his wife Madelaine, moved away from the village in February this year and as we have not yet elected a new chairman the current members of the council are taking it in turns to fill that role.

People

In addition to me the council members are Steve Reynolds, who was co-opted following the retirement of Peter Coster at the beginning of last year, David Huggins, Tim Frizzel, Jim Pursehouse, Robert Webb and our newest recruit John Crisp who was co-opted in March.

We are very fortunate to have Caroline Phillips as our Clerk. She is doing a fantastic job, assisted by her husband, Gary, as Responsible Financial Officer.

Council matters

We meet six times a year and the minutes of our meetings are always available for anyone to read and you are very welcome to come and sit in on our meetings and make a contribution if you wish.

Each year we are required to set a precept. This is the amount of money that the Parish Council estimates it will require in the following year. It was agreed to keep the precept as low as possible and you will see a proportion of this amount included as part of your council tax bill. The precept for this year was set at £3000.

The Council agreed that the small balance of the Malson Legacy should go towards the cleaning and servicing of the Church Organ.

Agenda topics

During the year several topics have repeatedly appeared on the agenda. Probably top of the list is concern about the speed of traffic through the village, both on the 1066 and on Church Rd and Redgrave Rd. We continue to do what we can to make the relevant bodies aware of our concerns. Representatives attend the Safer Neighbourhood (SNAP) meetings and wheelie bin stickers have been distributed asking people to show down in the village and to encourage responsible driving.

The Council receives numerous reports about potholes in the roads, surface water, and the state of the verges. The Breckland community Rangers are very helpful in dealing with these matters and I think are doing a good job.

Concerns about dog fouling in public areas were also received. Hopefully increased public awareness and notices to encourage responsible behaviour by dog owners have improved the situation.

Footpaths

Following concerns about the state of some local footpaths we have acquired a supply of new finger posts. However, due to government cutbacks, we now have to arrange to install these ourselves. I think discussions about the production of a local footpath map are on-going.

Phone Kiosk

Book exchange

Website

We are grateful to Steve Reynolds who is looking after the village website and I think he will say a few words about this later.

That concludes my report.