

PARISH OF MISTERTON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM ON TUESDAY 13TH MAY, 2008

Present: Councillor H. M. Brand in the Chair.
20 members of the public were present

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Brand welcomed Councillor Liz Jefferies, Chairman of Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN).

2. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS FOR 2007

Councillor Jefferies presented the Misterton Parish Council Citizen of the Year Awards to Mrs. Shirley Moody (senior) and Miss Annie Curtis (junior).

Mrs. Moody was given the senior award in recognition of her community involvement. She was heavily involved with Misterton Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows and Brownies, and, because of this involvement she was always active at Remembrance Day, Christingle, and the St George's Day parade. She had in the past run classes in Misterton for North Notts College. She did shopping for people who were less mobile. She did all these things while holding down a full-time job and administering to the needs of her family.

Annie Curtis organised, co-directed, starred in and cajoled other young people to perform in two plays, held at Misterton Methodist Church. The plays were very successful, well-supported, and raised vital funds for charity.

The public present showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

3. OUTSTANDING MERIT AWARD

Councillor Jefferies presented an Outstanding Merit Award to Mrs. June Ray.

Mrs. Ray was given the award in recognition of her involvement in running 1st Misterton Guides for the past 30 years. Due to her commitment and enthusiasm, this had been an extremely successful Guides unit, and many girls had benefited from their time in the Guides. She also took the girls camping twice a year, which was a huge responsibility - even to Austria on one occasion.

June had also run Misterton Ranger Unit for many years, which caters for the older girls, and she had done this for many years, taking them on many visits. June was also an Assistant Guider at Misterton Rainbows.

June also ran 1st Misterton Scout and Guide Band for a number of years. This was a band that travelled to many places to lead parades, and to perform at functions both in the county and further afield. The Band was very successful, and due to June's leadership won many trophies at British Youth Band Association competitions.

The public present showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk read out the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting in summary. He then explained that two electors had raised concerns over the accuracy of the Minutes following publication of the unapproved Minutes in May, 2007.

Councillor Brand explained that the Minutes were not intended to be a verbatim record of proceedings, but should record the general tenor of the meeting.

The two electors concerned then explained why they had raised the issue with the Clerk in 2007.

Resolved: By five votes in favour to one against, that the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

5. MISTERTON AND WEST STOCKWITH JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Simmons submitted the following report:

The last meeting was on April 9th 2008.

Balance as at 31st March 2008 £4,469.66

The committee reviewed fees, which are obtainable from the Committee Secretary, Mr C. Bramham.

It is planned to improve the central drive way through the cemetery to provide a turn round at the far end for vehicles when funds allow.

6. THE CHARLES COOPER TRUST FOR ALMSHOUSES

Councillor Simmons submitted the following report:

The Charles Cooper Trust is a trust, which was founded by Mr C Cooper, a village resident many years ago. The Trust owns 3 flats on Morton Terrace, Gainsborough and 2 Flats in Rectory Avenue, Gainsborough which are let to people in need in Misterton or Gainsborough. The tenant making a contribution to the Trust in lieu of rent.

The last meeting was held at Gainsborough House on 14th April 2008 at 2.00pm.

Balance as at 26th November 2007 £57,139.03, out of which repair and maintenance is used.

Morton Terrace

Flat one - £34.00 per week

Flat two - £24.00 per week

Flat three - £25.00 per week

Rectory Avenue

Flat one - £26.00 per week

Flat two - £25.00 per week

7. THE CHARITY OF GEORGE WELLS

Councillor Keat submitted a brief report on grants and annual distributions.

An elector raised a concern that a grant application had not been dealt with, despite a reminder, to the Secretary, and Councillor Brand apologised and agreed to raise the matter with the Secretary.

8. SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Councillor Brand reported as follows:

The most significant recent event was the OFSTED inspection, just completed. The School rated satisfactory overall (4 levels of ratings: outstanding, good, satisfactory, inadequate) with 2 good ratings for personal development and well being, and Care guidance and support, and 5 satisfactory. From this the action plan will be developed.

