

# Marshland St James Annual Parish Meeting 2016 held on 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm

**Present: Cllr Askew (Chair) and S Thorpe (Clerk)**  
**11 members of the public.**

- 1/2016 Welcome by Chairman of Parish Council**
- 2/2016 Minutes** – The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2015 were agreed by those at the meeting and then signed by the Chairman.
- 3/2016 Matters Arising** – All matters raised at the last meeting had been actioned.
- 4/2016 Chairman’s Report** – An update of Parish Council work was given.
- 5/2016 Reports from Village Groups** – reports were given from the following groups:  
Sunshine Club  
St James Church  
WI  
Marshland Residents Association  
Marshland St James & District Community & Sports Centre  
Jubilee Hall Management Committee  
Bowls Club  
Country Music Club  
Police report on crimes in the village over the last year
- 6/2016 Open Forum for Parishioners Concerns**
- a A request was made that the PC consider providing refreshments at this meeting next year to encourage more residents to attend. The PC will consider this suggestion at their next meeting.
- b A comment was made that some residents do not know where and when meetings are taking place. A reply was given that information is placed on PC notice board at Jubilee Hall and on the PC website. This meeting was also advertised in the Messenger and at the School.

The meeting was closed at 8.15pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

# **MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015/16**



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This year has been a very busy and productive year for the Parish Council.

Last summer the Borough Council were found to not have a five year supply of land for development which has resulted in a surge of planning applications in our village, along with many others in the area. Over the last 20 or more years development in our parish has been very limited with only infill sites being permitted. Generally the Parish Council were pleased to see more applications coming forward and have welcomed the chance to support increased development in the parish in order to sustain the village and facilities for future generations.

We were pleased to submit and pay for the planning application for the new Community Building Project by Marshland St James & District Community & Sports Centre. Two of our Parish Councillors serve as members of their committee and their Chairman provides a monthly report for Parish Council meetings. This project is now at stage 3 of the application process for funding from the Big Lottery. It is clear that the vast majority of the village is behind this proposal for a new Community Building and the Parish Council has been very happy to be able to support this project.

The Parish Council Elections took place in May 2015. We had ten candidates standing for nine seats. Following the result of the election the Parish Council were pleased to welcome two new Councillors, Cllr Chapman and Cllr Peckitt.

The work on the long awaited completion of the new footpath from Trinity Road to the parish boundary at St John's Fen End took place in the spring of 2015. The missing sections were completed, however the Parish Council was unhappy that the footpath did not reach the junction of Trinity Road and Highways have agreed that further work will be done to extend the path closer to this junction. During the summer of last year there were problems with the maintenance of this footpath and it became very overgrown in places. The Parish Council raised this issue with Highways and measures have been put in place to hopefully avoid similar problems in future.

During the winter we replaced the remaining 40 street lights with new energy efficient LED lanterns. The old sodium lanterns were reaching the end of their lifespan with the cost of replacement lanterns increasing and becoming more difficult to obtain, along with the cost of electricity increasing by a large percentage. The Parish Council took out a loan of £11712 to cover the cost of this upgrade and will be able to repay the loan over the next 10 years with the money it will save on electricity and maintenance costs.

Over the last few months some essential maintenance work has taken place on the play equipment at the playing field. An allocation has been made in the budget for future maintenance work to ensure that this facility remains in good working order.

Parish Council finances have remained stable this year with expenditure matching income. We always try to keep expenditure as low as possible by constant scrutiny. We were pleased to be able to maintain the Precept at a level that would not represent an increase for parishioners in 2016/17.

Further information on Parish Council activities is available on the website which can be found at <http://marshlandstjamespc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>