

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Community Centre on 08th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR
June Attwood JA
Howard Singh HS
Stephen Smith SS
Clifford Dive CD
Tonie Armstrong TA
Terry Clements County and Borough Councillor TC
Diane Everitt Parish Clerk DE
Others - 6 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Tim Webber TW

2. Public Question time.

It was raised by a member of the public from the last meeting about the Parish Council employing a street cleaner/handyman. Due to the financial commitment, this has been deferred until next year for discussion, but not forgotten. There were concerns over damage to trees after the recent high winds and who is responsible for fallen trees. If the tree is on private land it is the owner's responsibility, even if it falls over public areas. For trees on public land this could be Highways County Council/Borough Council, or whoever is the land owner.

3. Chairman's Report – Peter Royce

PR thanked the Community Centre for removing the tree that fell into the play area after the recent storm, and for mending the broken piece of fence. Update re the lighting on Sicklesmere Road this should be replaced by the end of March. The clearing of the footpath along the main road has been put back as it is bird nesting season. Notice has been given by highways that there will be traffic lights on the A134 for road works 9th of March. The pothole on the A134 by the Round House has been filled by is already beginning to break up. In Tutelina Road a new LED lamp fitting will be installed on the two posts concerned that will provide more Omni directional lighting. This will be the first time this type of fitting will have been used in Suffolk. There is concern re a blocked drain on the corner of Raynsford Road and Stanningfield Road, when it rains heavily the water runs down the road to the main A134.

PR said that there had been some meetings re the Erskine Lodge development with some affected residents. The MP Jo Churchill was keen to arrange a meeting between residents affected and Havebury to ensure their concerns were heard and addressed, as yet there has been no further information regarding this. PR. To follow up with the MPs Secretary. Also, that Havebury Housing wants to work with the Parish Council re Phase 2 of the development which currently has outline planning, to involve the local Community and explain the processes, updates will be provided. There is concern that the Parish Council has not been notified about the outcome of any archaeological searches.

County/Borough Councillor report – Terry Clements

TC gave an update around mental health and the plans for improvement in the local mental health services over the next 10 years. There is also a new County wide campaign that aims to prevent suicide in Suffolk.

The 'Leading Digital Innovation in Health and Care in Suffolk' was opened and chaired by Colin Noble County Council Leader on the 24th February. This is very high profile as Health and Care is on everybody's agenda, due to the immense pressure on all systems.

The design team for 'The Hold' has been announced, this will eventually incorporate facilities to house 900 years of Suffolk's historical archives along with an exhibition space, exhibiting digital technology, a café, an auditorium and education /seminar rooms.

The carbon neutral scheme run by Suffolk Highways has received an environmental award; this project cost just under £128000 and was initiated as part of Suffolk's aspirations of becoming the Greenest County. The 5-week project was to reconstruct and upgrade 1.4km of footpath along the old A11 near Elveden. There has been 100 gritting runs in the County this winter to keep the roads safe. TC has also managed to secure 2 triangular warning signs to be placed near the school.

This was the last report for TC before he stands down as County Councillor and when finished he was thanked for his service to the Parish Council, the advice and help provided over the years. He was then presented with mementos donated by HS.

4. Minutes of previous meeting dated 11th January 2017 to be agreed (any matters arising to be discussed during course of meeting)

Minutes from previous meeting agreed and signed by Chairman.

Proposed by Howard Singh **Seconded by** Steve Smith **All matters arising completed**

5. Declarations of interest.

Howard Singh member of SALC but no longer sits on Community Council, attends as a member only

6. Police Matters

Copies of the SNT newsletter handed out. This can be found on the Police website.

7. Updates

7.1 Planning – DC/17/0283/HH Mr G Fox 71 Raynsford Road Great Whelnetham, single storey rear extension, no concerns. The Parish Council has not received any updates reference Fenton Farm. Erskine Lodge Development will be discussed in AOB.

