

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 11th January 2012.

Present

Chris Thomson Chairman
David Howes
Tim Webber
Peter Royce
Rob Ireland
Christine Peck Parish Clerk

In attendance

Terry Clements St Edmundsbury B C

1. Apologies for Absence

Howard Singh

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 9th November 2011

Minutes having been previously emailed to Members were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

None

4. Members Declaration of Interest

Peter Royce is a member of the Community Council Committee.

5. Police Matters

Although not in attendance, they reported no incidents since our last meeting.

6. Chairman's Report

Chris attended the tree planting of a green beech along the Railway Line in memory of David Balmer, which was well attended. He ascertained that a working group had regularly met along the Railway Line to carry out various tasks and he felt it would be good if this scheme could be resurrected.

The maintenance contract for the Railway Line has been awarded to Barry Colson once again. An alternative had been obtained from St Edmundsbury, but was much higher in cost.

Chris confirmed that the setting up of the village web site was progressing, three quotes were obtained and the cheapest one had been accepted. This will be whelnetham.com. He demonstrated the current progress on his laptop. A request was made for each Councillor to produce a photo for inclusion. It should go live in March, when we can then engage with the public and issue post cards with full particulars. The site would offer lots of information, i.e. bus timetable, events at Community Centre, details of Railway Line etc. Also suggested that the Clerk write

to local organisations enquiring as to whether they would like to be linked to the website. All agreed.

We are still short of the total compliment of Councillors and Chris mentioned the need to coop additional member(s). David said he had previously spoken to Stephen Cooper at the Village Stores, who appeared to show interest. However, he is currently serving with the RAF in Afghanistan. The Clerk would write to him upon his return in April.

7. Finance

Current total bank balance **£ 10,385.61**

Current account £10,255.25 (reconciled with bank statement no. 27)

Instant access £130.36 (reconciled with bank statement no. 40)

Payments made since last meeting –

Clerks salary (net) £112

Clerks expenses £53.75

Tree and planting £50

BT £112.50

HMRC Tax £84

A review of the finances was carried out and it was estimated outgoings to the end of the financial year would be £2,160 as follows:

Website £750

Railway maintenance £640 +

Community Centre Hire £120

Suffolk Acre sub. £30

BT £150

plus £1,000 to be set aside for the Queens Jubilee celebrations and up to £5,000 for tree work.

8. Updates

PLANNING -

C Marsh, The Bungalow, Low Green, Little Whelnetham

Single storey rear extension and detached garage **NO OBJECTION**

A Edwards, Homelea, Sudbury Road, Little Whelnetham

Continued use of existing detached workshop and attached storage building for repair/refurbishment of second hand furniture **OBJECTED**

Mr & Mrs J Williamson Manor Farm Great Whelnetham

Revised scheme Change of use and conversion of agricultural barn to dwelling
NO OBJECTION

GT WHELNETHAM SCHOOL - Terry reported that a teacher was currently on maternity leave and her replacement had fitted in well. The current pupil

numbers remain constant. Parking continues to be an issue but there does not appear to be a solution. This has been highlighted in a recent newsletter. The Governing body is strong.

TRANSPORT –Peter stated that there had been some fallen trees along the main A134 road towards Bury St Edmunds during high winds. Parking at the school was again dangerous at the time of their Christmas Bazaar.

HOUSING – The Clerk had received a letter from MLArchitects regarding a proposed development of affordable and open market housing on land beyond Erskine Lodge. All agreed this was a good idea and Clerk would write to the architects confirming this but subject to the housing being offered to local residents initially.

RAILWAY WALK - David suggested now would be a good time to consult a tree surgeon to carry out an inspection of the trees along the Railway Line. All agreed. He was making contact with a local tree surgeon for himself so would request an inspection along the Railway Line as well.

- 9 **Correspondence** The Clerk had received a letter from St Edmundsbury regarding the “Wos Up” mobile youth project stating this worked well in Whelnetham during the summer of 2011 and enquired as to whether we would contribute financially to this for 2012. After discussion it was decided to decline this.

Also a letter from St Edmundsbury offering an oak tree to commemorate the Queens Jubilee. Decided this could be planted along the Railway Line.

St Edmundsbury is offering to provide litter picking equipment, although this was on a first come, first serve basis. All agreed we should apply for whatever was available.

- 10 **Any other business** Rob Ireland enquired as to situation with play area. Confirmed to him all repairs had been carried out other than damaged fence.

David confirmed the grit bin had been installed in Cocks Green Lane, but not filled with grit as yet. Clerk would remind Suffolk Highways Department.

Chris had received complaints from residents in Tutelina Road whose gardens border the playing field regarding the height of some of the trees along the edge of the field. Apparently these were donated by the Parish Council to commemorate the Queens silver jubilee. There was therefore some dispute as to who was responsible for the upkeep. Chris said that as these were planted to serve the community some agreement could be made to possibly share the cost. David suggested that as he was contacting a tree surgeon regarding the Railway Line that he could include this area too. All agreed.

11 **Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates**

Meetings for 2012 will be held on 14th March, 9th May, 11th July, 12th September and 14th November.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed Chairman

Date

All Members of this Parish Council hereby agree to adhere to implement the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.