

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Pulborough Village Hall on Thursday, 13th May 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Jolliffe (Chairman), Mrs Barnett, Mrs Black, Denison, Mrs Lawson, Qusted, Parker, and Mrs Watson.

In Attendance: Bruce Middleton (South Downs Joint Committee)
Dan Cornell (South Downs Joint Committee)
Alyson Heath (St Mary's School)
Daisy Waring (St Mary's School)
Gerald Batt (Fairtrade Group)
Cllr Brian Donnelly (HDC)
Sarah Norman, Parish Clerk
4 Members of the Public

1. INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the guest speakers for attending.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Clarke, Ellis, Kipp, Kiverstein and County Cllr Arculus.

3. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2009/2010

The Chairman referred all those present to the Annual Report which is attached as Appendix 1. This included reports from the Chairman of each Committee plus the Income & Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2010. Cllr Black took questions regarding Planning & Services, Cllr Barnett took questions on Recreation & Open Spaces and Cllr Qusted took questions on Finance & Policy.

4. OUR LOCAL HEATHLAND

The Chairman welcomed Bruce Middleton & Dan Cornell to the meeting.

Bruce gave a very interesting talk and slide presentation regarding the flora and fauna of the local heathland. He gave a brief history of the landscape and explained that the heathland had been disappearing over the last 200 years due to lack of management, exploitation of natural resources, development and forestry. In 1831 there were 6,600 hectares of heathland in Sussex. By 1991 this has fallen to just 371 hectares making it rarer than Rainforest. The Heathland Forum was therefore set up in 1991 to try and combat the decline in heathland and Frances Rose undertook a study to identify potential heathland sites. One of the 36 sites identified was nearby Hurston Warren.

Since that time, with the help of Heritage Lottery money, the South Downs Joint Committee has continued with the work of the forum and as a result there are almost 1,000 hectares in Sussex today.

Bruce then went onto comment on how Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground, thanks to the work of the Parish Council with local volunteers has been trying to turn the overgrown wood back into the heathland that it once would have been.

Education remains a firm focus for the SDJC and it was noted that there will be a Reptile Safari on 10th August 2010.

The Chairman thanked Bruce and Dan for the presentation, which was enjoyed by all.

5. ST MARY'S SCHOOL LINKS WITH SIERRA LEONE

The Chairman welcomed Alyson Heath and Daisy Waring from St Mary's School who gave a presentation and slideshow on the recent visit to a school in Sierra Leone.

The Chichester Diocese has encouraged links with schools in Sierra Leone. As a result, Daisy Waring visited a school in Kenemar about 2½ hours inland from Freetown. Sierra Leone suffered a civil war until 2002 and is part of the United Nation Development Programme.

Education is paramount in Sierra Leone as most believe that it is through education that change will come. The children are crammed into classrooms with many other children outside who, because they cannot afford the uniform, cannot attend school. The uniform costs £5 to £7 but is equivalent to one month's food.

The school will continue to work with the Sierra Leone school and this will help the children as they learn about global citizenship.

The Chairman thanked Alyson and Daisy for the enlightening presentation and wished the school well with this initiative.

6. FAIRTRADE

The Chairman welcomed Gerald Batt to the meeting.

Gerald gave a brief talk about the origins of the Fairtrade organisation and how Pulborough had been awarded the Fairtrade Village accreditation back in 2007.

Gerald Then went on to present the Chairman with a new certificate, as the accreditation had been awarded again in 2009.

The Chairman thanked Mr Batt for the fair-trade group's efforts and advised that the new certificate would once again hang in the village hall.

7. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions for any of those present.

8. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman closed the meeting and invited all those present to join the Parish Councillors for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

..... **Chairman**

..... **Date**