

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR
 June Attwood JA
 Terry Clements Borough Councillor TC
 Howard Singh HS
 Tonie Armstrong TA
 Diane Everitt Parish Clerk DE
 Others - 5 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Karen Soons County Councillor KS
 Stephen Smith SS
 Tim Webber TW

2. Public Question time.

Concerns and questions raised from members of the public, about the footpath from the village up to the school which is very narrow. The school now takes children for an extra 2 years and the older ones are encouraged to walk on their own. The path is very narrow for mothers with push chairs. A question was asked re the local play area and any future plans for improvements. Thirdly funding for the Community Council was also raised. If not already on the agenda for next meeting the above will be added.

3. Election of Vice Chairman – Howard Singh elected PR proposed and TA seconded all in agreement.

4. Borough Councillors report – Terry Clements

Issues at local school still with speeding and parking. TC not happy with the signage, he will be doing some research as to how many schools in the County have the same problems. County Councillors do not have the funding to cover expenses as budgets have been cut. The Bury Operational Hub planning went through TC has concerns about the traffic in the local area. TC said that the new joint Council St Eds/Forest Heath should not cause too many issues, and that there should be a gradual levelling out of the Council tax amounts.

County Councillor report – Karen Soons

KS had given apologies but monthly newsletter received this has been forwarded to all councillors. This contained details of flu vaccinations, also details of the rise in GCSE and A level results. There were also details of the first in a series of fostering recruitment campaigns. Suffolk Fire and Rescue service have given a reminder to check white goods as it marks UK Safety Week. Parents are urged to have their say on school admission consultation.

Chairman's Report- Peter Royce

There are still problems with overgrown hedges on the main road this has been chased again by the clerk. Two pot holes have recently been repaired but there are still issues reference drain clearance.

5. Minutes of previous meeting dated 12th July 2017 to be agreed (any matters arising to be discussed during course of meeting) also the notes from the September meeting (meeting not quorate)

Minutes from July meeting agreed TA proposed HS seconded all in agreement. Notes from September meeting, not minutes as meeting not quorate agreed JA proposed PR seconded.

6. Declarations of interest – Howard Singh Member of SALC

7. Police Matters – SNT report sent to all Councillors. There had been a local report of people trying to steal farm machinery.

8. Updates

8.1 Planning – DC/17/1665/FUL change of use from B1 to Sui Generis (retail and coffee shop) no concerns. DC/17/2071/TPO Nunns Glebe Parsonage Lane Little Whelnetham, no concerns. Also at same address and applicant DC/17/2246/HH single storey side extension again no concerns. Erskine Lodge monthly progress reports received and placed on noticeboards. No updates for Fenton Farm.

8.2 Gt Whelnetham School and Parking - KP Head Teacher not at meeting. Newsletters and updates received regularly and forwarded on to Councillors. Traffic parking and safety to be discussed at next meeting as per questions raised in the public question time.

8.3 Railway line – The current rules discussed at meeting and agreed as still appropriate. Clerk to get quotes for metal signs to display these on the railway line walk. Quote received from Borough Council for flailing the whole railway line as it was considered necessary to do as the walk is becoming overgrown. Concerns from some councillors that this was not needed.

Actions: clerk to get quotes to display rules on metal signs also to go back to Borough Council for more details as to reasons and facts for recommending the above work.

8.4 Transport and VAS speed signs – No update as SS not at meeting. Signs being moved to Sicklesmere road this week. Speed data is to be collected and forwarded on to Suffolk County Council.

8.5 Proposal to avoid double election costs – Currently with NALC, and was raised at SALC AGM by HS on 14th November 2016. There is no update.

8.6 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 minimal risk. It has been noted that the fence is in a poor state and the gates do not close properly. Catalogues have been obtained to source possible new equipment. Will be discussed in January meeting as raised in Public question time.

8.7 Improving Local Communities – TA gave update on leaflet that will be distributed to both villages after each meeting. Also discussed here the concerns raised by the public questions at the start of the meeting, and that the local people should get involved in village matters, the Parish Council need to have the Community engaged and involved in big decisions as it is the local precept money that is being spent on their behalf. With the 2 new developments there will be money available to put towards village improvements.

8.8 Membership update and co-operation of additional councillors - none

8.9 Battle Over Beacon – Serious planning to start from next meeting January 2018 also work with Community Centre, as Village event. Pictures of possible beacons handed round. TA to bring specialist/beacon builder and detailed costings to the next meeting.

9. Correspondence – SARS update letter, possible donation at the end of the year. Also details of an Oil purchase group system. This was discussed but there is already one operating in the village.

10. For consideration –

10.1 Budgeting ideas for next year – Councillors asked for ideas and to bring to next meeting

10.2 Possible crossing by the Post Office where the buses stop also the extension of the layby outside the Post Office - To be added to the main agenda.

10.3 Removal of disabled bay on Raynsford road – Action: Clerk to contact Council to get disabled bay removed

10.4 Dog bin on green – There was a bin here previously but this was vandalised. A request has been made to replace. Decision taken to replace. HS proposed JA seconded all in agreement. **Action: Clerk to contact Borough Council to replace bin**

11. Finance

11.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliations- As attached on bi monthly accounts. Balances current account £13883.58 Instant Access account £1133.66 total in bank £15017.24 less cheques to be presented as below £655.59

11.2 Payments for approval- Clerk tax £137.60, clerk expenses £55.99, SALC training costs £462.00

11.3 Projected expenditure for rest of year – Clerk presented spreadsheet of project costs to end of year total approximately £3954.

12. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Defibrillator

Village Sign

Meeting finished 9.15pm

Next meeting 10th January 2018 at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman Date