

GROTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2014

Minutes of the Meeting held at Groton Village Hall on Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 8pm

In the Chair C Fraulo

Present: Jeremy Osborne, Gerald Smith, David Elliott, Adam Dixon-Smith, Chris Kennedy, Rona Kelsey (Parish Councillors), Anita Robinson (Clerk), James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Bryn Hurren (Babergh District Councillor), PCSO Jamie Fudge and members of the public.

Apologies: Colin Blackmore, Michael Gill, David Lamming, Pauline Lamming, John Norton, Anthea Scriven

1. Chairman Carey Fraulo welcomed all those present.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 1 May 2013 were agreed, proposed by Chris Kennedy and seconded by Gerald Smith.
3. PCSO Jamie Fudge presented a report on behalf of **Suffolk Police** (attached).
4. Anthea Scriven, Clerk to the Trustees, had provided an annual report on behalf of **Groton Educational Foundation**.
Throughout 2013 the Trust continued to support a variety of applicants, both organisations and individuals. Grants have been awarded to help with the costs of university, extra activities for applicants with special needs, school trips, computers for A-level courses, specialist coaching and towards travel and equipment needed in an educational context. Their disposable income for grants has increased slightly during the last year; so, as ever, they would be grateful to members of the Parish Council if they would draw the attention of new residents of Groton to the Foundation. She had provided some maps showing the exact area of benefit. Their main grant meeting when they call applicants for interview is in the first week of September; there will be a notice of the date, time and venue in the July and August issues of the Box River News. Anyone wanting further information can call Anthea Scriven.
5. Bob Bowdidge presented a report on behalf of **Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust**.
The Chairman, Mr R A Bowdidge and the Trustees of the Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust would like to thank Mrs Margaret Kent for more than 20 years of sterling service as Secretary to the Trust. Although she has now relinquished this post, she has agreed to remain as a Trustee. At a meeting on 5 February 2014, the Trustees welcomed Mrs Rona Kelsey who has taken over the position of

Secretary to the Trust. The Countryside Grant has now ended. The replacement offer is so restrictive that they will not be able to take it up. This will no doubt adversely affect their income. The general condition of the Croft is excellent and it is encouraging to see that it is very much used by the village. However, it has to be pointed out that most of the maintenance work is carried out by volunteers. Those Trustees who have been in harness for over twenty years would very much like to see some new faces to take over the future running of the Croft.

6. David Lamming had sent a copy of the Annual Report of **Groton Parochial Church Council** (copy attached).
7. Michael Gill, **Neighbourhood Watch** Co-ordinator had reported to the Clerk that the email system for reporting matters of interest seemed to be effective, and that if anyone else wished to be added to his email list he would be happy to receive their details.
8. Brian Jones on behalf of **Groton Village Hall Management Committee** reported that the main event for this year was the new kitchen, which was fully funded by a lottery grant. The lights and cupboard were not covered by the grant and he was grateful to Groton Educational Foundation for making a significant contribution to the costs of these. Last month another successful quiz and curry evening was held, which made a useful contribution to funds. They plan to have the exterior boards re-painted with barn paint this year when funds permit. There are some regular letting clients, including the church, but relatively few other lettings. They hope that the new kitchen will help with this. Financially they are keeping their head above water but various maintenance requirements over the next couple of years, including re-felting the roof, will cause problems. Brian thanked his colleagues and noted that there was an ongoing vacancy if anyone was interested in joining them. They will be holding their AGM at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 June, all parishioners welcome.
9. Jeremy Osborne on behalf of **Groton United Charities** reported that the annual income for two parcels of land, one shared with Boxford United Charities, is £617.50 following a negotiated rent increase on the jointly owned land. Since last May they have met to consider applications in November 2013 and will be meeting again in June 2014. They have only received one application for a grant this year, from an organisation based in Boxford, and none from individuals. They will be putting a notice in the Box River News inviting organisations and individuals to make applications for consideration at their June meeting. They are currently in active discussion with Boxford United Charities about a merger of the two charities under the name 'Boxford and Groton United Charities'. The Trustees approved the proposal at their meeting in November 2013, and the Parish Council has also endorsed the proposal, which will be announced to the whole parish before implementation as required by the regulations of the Charity Commission, who have also indicated their provisional approval of the proposal.

10. John Norton had provided a report in respect of the **footpaths** in Groton.
'All of the parish's paths seem to be in good order although some will need the undergrowth cutting soon. I will be putting a list of paths for cutting together for Suffolk County Council over the next week or two. If parishioners would let me know of any problems that develop, I would be thankful. It is interesting to compare the state of the paths today and the condition they were in when I took on the role after my father died in 1983. The main problems then were that Public Footpaths were, in places, cultivated and planted with crops; they also became overgrown during the summer months as there was no money allocated for clearance work. In recent years both of these problems have largely disappeared; there is now a contractor funded by Suffolk County Council who cuts the worst of the paths each year keeping the undergrowth down to a reasonable level. Also footpaths, and the largely field edge routes they take, have been helped by European Union CAP funded environmental stewardship schemes like ELS and HLS which encourage land owners to plant conservation strips along field edges, particularly where there are public rights of way.'
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Dated 13.5.15

