

DARSHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

16TH MAY 2017

REPORT

About 60 people attended the Annual Parish Meeting and enjoyed wine and nibbles [wine very kindly donated by Budgens, Darsham Service Station]. There were several displays by local groups and organisations – Ladies of Leisure, Parish Council, Village Hall, DASH ASTRO, and others.

The report of the previous year, 2016, was taken as read and signed by the chairman of the parish council, Cllr. Robin Leggate.

Cllr. Leggate then gave a report on the work of the parish council for the previous year. He thanked all the councillors for their hard work, welcomed Cllr. Michael Simons to the council and also thanked Michael Gower [Suffolk County councillor] who is retiring, and Raymond Catchpole [Suffolk Coastal councillor] for all their help and support in the previous year. Although the parish council has slightly increased the precept for the coming year, Cllr. Leggate pointed out that due to the number of new houses in Priory Lane, there would be little or no impact on the level of tax for all properties in the village.

Various tidying up works had been carried out with council funds – at the village sign, in Coronation Square and in the Community Orchard where the addition of a number of trees, donated by various local groups and firms, had added to the varieties of the initial planting. He thanked Cllr. Jasmine Backhouse for all her hard work on this project and said that every Thursday evening at 5.30pm, there was a watering project, with wine afterwards!

Cllr. Simon Manning was thanked for his work on planning applications, which was a great help to councillors when making decisions.

The parish council had submitted an excellent response to the Sizewell C 2nd consultation and Cllrs. Simons and Poupard had been instrumental in putting this together after much hard work which is greatly appreciated.

It is reported that Footpath 8 is still closed, as the exit onto the A12 is very dangerous.

Next year there will be an exciting and very large building project in the village, with the planned new houses and the new village hall as part of the development. The display on the village hall table attracted a lot of attention, and Cllr Leggate specially thanked Cllr. Rolfe for all his hard work coordinating and negotiating with developers on behalf of the village hall committee. The council will do their best to make sure that disruption will be kept to a minimum.

The parish council chairman then closed this annual meeting and invited anyone who was interested to stay for the parish council Annual Meeting, when the developing company for the new village hall; and surrounding houses would be making a short presentation, before usual council business.