9. NORTH EAST BASSETLAW FORUM

Councillor Brand submitted the following report:

The Forum met every three months (June, September, January, March) representing the interests of parishes and other organisations across North east Bassetlaw. The Forum had been expanded to take in Mattersey.

The Forum was grateful to the District Council for providing secretariat services – and for agreeing to give continued support to the Forum.

The Forum had representation on the Sub-Committee of Robin Hood Airport Consultative Committee.

A few practical outcomes:

- Final report of the Transport Needs Survey – completed and shared with organisations in Notts and South Yorkshire
- Presentation on planning, with the opportunity to convey concerns about low priority given to residents' (and parish councils') views on developments in their communities

- Updates on Safer Neighbourhood Group meetings, discussing common concerns. Concerns about local policing raised with (previous) local area commander
- Contributed to consultation, e.g. future of Post Office network
- Pressed for alternatives to road use for transportation of sand and gravel from Sturton-le-Steeple quarry. Main road route runs through NEBF villages.

10. MISTERTON AREA PARTNERSHIP LIMITED

Councillor Brand reported that the 10-year plan of Misterton Area Partnership continued its work of addressing issues raised by local people during consultation:

- influencing development of former Newell's site to include live/work units
- future of the sports field
- community buildings
- affordable housing.

A lack of volunteers to take on some of the issues arising from the 10-year plan meant that MAP hasn't had a very active year.

11. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a detailed report on the financial position of the Parish Council.

Cash balances and transactions relating to Haxey Gate Endowment and Misterton Community Trust were excluded from the figures given in the report. This was because of a recent change in the accountancy rules which excluded charities from the accounts in cases where the Parish Council was the sole trustee. Poors Fund had always been included, and continued to be, as trusteeship comprised three nominated parish councillors. Standerling Charity had never been included in the accounts, as trusteeship comprised four individuals nominated by the Parish Council, together with the Vicar.

The Parish Council started the Financial Year 2007-08 with a balance of £19,140, which included a capital reserve of £12,782 from the sale of land at Church Drive. The precept was set at £65,580. Concurrent Grant amounted to £1,559 and Cemetery Grant to £568. Income came to £85,432 and expenditure to £84,440, leaving a year-end balance of £20,132.

In the current year the Parish Council had budgeted to spend £78,019, leaving a target balance at 31st March, 2009 of £7,170. The precept remained at £65,580 as, when it was set, the outcome of the Station Road common land issue remained outstanding, and the Parish Council had to budget for further legal costs. It had no choice in the matter, being under a legal duty to budget for such eventualities. The common land was eventually sold for £106,500, and payment was received in 2008/09.

Payments to local organisations under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, in respect of matters considered to be for the good of the community, amounted to £2,204.

With regard to the Combined Charities, at Christmas 2007 £340 was distributed to 68 Parishioners - each receiving £5.

The Village Charity Account working balances, as at 31st March, 2008, stood as follows:

Haxey Gate Endowment	157.98
Misterton Pools Fund	70.82
Standerling Charity	141.20
Misterton Community Trust	200.00

12. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Brand delivered the following report:

Opening Remarks

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. Thanks for coming – you will be relieved to hear that I'm keeping my report brief for several reasons: firstly, it will appear in the next Parish Council newsletter and I don't want to give the Clerk an unnecessarily difficult task at abbreviating it. And, secondly, I don't want to repeat everything in the spring newsletter.

