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Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting – 16 May 2017

This was an informal meeting, with no formal agenda or minutes taken. However the following notes may be of interest to parishioners:

The meeting was attended by Councillors and approximately seven parishioners.

Following introductions, the Council Vice Chairman, **Mr Gary James** invited the trustees of the village charities to present their annual reports. A full copy of each report is attached as an appendix to these notes.

Charities:

- **Feoffees.** Submitted by **Mr Richard Saltmarsh** - See Report Appendix 1 .
- **Saywell Church Causeway.** Submitted by **Mr Mike Bateman.** See Appendix 2
- **Blanche Prentice** – Submitted by **Mr Mike Bateman** See Appendix 3
- **St Thomas' Charity** – Submitted by **Mr Mike Bateman** See Appendix 3
- **Bluntisham Saywells School Charity.** **Mrs Sue Everest** read out the annual report see appendix 4. She invited applications to the charity from local organisations for grants, in line with the charity's principle
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Finance report: **Mr Gary James** read out the Finance report, submitted by the RFO, see appendix 8

Chairman's report: **Mr Gary James** read out the Chairman's annual report, see Appendix 5, but some highlights of the last year were:

- Hedge cutting & garden maintenance around village hall
- Village litter pick
- Decorating of foyer and meeting rooms in village hall
- Fund raising events in village hall – quiz night, craft fair, pop up restaurant and even a visit from Mr Dickens
- Village advent & carols around the village Christmas tree, albeit very wet!
- Play park upgrade
- Outdoor gym
- Refurbished bus shelter

District Council update: **Mr Robin Carter** attended the meeting and provided a report – See appendix 6. Mr Carter reiterated the importance that residents, make their comments on any of the proposed planning developments in the village via the HDC planning portal so that they are considered as part of the application process.

County Council update: **Mr Steve Criswell** attended the meeting and provided a report – See Appendix 7

Questions from the floor and actions agreed:

Mrs Joan Gutteridge asked Mr Carter if there had been any changes to the rural exception areas within the village and he confirmed that there had been no changes.

Mrs Philippa Hope asked Mr Criswell that full scrutiny be applied to the application for the extension to the Envar site, as the application is to extend opening hours and double the capacity and type of waste processed..

Mr Criswell was asked about S106 Payments from Envar should this go ahead and he advised that there would be no S106 payments as this was an existing business on an existing site.

Mr Criswell confirmed that he continues to work for improvements to Wheatsheaf Cross Roads, where Envar are located, and that the planning application from Envar states that the traffic from the extended site will not make an impact on traffic locally.

Mrs Joan Gutteridge mentioned safety concerns with the junction now, as a result of a lack of white lines and overgrown verges.

Mrs Eve Smith asked Mr Criswell whether the fact that an increase in the number of vehicles coming to and from the Envar site would further impact the traffic in St Ives, which was going to be compounded by the newly approved site to contain a McDonalds, Costa, Subway and one other. Mr Criswell responded this would be taken in to account and that CCC highways had been involved in the McDonalds site and that they were content that the improvements to traffic flow had been well thought out and that road improvement measures (finger islands) will be installed to help increase traffic flow.

Mr John Smith asked that there be no further developments in the area until the traffic infrastructure is vastly improved to cope with current demands.

Mrs Sue Everest suggested that CCC Highways officers visit the area during peak times to make their assessments rather than at off peak times, visits at peak times would provide a true reflection of the current situation.

Mrs Joan Gutteridge stated that she has concerns with CCC Highways and the level of scrutiny given to their decisions.

Mr Roger Steel asked if it was possible that a member of CCC Highways and HDC planning be invited to a Parish council meeting – this was confirmed as a valid request.

Mr Criswell and Mr Carter were asked to confirm whether or not HDC had fulfilled its 5 Year Plan for new house numbers, and they confirmed that this was the case.

Gary James confirmed that a planning meeting is to be held on 24.05.2017 to discuss the application for Colne Road development from Bidwells and that the time and date would be advertised on the Bluntisham Parish council website and Facebook page as well as village notice boards.

Mrs Eve Smith asked that all the comments from residents be collated and taken in to account. Mr Gary James confirmed that this would be the case and once again reminded everyone to use the HDC planning portal and make their opinions known to HDC

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Mrs Philippa Hope - Councillor