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11. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's annual accounts had been audited and all was in order. Copies of the accounts were provided to those present.
12. Carey Fraulo, Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting representing the various groups in the village. The Parish Council had progressed with the local housing needs issue, tackled speeding traffic and issues with the roads including the perennial problem of potholes. She thanked David Elliott and Gerald Smith for their work over the years with these issues. She thanked all the Parish Councillors for their support over the past year.
13. James Finch presented his annual report on behalf of **Suffolk County Council** (copy attached).
14. Bryn Hurren presented his annual report on behalf of **Babergh District Council** (copy attached).
15. Carey Fraulo concluded the meeting by thanking David Elliott, who was retiring as a parish councillor after 35 years including a long period as Chairman. A presentation of a long service certificate from Suffolk Association of Local Councils and a framed photograph of Groton was presented to David following the meeting. Carey Fraulo declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

C Fraulo

Dated 13.5.15

GROTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2014

Minutes of the Meeting held at Groton Village Hall on Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 8pm

In the Chair C Fraulo

Present: Jeremy Osborne, Gerald Smith, David Elliott, Adam Dixon-Smith, Chris Kennedy, Rona Kelsey (Parish Councillors), Anita Robinson (Clerk), James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Bryn Hurren (Babergh District Councillor), PCSO Jamie Fudge and members of the public.

Apologies: Colin Blackmore, Michael Gill, David Lamming, Pauline Lamming, John Norton, Anthea Scriven

1. Chairman Carey Fraulo welcomed all those present.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 1 May 2013 were agreed, proposed by Chris Kennedy and seconded by Gerald Smith.
3. PCSO Jamie Fudge presented a report on behalf of **Suffolk Police** (attached).
4. Anthea Scriven, Clerk to the Trustees, had provided an annual report on behalf of **Groton Educational Foundation**.
Throughout 2013 the Trust continued to support a variety of applicants, both organisations and individuals. Grants have been awarded to help with the costs of university, extra activities for applicants with special needs, school trips, computers for A-level courses, specialist coaching and towards travel and equipment needed in an educational context. Their disposable income for grants has increased slightly during the last year; so, as ever, they would be grateful to members of the Parish Council if they would draw the attention of new residents of Groton to the Foundation. She had provided some maps showing the exact area of benefit. Their main grant meeting when they call applicants for interview is in the first week of September; there will be a notice of the date, time and venue in the July and August issues of the Box River News. Anyone wanting further information can call Anthea Scriven.
5. Bob Bowdidge presented a report on behalf of **Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust**.
The Chairman, Mr R A Bowdidge and the Trustees of the Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust would like to thank Mrs Margaret Kent for more than 20 years of sterling service as Secretary to the Trust. Although she has now relinquished this post, she has agreed to remain as a Trustee. At a meeting on 5 February 2014, the Trustees welcomed Mrs Rona Kelsey who has taken over the position of

Secretary to the Trust. The Countryside Grant has now ended. The replacement offer is so restrictive that they will not be able to take it up. This will no doubt adversely affect their income. The general condition of the Croft is excellent and it is encouraging to see that it is very much used by the village. However, it has to be pointed out that most of the maintenance work is carried out by volunteers. Those Trustees who have been in harness for over twenty years would very much like to see some new faces to take over the future running of the Croft.

6. David Lamming had sent a copy of the Annual Report of **Groton Parochial Church Council** (copy attached).
7. Michael Gill, **Neighbourhood Watch** Co-ordinator had reported to the Clerk that the email system for reporting matters of interest seemed to be effective, and that if anyone else wished to be added to his email list he would be happy to receive their details.
8. Brian Jones on behalf of **Groton Village Hall Management Committee** reported that the main event for this year was the new kitchen, which was fully funded by a lottery grant. The lights and cupboard were not covered by the grant and he was grateful to Groton Educational Foundation for making a significant contribution to the costs of these. Last month another successful quiz and curry evening was held, which made a useful contribution to funds. They plan to have the exterior boards re-painted with barn paint this year when funds permit. There are some regular letting clients, including the church, but relatively few other lettings. They hope that the new kitchen will help with this. Financially they are keeping their head above water but various maintenance requirements over the next couple of years, including re-felting the roof, will cause problems. Brian thanked his colleagues and noted that there was an ongoing vacancy if anyone was interested in joining them. They will be holding their AGM at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 June, all parishioners welcome.
9. Jeremy Osborne on behalf of **Groton United Charities** reported that the annual income for two parcels of land, one shared with Boxford United Charities, is £617.50 following a negotiated rent increase on the jointly owned land. Since last May they have met to consider applications in November 2013 and will be meeting again in June 2014. They have only received one application for a grant this year, from an organisation based in Boxford, and none from individuals. They will be putting a notice in the Box River News inviting organisations and individuals to make applications for consideration at their June meeting. They are currently in active discussion with Boxford United Charities about a merger of the two charities under the name 'Boxford and Groton United Charities'. The Trustees approved the proposal at their meeting in November 2013, and the Parish Council has also endorsed the proposal, which will be announced to the whole parish before implementation as required by the regulations of the Charity Commission, who have also indicated their provisional approval of the proposal.

10. John Norton had provided a report in respect of the **footpaths** in Groton.
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