

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held 22nd May 2019
At 8.15 p.m. in Nowton Village Hall, Nowton

Present: Councillor - Mrs Carol Perry (Chairman)
Councillor - Mrs Renee Forrow
Councillor - Mr David Flatt
Councillor - Mr Jon Green
Councillor - Mr Mike May
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

Also in attendance to present Item 5, PC Paul Fox and Mr Andrew Tucker.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – County Councillor Karen Soons and District Councillor Terry Clements.
2. **To ratify the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 23rd May 2018**, having been approved by the Council at its meeting held on the 11th July 2018. Proposed by Cllr. May, seconded by Cllr. Forrow.
3. **Annual Report of the Parish Council**, by the Chairman of the Parish Council. The Chairman highlighted aspects of her report including, the impact of budget reductions on Local Authority spending, Planning, Highways, the Parish Emergency Plan, Councillor Training and involvement in the local community. The Chairman recorded thanks to County Councillor Karen Soons and District Councillor Terry Clements for all their support this year and Nowton Park Rangers and volunteers for giving valuable time to the Parish, work included litter picking, trimming back overhanging trees, clearing footpaths and ditches, and providing bark chippings for the permissive footpath.

The Chairman thanked PC Fox and Mr Tucker for sending alerts and circulating monthly crime statistics, supporting the local scheme co-ordinators and promoting communication between the villages in Area B. All Parish Councillors and the Clerk were thanked for their hard work during the year.

Finally, the Chairman wished to express the Council's sadness and send its condolences to the family of Douglas Heaton, who died in April, and had for many years undertaken the role of Internal Auditor. *The full report can be seen in Appendix A.*

4. **Financial Report of the Parish Council**, by the Responsible Financial Officer. A detailed Income and Expenditure paper and Balance Sheet had been previously circulated. The total income for the year amounted to £3,249 and the total expenditure £2,742.
5. **Annual Police Report** – Andrew Tucker, Area 8 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, presented his report advising that Area B covered ten local villages in six parishes which continued to enjoy a very low reported crime rate, although Mr Tucker reported that this did not reflect what was happening across the whole of Suffolk, where reported crime in 2018 was up by 9%.

Mr Tucker highlighted problems including cold caller scams, and recommended signing up to the social site called 'nextdoor.com' which is tailored to local areas with neighbours looking after each other and being made aware of suspicious activity. *The Full report can be seen in Appendix B.*

PC Paul Fox gave a verbal report advising that there had been 12 reported offences during the period May 2018-2019 in Nowton, five of which had taken place in Nowton Park. The crimes within the village included arson, when the recycling bin beside the Village Hall had

been set on fire, which had affected the wider community. Other crimes included three public order offences and three minor assaults.

Speeding – PC Fox reported that the expanded safety team now policed 90 spots and would look at other areas if requested; PC Fox offered to pass on to the team any concerns the Parish Council might have regarding particular areas in Nowton, which could then be surveyed.

Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) – PC Fox advised that changes to SNT had been successful, with far more PC's on duty in the evening. In response to Councillor May's question, PC Fox advised that the Rural Crime Squad had not increased, there were still four PCs.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tucker and PC Fox for their reports and continued support.

6. **Annual Borough Council Report** – in his absence a report had been submitted by District Councillor Clements, this being the last report of the St Edmundsbury Borough Council. *The full report can be seen in Appendix C.*
7. **Annual County Council Report** – in her absence Cllr. Soons had submitted a detailed report. *The full report can be seen in Appendix D.*
8. **Any Other Business** – none.

The meeting was closed at 8.35 p.m.

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Signed

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Date