7.2 Gt Whelnetham School and parking- KP Head Teacher not at meeting. The most current newsletter was distributed. Children have recently been out on bicycles, but no warning signs in place for traffic, also there is parent's evenings on the 29/30 March this will mean cars and parking issues outside the school. There are concerns about the condition of the road leading to Copdoes farm from the School. **Action: Clerk to report to Highways**

- 7.3 Railway line** – quotes have been received for next year's grass cutting, Andrew Cobbold from the Council and June Attwood have walked the Railway Line to clarify which areas are to be cleared.
- 7.4 Transport and VAS Speed signs** – The bracket for the other pole near the school has been purchased and both signs are now working.
- 7.5 Housing** – To be discussed under AOB.
- 7.6 Proposal to avoid double election costs** – Currently with NALC, and was raised at SALC AGM by HS on 14th November 2016. A suggestion was made that a decision could be forced by asking for a van/polling station in Little Whelnetham at next election, this would create an extra cost and could make the Authorities think about changing the system. HS is still chasing this.
- 7.7 Playground report/fence, playground equipment replacement seats and maintenance** – The latest Playground report has been circulated to all Councillors; there is nothing outstanding and it is a low risk. It has been noted that the fence is in a poor state and the gates do not close properly. TA has been sourcing additional equipment, she is currently waiting for more details and costs, this is an ongoing project.
- 7.8 Improving Local Communities** – TA will do leaflets after this meeting with updates for distribution and use the Post Office as a collection point for people.
- 7.9 Membership update, co-option of additional Councillors** – None

8. Correspondence –

West Suffolk letter re Public Space Protection Orders – the cost involved is £100 per site. There was a discussion as to whether this would be suitable for the play area, also whether the main field should be considered too. There were concerns that this may stop people being able to walk their dogs under control on the field area. Also, clarification needed as to whether this would be one or two sites, and double the costs. Dogs are currently already banned from the play area; the order would reinforce this. Clerk has been asked to clarify the situation and come back to councillors. This must be done by the 31st March. All councillors were in principle in agreement to take out an order but specific details needed.

Action: Clerk to clarify the above with St Edmundsbury Council

Fresh Start New Beginnings letter asking for donations –

Action: TA to find out more about this Charity and bring back to next meeting.

Correspondence from SALC re a Nations Tribute and WW1 Beacons of Light 11th November 2018- The aim is for 1000 WW1 Beacons of Light to be lit at 7pm on the 11th November 2018 to remember the end of the war. Registration for the involvement in this project needs to be made by the end of March 2017. After discussion Parish Council, would like to take part also Community Council to discuss at their next meeting to work together for a Village event. A Beacon Master is required.

Action: Clerk to register interest with organisation for Whelnetham Parish Council, put on agenda for May meeting.

9. For Consideration

9.1 Budgeting for 17/18 proposals for the renovation of the Community Centre and associated request for financial support, street cleaner, Church requests for money for grass cutting, Councillor training. – Above agreed from next year's expenditure except for Street Cleaner which was deferred. To be removed from agenda.

9.2 Blocked drains on Stanningfield Road A134 junction on Sicklesmere Road – have been reported, to be removed from agenda.

9.3 Campaign for a Cycle Path from the town to Sicklesmere – SS and CD considering funding/grants for this project. Highways have been contacted twice but have not replied, contact names from the recent presentation to be forwarded on to SS. Outline planning now been given for development of 1250 houses on the outskirts of Bury, Nowton side of town, there will be 106 money, which could possibly be accessed towards this project. Ongoing.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliations- As attached on bi monthly accounts. Balances current account £7475.48 Instant Access account £1133.28 total in bank £8608.76.
Proposed JA Seconded SS

10.2 Payments for approval- Clerk £83.98 expenses, Westcotec Ltd £60.00, Community Council hire of hall £198.00, HMRC Revenue clerk's income tax £91.20, also St Edmundsbury Borough Council Gardening services for removal of tree from old Railway Line after storm £223.20.

Proposed JA seconded SS

10.3 Projected rest of year expenditure – Clerks Salary and expenses £168.

10.4 Grass cutting and railway line maintenance quotations for 17/18 for approval – discussed and approved.

Proposed JA seconded SS

10.5 Precept Details – Precept form completed and sent to St Edmundsbury Council, no update.

11. Any other business

There was a discussion around the Havebury development on the Erskine Centre site and affected resident's concerns. Also, outline planning maps of the phase 2 stage were on display.

Meeting finished 9.47 pm

Next meeting 10th May 2017 Annual Parish Meeting 7.00pm followed by Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman

Date