

# SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MAY 2011 IN AMY ROBSART HALL AT 7PM

PRESENT: Cllr G Taylor (Chairman)  
Cllr R Thompson  
Cllr M Askew  
Cllr A Schmidt  
Cllr Ms M Thompson  
B W Lloyd  
Ten Parishioners

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### 1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Chenery of Horsbrugh and Mrs D Goff.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 May 2010 had been circulated. Cllr R Thompson proposed the Minutes be accepted. All in favour. **Resolved to approve the Minutes as a true record.**

### 4. REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES

#### 4.1 Amy Robsart Hall

Chairman Norman Riches presented his Annual Report to the Meeting.

*See Appendix1 for the Report.*

#### 4.2 St. Mary's Church

Brian Poulson, Lay Chairman, St Mary's PCC presented his report to the meeting.

*See Appendix 2 for the Report*

#### 4.3 Art@Robsart Hall

In the absence of Denise Goff, who was unwell and therefore unable to attend, Cllr R Thompson presented the Annual Report.

*See Appendix 3 for the Report*

#### 4.4 Syderstone Football and Cricket Club

Cllr R Thompson presented the report.

*See Appendix 4 for the Report*

Chairman informed the meeting that, after previous debate, it was agreed that the monies belonging to the Football and Cricket Clubs would be held by the Parish Council on their behalf. He suggested that perhaps the new Parish Council could contact the previous Secretaries of both Clubs to establish if the monies can be used for a project rather than just left in the accounts.

**Action:** Parish Council Clerk to include on June 2011 Agenda.

### 5. ISSUES RAISED BY ELECTORS

None

There being no further Annual Parish Meeting business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.21pm

Appendix 1

**AMY ROBSART (SYDERSTONE) VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

*Winner of the EDP/NRCC Community Building Award 2009*

Chairman: Mr Norman Riches 'Birches', Mill Lane, Syderstone, King's Lynn Norfolk  
PE31 8RX

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010.2011  
TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
OF SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
19TH MAY 2011**

Despite the current depressed financial climate the hall continues to do well.

Martial Arts have increased their use of the hall from one evening to two and we have a new user group, the Community Weight Loss Challenge, run by Vicky Bilby, who lives in the village. She has now completed her third programme and all appear to have been successful.

Bircham Post Office has been a major source of income for the hall for the past 6 years, but following Philip and Eileen's attendance at our AGM we are concerned as to the future situation. Changes planned by Post Office Counters will probably result in the village hall and possibly the village itself losing a post office service.

The Village Screen Cinema, established with the assistance of Creative Arts East, has had another successful year despite fluctuating attendance, probably due, in part to local competition. As it continues to make an overall operating profit and provides an important local service at very reasonable cost, the Committee will continue to give it their full support. Thanks to Malcolm and Avril MacArthur for their continued commitment to this project.

The Lottery Club continues to keep Gerry Taylor occupied and it is reassuring to learn that there was a waiting list for subscriptions this year. Thanks to Gerry for all his hard work in maintaining this source of regular hall income.

Unfortunately one of the grant providers for the planned solar energy project withdrew their support at short notice, leaving the committee with no choice but to abandon the project as we did not want to leave any future committee saddled with loan repayments.

This was a very disappointing outcome as the project could have provided the hall with free electricity and a small income for 20-25 years.

Also disappointing is the fact that neither Table Tennis nor Carpet Bowls have been reinstated, we hope more people will come forward and support these groups.

Despite being a year of planned financial consolidation, we have managed to

1. Install a new and improved disabled access ramp and handrail and also remove and replace the inner door threshold.

Thanks to the small group of volunteers who broke out the old ramp and re-laid the new one, on one of the hottest days of last summer.

2. Replace 3 failed double glazed windows.

3. Complete a full internal redecoration of the main hall, courtesy of a local decorator. Despite problems associated with the age and construction of the hall he has done an excellent job and we are pleased with the result. The porch will be redecorated as soon as the weather improves.

We have have met the cost of these three projects from our own funds and it is a demonstration of the financial viability of the hall that our funds still show a current healthy balance.

