

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF LITTLE BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MAY 19, 2008 AT 7.30PM IN GARDINER'S BARN**

**Members Present:** Chairman Cllr John Judson, Vice Chairman Cllr William Gardiner, Cllr Richard Wren, Cllr Mac Beanland, D Cllr Antoinette Wattebot, CCllr Simon Walsh

5 members of the public

**1. Apologies** D Cllr Martin Foley

**2. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting** on May 14, 2007 were read approved and signed.

The Chairman closed the meeting and welcomed the speaker Peter Sanders, Charman of the Stop Stansted Expansion Campaign.

Mr Sanders gave an extremely interesting and informative talk about the fight against the proposed expansion both in passenger numbers and a second runway by BAA..The main enquiry to increase passenger numbers to 35 mpa took place between May & October 2007. The result of which has been delayed due to the figures given by BAA on air pollution being incorrect. SSE are trying to reopen the enquiry.

The second runway application would involve taking 1,000 acres of land + the destruction of 73 houses and 13 listed buildings and an increase of passenger movements to 82 million per year.

There would be an increase in noise,pollution and passengers arriving by road. It would lead to 11 million tons of carbon emissions.

The planning application by BAA is opposed by all councils in the area with the result to be announced in 2009.

The government are in favour of a 3rd runway at Heathrow also opposed by SSE.

There is a move to prevent BAA owning all the airports in the South East.

The Conservative Party are against expansion at Stansted.

The SSE campaign started in June 2002 with consultations on air pollution plus expertise from various individuals and groups.

The costs of the legal battle have increased and any help from individuals and organisations is greatly appreciated.

Mr Sanders handed out stickers and membership cards and urged individuals to join the campaign by becoming a member at a cost of £10 per annum.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sanders and opened the meeting to questions. from the public.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes** - there were none.

**4. Chairman's report**

The Council is acting on behalf of the whole parish. The wheels of government turn very slowly. There has been no response to letters to Highways with regard to signs and waymarkers which is very frustrating. Cllr Terry Cutmore has attended a planning course at UDC and will be able to guide the council on planning implications.

The Village Design Statement is nearly ready to be approved by both the Parish & District Councils.

A footpath map produced by Cllr Richard Wren will be printed with the VDS Statement.

3,000 snowdrops and 100 aconites have been planted in the centre of the village. The council will decide on further planting at Oxen End & Hawkspur Green next Spring. There is a possibility that Little Bardfield Hall will give hyacinth bulbs to the council. The Chairman thanked the clerk and his fellow councillors for their support and also that of the District & County councillors.

Cllr William Gardiner passed the appreciation of the council for the Chairman's hard work..

#### **5. End of year accounts**

These had been circulated and were available for the attending parishioners to read.

The council resolved to adopt the accounts and the Chairman and Clerk signed them.

The council resolved to appoint Patrick Hall as the Internal Auditor and the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer for the year 2008/9.

- 6. D Councillor's report** - Cllr A Wattebot reported that a decision has been made to divide the District into two Fora - North Uttlesford & South Uttlesford. Thaxted will fall into the North Uttlesford Forum meeting at the Council Offices in Saffron Walden. The next meeting will be on Thursday June 12, 2008 at 7.30 pm. At the last Area Forum meeting no one was present from Highways.

C Cllrs report -Cllr Simon Walsh reported that the County's focus was on savings & delivery.

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

#### **7. Sarah Bernard Charity Report**

There is one vacancy which will be advertised. Repairs have been made to windows and doors with a loan from the Almshouses Association.

A Lime Tree has been removed but the roots need to be dealt with.

A copy of the report accompanies these minutes.

#### **8. Neighbourhood Watch Report**

The new co-ordinator, Tim Carter, has made himself known to most people in the Parish and has distributed Neighbourhood Watch Stickers to all households. He has been welcomed and they 'know that he he is doing the rounds'.

He keeps in touch with Thaxted Police.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.