

SKEYTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at Skeyton Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd May 2018, 7.30.p.m.

Present: Chairman Cllr: M. Hicks, Vice-Chairman Cllr: J. Hughes, Cllr: S. Bunting, Cllr: I. Stevenson, Cllr: A. Morton, Cllr: D. Scott, District Cllr: S. Penfold, County Cllr: John Timewell and Mrs. D. Fields, Clerk.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr: H. Randell.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting dated 10th May 2017 had been signed on 30th August 2017.

3. Chairman's Report

Again, twelve months have passed since my last Chairman's report.

At our first meeting last year due to a vacancy we welcomed Mrs Dorothy Scott on to the Parish Council.

PLANNING. Plans viewed were, Manor Farm, these were the first plans that the Parish Council viewed online.

Also plans for change of use of of agricultural building at Willow farm, as well as plans for alterations at Gable end cottage and Courtyard Barns Also plans for out building at Stack yard barn, there were no objections to these applications.

HIGHWAYS. Potholes, we have had our share, with the winter weather that we experienced in the first quarter of April, heavy snow blocking all routes in and out of the village. I would like to thank Henry and Justin

for acting promptly in clearing the roads. A road traffic accident at the Blackhorse crossroads resulted in the "Give Way" sign being demolished, a new sign has since been erected. Thanking John Timewell for his input with the sign and potholes.

FINANCE. Once again, the Parish Council have kept the Parish Precept at the same level, and the bottle bank continues to generate income.

The Parish Council made a donation from the proceeds of the bottle bank to the Manor House Care Home towards the cost of the residents outing on a river trip on the broads and to the Christmas end of the pier show at Cromer.

A brand new weather proof notice board was purchased jointly between the Parish Council and the Village Hall, this has been fitted on the wall of the Village Hall.

Skeyton Church received an increase of £25 bring the total to £125 towards the cost of the up keep of the Churchyard.

The Parish Council also contributed to half the cost of running the Village Hall website.

£25. was given towards the annual remembrance poppy wreath which the Chairman laid at the Remembrance Sunday service.

Once again with careful spending the Parish Council remains solvent.

VILLAGE SIGN. (Ongoing) The village sign is in need of renovation. It was taken down before the onset of winter and stored in Stewart Buntings' barn to dry out before renovations start. The Skeyton Michaelmas Trosh Committee kindly donated £500 towards the cost of the village sign renovation.

Finally, I would like to thank Diane our Parish Council Clerk for all her hard work throughout the year, and to my fellow Parish councillors for their support.

Michael Hicks, Chairman

4. Vice-Chairman Cllr: J. Hughes provided an update on the Neech Loan Trust.

The Neech Loan Fund, which was created by a Doctor Neech in 1947, to provide loans for men and women to start an agricultural or horticultural

business, within a ten mile radius of North Walsham, Norfolk. Loan was up to a maximum of £5000 with very competitive interest rates are available to be repaid over up to ten years. Over time (with permission of the Charity Commission) the Trustees have varied and extended the terms and conditions of the loan to include all types of businesses in a wider radius.

Currently the fund has in excess of £120,000 available for start up businesses and for small successful businesses looking for investment to expand. Anyone can apply for a loan for any type of business and the Trust is now actively seeking to expand the number and type of applicants.

A group of Trustees are keen to encourage are school leavers who are considering starting up their own businesses, providing them with advice and a low cost start-up loan to get their ideas off the ground.

Another group that the trust wish to support is Parents who are looking to work from home, and perhaps need office equipment to help them get started (e.g. a computer, printer etc.,)

A website is currently being built to include all the relevant details.

To apply for a loan the application form is on line contact North Walsham Town Council Clerk – Julie Shields
Julie.shields@northwalsham-town.co.uk

Our new District Councillor Saul Penfold said he would gladly help by publicising the Neech Loan Trust.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.