In an effort to maintain this situation we have reduced the cleaning regime carried out by our newly-appointed cleaner and have asked all users to clean up after their groups, in order to keep hire charges as they are.

Thanks to our Treasurer Barry Wells(2),for his continued, excellent management of our finances.

Again, I would like to thank all the Committee members, Parish Councillors and local residents who have supported the hall throughout this last year and contributed to it's continued success.

Due to the current and possibly future financial uncertainty we have no major projects planned for the immediate future, but as we continue to amass a growing collection of village family histories and local memorabilia, we must give consideration to establishing a permanent display of these items.

We would also like to redecorate the kitchen and in order to keep costs down we will call a working party to do this as soon as the weather improves.

Norman Riches (Chairman)

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH, SYDERSTONE**

### **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2011**

Life in a village normally centres around the pub, the shop, the post office, the village hall and the Church. We may have lost the shop and the post office is rocky, but the pub and the village hall are doing well and the Church continues to thrive as the spiritual centre of the village!

In this role the Church regularly remembers in its prayers the needs of the community and those who are ill.

Our Rector, Fr Andrew Thomson retired at the end of March after 19 years in post. The search is now on for a new Rector and this may take a while but in the meantime the full range of services and events will continue, thanks to help from retired clergy who live in the district.

A great many parishioners, and Old Syderstonians too, view the Church with affection and have fond memories of being married there, or the baptism of their children, their marriage, or have loved ones who have been laid to rest in the Churchyard. It is surprising how many visitors the church and churchyard regularly attract. We would like to keep the Church building open in daytime but currently that presents difficulties which we hope we may eventually overcome.

Visitors always compliment the church on the excellent state of the churchyard and the PCC is very grateful to the Parish Council for arranging the regular grass-cutting. This is much appreciated by the many parishioners and visitors who tend the graves there.

Apart from services the Church hosts open events throughout the year which provide opportunity for social get-together as well as raising much needed funds for the Church. Highlights of the past year included Open Gardens in June, the Flower Festival in August, the Art Exhibition in October, the Christmas Market and the later Band Concert in November.

Such events are widely advertised and draw people in from a broad area helping to raise the profile of our lovely village.

We look forward to another fruitful year in serving the village.

Brian Poulson  
Lay Chairman, St Mary's PCC

**SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011**

**ART @ AMY ROBSART – Annual Report**

The group continues apace with many loyal 1996 ‘taster’ members still attending. For the first time, membership has fallen slightly below the agreed twenty, due to members leaving the area. The relaxed ethos of sharing and encouragement continues to be successful, resulting in members either diversifying into new directions or honing favourite styles.

The group once again supported St.Mary’s Church Art Exhibition (October 2010) with more members exhibiting paintings for sale and also by running a weekend activity in the village hall, on the Sunday provided the final destination for the Radio Norfolk Treasure Quest. The group was delighted to reintroduce the ‘Syderstone Photographic Competition’ and the quality of the photographs added much to the success of the overall event.

As always, Amy Robsart Hall has been enjoyed and the group thanks Coffee Morning organizers for leaving out tables and chairs. Art@ARH reciprocates for the Rainbows who take up the tea-time slot in the hall.

The group is sad to lose long-time members but can now welcome an approach from anyone interested in finding out more about the group. [Please contact Dizzy Goff on 01485 578527.]

DIZZY GOFF – Syderstone PC AGM 2011

19 May 2011

*Appendix 4*

## **SYDERSTONE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

### **Syderstone Football and Cricket Clubs**

Reg Thompson reported that sadly the Syderstone football and cricket clubs were no more. The Treasurers have handed over the remaining balances of the club funds to the Parish Council for safe keeping. This amounts to £600.04 from the football club and £181.27 from the cricket club. The council will apply these funds at its discretion, should similar activities restart in the village or nearby.

The playing field, opposite Ashside next to the allotments, was leased from David Allingham of White Hall Farm and the lease has been returned. The changing rooms are in a dilapidated state and the Parish Council has drawn this to the attention of the land agents, Cruso & Wilkins Ltd.

Reg Thompson

Tel: 01485 578508

19 May 2011