

North Lopham Annual Open Meeting

Draft minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 2007 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom

1. **Attendance and Apologies:** Brian Frith (Chair), Jan Tate (Vice-Chair), Valerie Garnham, Mick McManus, Graham West, Robert Carley and Mike Cox (Clerk). Also attending were eight members of the public. Apologies received from Richard Vere and Penny Sheppard.
2. **Minutes of Open Meeting held 10th May 2006:** Read, approved and signed. Moved by Mick McManus and seconded by Valerie Garnham. All agreed.
3. **Matters arising:** Brian Frith spoke briefly on the weight limit which was discussed at last year's meeting. He has been promised a report on a NCC survey within the next two months.
4. **Reports:** Below are summaries of the reports presented. The full text of each report can be obtained from the Clerk.
 - **School** – Rev. Rob Mellowship presented a comprehensive report on the progress of the school, which was very encouraging. Quite a lot has happened this last year; numbers are healthy with 62 children on the roll and a similar number due to start in September as are leaving from Year 6.
 - **Church** – Jennie Vere reported an increase in numbers attending the Church. New groups had been formed, including the 'buggy' club. Work should commence later in the year on the installation of a new toilet in the base of the Church tower.
 - **Chapel** – Valerie Garnham reported on events held by the small group at the Chapel, including a film show, held in the last few months and forthcoming events over the next year.
 - **Village Hall** - Eileen Jacob gave a comprehensive report on the progress made by the Village Hall Committee, including fundraising, building works and the renowned Farmers' Market. The village fireworks display did have a downside as the bonfire was used as a means of fly tipping and the clearance of unsuitable materials together with the removal of ash at the end proved to be very expensive.
 - **Parish Council** – Brian Frith reported on past and forthcoming projects including the pond and sewage works. He thanked members of the Parish Council and the public who had rallied to help improve the village.
 - **Playgroup** – Mike Cox reported on last year's progress of The Lophams Playgroup, which has seen an increase in fundraising. There has been a waiting list because the group had reached maximum numbers, including a high proportion of 'funded' children. This has meant that it has been possible to deposit money for next year when it is known that there will be fewer children.

Brian Frith thanked everyone for the contributions.

From the floor Eileen Jacob pointed out that whilst Brian Frith had praised everybody else, had it not been for his motivation many of the Parish Council projects would not have come to fruition. Others present echoed these remarks.

5. **Finance Report:** Brian Frith gave a breakdown of the accounts for 2006/7, which included details of the grants for the pond project and thanked Chris Stringfield for his prompt audit.
6. **Any other business:**
 - Eileen Jacob asked what the new notice board at the pond would be used for. Brian Frith explained that this was for community use (no private adverts etc.) There would be a map of the village (produced by Tony Osler) and some text outlining the renovation schemes and acknowledging the various funding sources, but plenty of room for 'Village' notices.
 - Jennie Vere asked that official recognition be made in the minutes of the contribution made to the Parish Council of Frederick Layton who had recently died. All agreed.
7. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.