

**Minutes of the 20TH Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7.00pm at Exning Community Church Hall**

PRESENT: Councillors T Wood (Chairman), R Bye, S Cole, J Gowing, H Hathaway, R May, S McGuiness, R Stubbs. Mrs Cathy Whitaker (Clerk), PC Ainsworth (Newmarket SNT), 17 residents of the parish.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Item 1: Welcome by the Chairman: Chairman, Cllr T Wood, welcomed everyone & thanked them for their attendance.

Item 2: Chairman's Report for the year 2017/2018

Chairman's Report May 2018

I took over as Chairman of Exning Parish council this time last year; it was a complete surprise to me when I was elected and somewhat daunting. Like all villages, Exning faces many challenges and in my view the only way to meet these challenges is for, not just the Parish Council, but all organisations within the village to work together and to involve the whole community in the decision making process. We have had number of successes this year (as outlined in the Parish Clerks Report) which would not have been possible without the help of our very able County and District Councillors who have held the elected bodies of Suffolk County Council and Forest Heath District Council to account when they have failed to listen to the views or needs of the people of Exning. We have also had failures; this being the dropped curb on Windmill Hill by the telegraph pole and of course, pot holes which is a nationwide problem; but we will continue to lobby SCC Highways to meet their obligations. We have relaunched the Exning News, which is a village magazine, and even though it is produced at the moment by the Parish Council, it belongs to the village and any member of the public who lives in the village is free to contribute. We have launched a scheme called Exning in Bloom which encourages villagers to plant flowers in their gardens or to erect hanging baskets. The parish Council will also be doing some planting around the village to make the village look better and a better place in which to live. Surprisingly the decision to move on with Exning in Bloom was met with some opposition at council level but was voted through. I would like to assure all concerned that the planting by Exning Parish council will not come out of Council Funds but will be paid for by sponsors and the entry fee into the competition. Myself and the Parish Clerk will be visiting local businesses to get their support and then we will be in a position to announce what the prize will be and how and when judging will take place. I know it will be a slow process to get this scheme of the ground (no pun intended), but we have had several messages of support and offers of sponsorship. My vision of the village is to keep building on and improving on what we have already achieved and to include all villagers at every level. If we work together we can succeed; if we don't failure is inevitable. Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all the Parish Councillors, together with the village keepers, that have supported me over the last twelve months: we don't always agree but we all have the same end in mind, which is what is best for Exning. Finally I would like to say a special thank you to Cathy Whitaker, our Parish Clerk, who is the first point of contact for all villagers and councillors; she does a fantastic job on behalf of all of us in the village yet sometimes does not get the credit she deserves. Thank You, Cathy. **Terry WOOD. Chairman Exning Parish Council May 2018**

Item 3: To agree & sign the Minutes of the 19th Annual Parish meeting, held on Wednesday 24th May 2017, as a true record: The minutes were agreed and duly signed, with no amendments. (proposed Cllr R Stubbs, seconded Cllr S McGuiness, agreed by all present)

Item 4: Local group & organisation reports:

1st Exning Beavers: run by Bryony Rothwell on term-time Monday evenings at Exning Primary School. *The group started in January after some successful taster sessions before Christmas and now has 24 Beavers with a waiting list. There will also be a pack of 17 Cubs meeting simultaneously from 11 June. The Beavers recently attended their first Family Camp event at Bradfield Combust and will be taking part in the Exning In Bloom competition in conjunction with the school.*

Bright Sparks Baby & Toddler Group: run by Anna Sheasby on term-time Monday mornings at the Exning Community Church Hall. *The group is in its second year now and averages approximately 20 families per week, providing a place to connect parents and carers and give support if needed. The group is appreciative of the grants given to enable them to start up two years ago and intends to take part in Exning In Bloom.*

Item 5: Open Forum for Members of the Public: residents spoke regarding the following issues:-

- Londis bus stop – lack of demarcation resulting in obstructive parking
- Road lineage in poor condition
- Street Cleaning / Footway Cleaning issues
- Burwell Road Lay-by – trucks parking overnight
- Play Area closure
- A Bio-Diversity Policy – for butterfly conservation

Item 6: Information regarding proposed Exning Neighbourhood Plan by Parish Councillors S Cole & A Burton: District & Parish Cllr Simon Cole gave a brief update regarding the progress of the application for an Exning Neighbourhood Area. There will be further village consultation to assess the level of village commitment and availability of expert assistance before a final decision is made to either proceed or not with the Plan process.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm