

Minutes of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Annual Parish Meeting

**Held on Wednesday 19th April 2017
In Welborne Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

Councillors present; Mike Webb (chair), Peter Wood, Clare Kay, Andrew Egerton-Smith and Simon Guest.

County Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, District Cllr Michael Edney and the clerk, Bev Long were also present.

Organisations present; Welborne Litter Warden – Brian & Margot Hancock. Runhall Allotments – Bev Long, Runhall Play Area – Liz Holmes, Tina Redshaw – Trustee of Welborne Village Hall and Jill Craig – Fuel scheme coordinator.

6 members of the public were also present.

Apologies received; Cllrs Trevor Curson and Carolyn Bailey. Also, Tim Weatherstone, Mark Gill, Andrew Jewson, Bob West, Library service and Coralie Meadows.

Guest Speakers – Richard Took and Linda Groom from the ‘Fawlty Towers’ project – All Saints Church, Welborne.

1. Mike Webb as Chair of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the reason for a parish meeting, the format of the evening and introduced the guest speakers Linda and Richard, who, he explained had stepped in at the last minute due to Dean Sully’s (project leader) unavailability.
2. Richard and Linda introduced themselves – live in Mattishall but attend All Saints Church, Welborne – two thirds of the team working to get the church repaired. They informed the audience that the Heritage Lottery, in its present state, was finishing in 2 years’ time.

Linda and Richard shared the presentation giving lots of details of how the project has proceeded to date including;

- ❖ 1995 recognised tower badly cracked so the process of applying for a Heritage Lottery grant began – the first church warden applied and was refused, after that two more wardens tried and were refused. They were told the tower was not in need of urgent repair.
- ❖ Despite this fundraising began
- ❖ In 2013, the usual 5-year architect report was published stating lots of problems with the tower. The church was deteriorating and costs were increasing for the repair work.
- ❖ Maintenance work was being done by Richard as a Fabric officer with Brian Hancock’s help
- ❖ 2014 Richard was in the church yard when a visitor arrived to look around, he was impressed with what he saw and gave Richard his number saying he would be happy to help if he could.

- ❖ 12 months later Richard contacted the visitor – who was Dean Sully – lecturer in conservation at UCL and became the lead in the Fawly Tower project.
- ❖ Questions were asked after looking at the tower closely and the work required – was the church worth saving? It is now a Grade II listed building. It was built around 1200 and the tower added around 1400 and it was agreed it was worth saving but it was also decided the whole church required modernising to make it more accessible – so it was agreed to go ahead and apply for a grant to repair tower and modernise with toilets, kitchenette and improved lights
- ❖ A detailed inspection followed with advice gained and a title agreed – Fawly Towers - the application began. This was a preliminary application to determine if a full application could be submitted. It was agreed and work then began for a full application – this was a very big application and required letters of support which were gained from the Archdeacon along with local people from Welborne.
- ❖ Application was submitted in August 2015
- ❖ Lots of activity continued – researching graves, researching war memorial, heritage walk etc.
- ❖ December 2015 was when they were informed that they had a 1st round pass - they would possibly be granted 83% of £259k costs (£215k)
- ❖ Development stage began – to prove necessary
- ❖ January 2016 saw a visit to Cambridge for Richard, Linda and Dean for an appointment with Sophie, from the Heritage Lottery, who was allocated to the project. Lots of questions and information shared.
- ❖ Press releases followed and project continued looking for funding - would only receive percentage of costs from Heritage Lottery remained must come from VAT Refunds, fundraising and other grant applications.
- ❖ March 2017 came the great news that 82% of the costs had been awarded. £168k from the Heritage Lottery. £27,500 had been achieved from 5 other organisations.
- ❖ Position now – is an architect meeting is arranged for May with work hoping to start in July/July 2017. The work must be completed within 2 years but it is expected the main tower work will take approximately 30 weeks to complete. It is thought that the toilet, kitchenette and lighting work will then be completed after the tower/church building work has been completed.
- ❖ Fundraising, meetings and work on the project continues.
- ❖ Richard offered copies to everyone of the book ‘Welborne, a place of no importance – which has been reprinted (original first published in 2000) as a part of the Heritage Lottery funded project.

Richard and Linda then answered specific questions from the audience and a general discussion followed about the tower, church, wildlife in the church yard and tender companies.

Mike Webb thanked Linda and Richard for a very informative and interesting presentation.

Further details and updates concerning the project can be found at;

<http://welborne.org.uk/welborne-all-saints-church/the-fawly-tower-project/>

3. Parish Council Report; Mike Webb as Chair of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council gave his thanks to all the Cllrs who give their time voluntarily. He also thanked Bev Long, Clerk to the council for her work throughout the year to the council in general but in particular in supporting his role as Chair.

Thanks, were also given to the band of volunteers who deliver the parish councils newsletter to every house in the parish, our litter wardens, our fuel coordinator and our County and District councillors. Mike then gave a short summary of his full report and as this is his last report as parish chair a summary of his 7 years in office. The report is an appendix to these minutes.

4. Reports from others;

- Runhall Play Area Report; Liz Holmes, chair of the play area, informed the room that they are always looking for new members and after last year's new event 'Runfest' was such a success despite the wet weather they were busy arranging this years - on 1st July. The full report is an appendix to these minutes.
- Fuel Scheme Coordinator; Jill Craig expressed surprise that only 12% use the scheme. Comment was made about the procedure the scheme uses as people are not sure what price they are paying before they commit. Jill to investigate this further. Her full report is an appendix to these minutes.
- County Councillor; Margaret Dewsbury assured the audience that she was always around, contactable and very happy to help in any way she can. The full report is an appendix to these minutes.
- District Councillor; Michael Edney introduced himself stating he is District Cllr to 10 villages and the deputy leader for South Norfolk District Council. He referred to; Digester at Morley - lots of work & communications with planning, more information should be received by the end of the month, 2019 - no more money will be received from the government so SN needs to be self-funding. It has 340 employees and is not intending on making any employment cuts. It will be investing in infrastructure, building lots of homes. The council is hoping to receive the platinum status in Investors in people award after being placed 6th out of 380 councils recently.

5. Open Forum;

- One member of the public asked when the new notice boards are expected - clerk to the council informed everyone that delivery was anticipated within the next 3-4 weeks.
- Member of the public, Stephanie Austin, thanked Mike for his time as chair of the parish council.

6. Mike Webb thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them all to attend any parish council meeting. He then closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Refreshments were then served.

Written reports from the following bodies form part of these minutes:

- Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council Chair
- County Councillor
- Runhall Play Area
- Runhall Recreation Ground (allotments)
- Fuel Scheme Coordinator
- Runhall with Coston PCC
- Welborne Village Hall
- Footpath Warden
- Mobile Library Service
- Brandon Parva PCC
- Brandon Parva Litter Warden