

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Sompting held on Wednesday 12th May 2004 in Sompting Community Centre

Attendance: Parish Councillors: J Underwood (Chairman), K Bashford, M Brookes, J Burns, T Clarke, B Marler, B Mear, M Sherriff, J Wales and D Yates.

1/04 **Apologies** - Cllr N Pigott.

2/04 **Minutes** - Minutes of the last Annual Assembly of the Parish of Sompting held on 14th May 2003, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3/04 **Report of the Chairman** – The Chairman reported as follows:

We can usually pin-point a theme for each year. In the last two years I have expressed concern about the growing bureaucracy and volume of paper and, although this year is no exception, the subject that seems to be exercising our minds more and more that of anti-social behaviour. Vandalism to cars and property, trees and telephone boxes have been a regular item and sadly there seems very little that we can do about it. Its no use blaming the police. They do their best. It is no use blaming the school. They do their best. But parents? Are they doing their best to bring up their children with a sense of responsibility to others or is it just a matter of their rights?. Until society accepts the “un P.C” answer that for every right there is a responsibility these problems will not go away. We must continue to fund and encourage youth activities where there are leaders who will try to instil that sense of responsibility in young people and persist in our attempts to keep Sompting looking smart.

In that respect our bulb display gets better and better. Each year, our trees grow bigger and more are being planted, except on the A27. Whatever we try to achieve we cannot do it without committed active Members and one in particular who is retiring this year, must be mentioned. Barrie Marler puts in a tremendous amount of time and effort in monitoring planning applications and pouring over the bumf received form the County Council and others. Thank you Barrie, we will miss you.

In October Joyce Burns was elected to the Council and in November we lost one of our most involved Members with the sad death of Doug Sherriff. Margaret is standing down now and she goes with our love and thanks for all her work for this Council. To those who are not standing for re-election our thanks. To those who are we wish you good luck.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to Val. We were all stunned by her announcement that she is leaving us. After 11 years we had almost got her trained or is it the other way round? Val has worked very hard for Sompting and has been a great support to me as Chairman during these last few years. Her advice is always sound and positive and I know that this Council will miss her. Thanks Val and all good wishes for the future.

4/04 **Other Matters** – No further matters were raised.

5/04 **Close** - The Chairman closed the meeting.