It's been a busy year – and one that this Parish Council and residents should be proud of. Before I go on to outline some of the village's achievements, I would like to say thank you to:

- People in this community who make a positive contribution to village life – many quietly and in an unassuming way.
- Those working for organisations with which we work in partnership: the District and County councils, the Police, the School, the Youth Club, the Sports Social Club, the numerous voluntary organisations – and many more
- Members of this Parish Council, who demonstrate their commitment to this community by giving freely of their time in many more ways than just turning up for meetings – and, generally, getting little thanks (and often not a little criticism) for it!
- Finally, special thanks to the Clerk, who again has had the skills, experience, professionalism, and vision to advise this Council and the tenacity to manage the Council through some difficult moments.

Thank you to all of you.

People

We're had quite a turnaround over the last twelve months. Barbara Boulby, Sandra Farmer and Graham Shipley have all left the Parish Council. Our best wishes go out to them for their past service. Jenny Adams, Sarah Harwood-Gray, and Ralph Rimington replaced them.

Andrea Sly, our former Receptionist at The Misterton Centre, has left us, and Pauline Dickinson has taken her place. A special welcome to Pauline this evening, ... [her first meeting ever]... who has come along to see what it is that parish councillors – and the Clerk – get up to on these Tuesdays during the year. I don't want to embarrass Pauline, but I would like to commend the way she has fitted into the role of Receptionist at The Misterton Centre and has proved extremely able.

Achievements

Well, what another great year we've had, starting with the official opening of The Misterton Centre in June, when Chief Constable Steve Green, officiating, described it as a model of excellence.

Next came the announcement that we'd been awarded the Business Award for Central England in the Calor English Village of the Year Competition.

In the autumn, we heard that we were the only local council in England and Wales to be shortlisted in all three Co-operative Bank/LCR Communications Competitions – annual report, newsletter and website. We went on to be awarded third place in the Annual Report Competition.

And then, last but not least, we were awarded the joint runner-up prize in the Aon/NALC Council of the Year Competition. The winner, Ivybridge, and joint runner-up, Sedgefield, are both town councils, and so that made us top parish council in England and Wales.

We were the only parish or town council to win awards in both the Council of the Year Competition and the Communications Competition.

Kate Macdonald and Craig Bland, proprietors of Misterton MOT & Service Centre, won our own Most Improved Premises Competition. This was the first commercial premises to win the award, which was presented at the October Parish Council meeting. We extend our appreciation to all the entrants, as they make a real contribution to the quality of life in Misterton.

Best Kept Village Competition

We didn't do as well in this competition last year, and will be considering our next steps in the Annual Parish Council meeting to follow. Unfortunately, we have quite a lot of buildings in the village at the moment that don't live up to expectations.

The Misterton Centre

The Misterton Centre has quickly become a civic focal point for the village and surrounding villages, providing information and services of a public nature. We pride ourselves that we will tackle any problem with our very best endeavour.

The Misterton Centre was included in a recent joint production by Notts ALC and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire – RCAN for short, which was formerly known as Notts Rural Community Council - which featured six outstanding achievements by parish councils in Nottinghamshire. The Misterton Centre was the only Bassetlaw inclusion.

Station Road Common Land

We're very pleased that this longstanding problem, which recently entered its sixth year, has been resolved, with a sale of the common land for £106,500. The sale was made subject to covenants preserving parking rights on the common land and access across the common land to the canal towpath.

The sale will significantly improve our finances, although it must be stressed that the net capital receipt may only be used to finance capital spending. We're taking legal advice on what revenue deductions we can make from the gross receipt.

Redevelopment of the Jenkins Newell Dunford Factory Site

As we reported in the spring newsletter, we've made representations to the Planning Inspectorate to the effect that Bassetlaw Planning Committee received incorrect advice when it was told that it could not take the future of the club into account when determining the recent planning application for 78 dwellings. Our stance is that, if the Inspector allows the pending appeal, he should impose a condition requiring provision of a new social club/community building on land to be provided elsewhere in the village by Langley Homes.

