

SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 MAY 2012 IN AMY ROBSART HALL AT 7PM

PRESENT: Cllr R Thompson (Chairman)
Cllr M Askew
Cllr D Daly
Cllr M MacArthur
Cllr G Taylor
Cllr Ms M Thompson
Parish Clerk
Three Parishioners

1. Welcome
The Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.
2. Apologies for absence
Cllr Schmidt and Mr B Poulson
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 May 2011, previously approved on 16 June 2011.
Chairman proposed the Minutes be accepted. All in favour. **Resolved to approve the Minutes.**
4. Reports from Parish Organisations and businesses.
 - 4.1 Amy Robsart Hall
Chairman Norman Riches presented his Annual Report to the Meeting.

See Appendix 1 for the Report.
 - 4.2 St Mary's Church

No report received.
 - 4.3 Art@Robsart Hall

Mrs Goff reported at the meeting that the Art Group is still running successfully and a recent sale of paintings/prints raised at least £650, possibly more, which has enabled a donation to be given to St. Mary's Church. Mrs Goff gave thanks for the use of the Amy Robsart Hall.
 - 4.4 Any other reports

Chairman advised that contact has been made with the ex members of the Football and Cricket Clubs with regard to the use of the funds for the repair and maintenance of the playing field.
5. Issues raised by electors
 - 5.1 Mrs Goff advised that the photographic competition is included with the Art Group and the standard was high and it is hoped to continue with photographic competitions in the future.
 - 5.2 Cllr Taylor expressed his thanks to the NCC Highways Rangers Team for the good work carried out in the Parish.

There being no further Annual Parish Meeting business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

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**

2011 – 2012 Chairman's Report to

Syderstone Parish Council AGM Thursday May 17th 2012

This year has been one of consolidation and some frustration and disappointment for the hall committee. Despite attempts to secure the financial security for the hall's future by installing PV Solar Panels, continual changes by the Government, sometimes at short notice, has made it impossible to progress the project during this year. We have to reconsider our plans for investing any of our assets for the future.

Another disappointment was the loss of the Martial Arts group, despite all our offers of help. This regular booking was our second major source of income after the Post Office and will have a marked effect on our finances.

Bircham Post Office itself has had another successful year in the hall, but with the many changes likely as a result of high level re-organisation by Post Office Counters we must prepare ourselves for an uncertain future. We continue to hope that a new owner can be found soon to take over the excellent service that Philip and Eileen provide.

The Village Screen Cinema and Lottery Club continue to do well and I would like to thank Malcolm and Avril and Gerry Taylor respectively for all their efforts in making these fund-raising events successful. They may now be even more important sources of income.

The Wednesday Coffee Morning has had a mixed attendance as of late, but continues to provide an important social focus for many villagers. Thanks are due to Marian, Kate, Renee, Mike and Jenny for all their support.

General ad hoc hirings remain at a relatively low level and we are undertaking an advertising programme to try and improve this.

Our bi-annual Old Syderstonians Reunions prove as popular as ever and are important in reminding people of one of the main functions of the hall, that it is primarily a community building. I take this opportunity to thank Sheila, Avril, Kate, Marion and Jenny for their invaluable work in arranging and staging these events.

For the future, we have some minor roof repairs and redecoration to carry out this year.

Due to the ongoing general financial situation I will be recommending to the committee that no increase in hire charges is made this year.

The hall remains currently successful due in no small part to the efforts of Barrie Wells(1) for his electrical expertise, Barry Wells(2) for his financial skills, Roddie MacLeod for his engineering expertise and all the members of the committee, user groups and villagers, and I am grateful for their continued support.

Norman Riches