

# MENDHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015

MENDHAM AND WITHERSDALE VILLAGE HALL – 7PM.

1. The chair was taken by Kathy Ferrar, vice-chairman of the parish council; who welcomed several members of the public and four parish councillors. Apologies were received from Richard Mattocks, Julie Honeybourne, Peter Lee, Christine Christian, Delise Musgrove and Vicky Rusby. The parish clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.
2. **Matters of public concern**
  - Shotford Bridge closure – Denis Pye and Kathy Ferrar had liaised with Suffolk Highways over diversion routes and signage to ensure that heavy traffic did not try to use the Mendham Bridge route.
  - Steven Keeling commented on continuing speeding through the villages and asked that the parish council should consider obtaining a moveable speed indicator sign.
  - Colin Herbert spoke about access to broadband in the parish. From 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the Harleston cabinet,(Low Road) went live, giving many Mendham residents access to BT Infinity. The Metfield cabinet will be upgraded either in June or September 2015, serving some numbers in the east of Mendham. Customers more than 1800metres from a cabinet could lose service completely, as happened in St Cross. Customers must request an upgrade, as it is not automatic. Full details at [mendham.org.uk](http://mendham.org.uk)
  - Colin Herbert asked that any feedback on the spring newsletter be captured for future use.
  - Footpath Leaflets. Colin Herbert expressed disappointment at the slow progress on councillors checking the routes of the four walks. Councillors agreed that Mr Herbert should now go ahead with publication after checking any final issues with landowners.
  - War Memorial. Colin Herbert asked that we should not lose momentum on the changes to the names on the War Memorial now that a more definitive list of names was available. He offered to help the chairman bring this to a conclusion.
3. **2014 report on Annual Meeting** – taken as read, and signed.
4. **Reports from local councillors and police** – none forthcoming at this stage [NB – Guy McGregor gave a report to the parish council meeting following this one]. Lavinia Hadingham attended and apologised for no report as she had only just taken up the post of Mid Suffolk District councillor for Fressingfield Ward. She looked forward to attending future parish council meetings. The police apologised for not attending.
5. **Parish council's chairman's report** – was given by Kathy Ferrar in the absence of Peter Lee. *[attached]*
6. **Reports from local organisations** *[attached]* – these were received from the Community Council, FOMSA, All Saints church activities, Horticultural Society, Community Bus Scheme, Metfield and Withersdale Village Hall, Metfield and Mendham W. I., Mendham Primary School and 1<sup>st</sup> Fressingfield Scout Group
7. **Village of the Year competitions** – Kathy Ferrar gave a brief update on the chosen funding spend of the prize monies which is a *boules piste*. The money is ring fenced in the parish council funds.
8. **Any other business** –
  - The red phone box opposite the car park in Mendham now belongs to the parish council and ideas for its use were sought.

- Trees and hedges in the Church Lane - there was a discussion over the need to trim these back. The road is maintained by Suffolk CC, but they do not trim the trees. Parish Council to discuss at the appropriate season.
- Website – Colin Herbert reminded councillors that the parish website was now owned by the parish council, and encouraged members to contribute to its content.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm and was followed, after a short break, by the annual meeting of the parish council.