Infrastructure

We were very pleased that our attempts to persuade the County Council to resurface Minster Road were successful. We're currently talking to the County Council about the possibility of a puffin crossing on High Street and a temporary interactive sign outside Newells Terrace. The big story of the summer was, however, the floods of 25 June, which caused significant damage to certain properties. Once again, our good relations with the County Council have brought about drainage improvements at the junction of Gravel Holes Lane and Grovewood Road, which will hopefully prevent further flooding at that location.

Something else we're doing is putting together a parish emergency plan. Thanks go to our working group, comprising Councillors Moffett, Burton and Stead.

On the big issue of hoped-for rationalisation of the public buildings at School Corner, we've established a firm dialogue with the County Council and it is hoped that firm proposals will be put to our meeting on 8 July. No resident has come forward with a hint of a plan on the future use of the Victoria Institute in the period it has been unoccupied and derelict. So the future plan will most likely include demolition of all buildings on site, apart from the listed building and old school house, but including the Victoria Institute. This will allow the listed building to be redeveloped as a modern library and youth centre, with the remainder of the site, including the old school house, being sold off for private housing.

Later this evening we'll be discussing offers received for the purchase of the Village Hall, planning permission having been obtained for change of use to residential at the third attempt and following a battle to prevent proposals to list the building. If a sale can be achieved, it will resolve the problem of another redundant building in the village.

After many years of dialogue with the District Council over the need to demolish the old bank on Station Street, we've established that legislation is available to tackle eyesores like it. The District Council is currently undertaking legal research, and it is hoped that it won't be too long before this eyesore is removed. Thanks to District Councillor Simpson for his help in this matter.

Sports Field

Working with the Cricket Club, we've been able to redesign the interior of the sports pavilion to facilitate the serving of cricket teas, thus resolving a longstanding problem. North Notts Landscapes again beautifully maintained the sports field. Last summer was a real headache with criminal damage, seven crimes being reported, including wanton vandalism to the new cricket sightscreens.

Routine Matters

Paul Hinds, who also maintains the Joint Burial Committee burial grounds, once again beautifully maintained the village amenity areas.

The Summer Gala was once again successful.

The Christmas illuminations were beautiful as ever – thanks mainly to Derrick Wheewall, but with thanks also to Clive Burton, Robert Dunkerley, the Methodist Church, and a donation from the Co-op.

The Christmas Charity Distribution was made as usual. Councillors continue to play an active role on the four village charities, being the Haxey Gate, Poors, Standrings and Wells Charities, together with, of course, the new Misterton Community Trust.

Donations to local voluntary organisations continue in the usual way. In 2007 we gave an exceptionally large donation of £10,000 from our capital reserve to the school, towards the £35,000 cost of bringing the swimming pool up to standard. The headteacher confirmed that the project would not have gone ahead without this major donation, and we're very pleased that the work is now complete.

Closing Remarks

So – it's been a busy year and another successful one. We were the top parish council in the Council of the Year competition and I hope that we will hit the jackpot in 2009. And we should have another shot at the Clerk of the Year award, too. So here's to the past successful year – and may there be many more!

13. MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS PRESENT

- (a) An elector enquired whether it was true that air traffic at Robin Hood Airport had not grown as originally predicted. The Clerk confirmed that was the case. Another elector reported that freight traffic had grown, as opposed to passenger traffic.
- (b) A discussion took place about the implications for housing, infrastructure, leisure, etc. of the proposals to rationalise the Old School site, including Victoria Institute. Councillor Brand stressed that no firm decisions had yet been reached.
- (c) An elector pointed to the desirability of a bypass for Misterton, particularly as heavy goods vehicle traffic was predicted to grow, both in numbers and size of vehicle. Councillor Brand confirmed that the Parish Council would keep the matter under review.
- (d) An elector drew attention to the forthcoming Public Inquiry into refusal of planning permission for 78 dwellings on the former Jenkins Newell Dunford factory site. He urged residents to show solidarity by attending.
- (e) An elector expressed the view that the new development to the immediate south of Wharf Bridge was out of keeping with the character of the area