

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present

Peter Royce Chairman PR
Howard Singh HS
June Attwood JA
Tim Webber TW
Terry Clements Borough Councillor TC
Diane Everitt Clerk DE
Elaine Gorman New Clerk EG

Public attending

1 member of the public attended meeting

1 Apologies for Absence

Tonie Armstrong
Karen Soons County Councillor

2 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of 9th May 2018

These had been circulated and were agreed as a true and correct record.

Proposed June Attwood
Seconded Howard Singh
All agreed

3. Chairman's Report

A copy of this report is filed with minutes.

PR has sent a letter of thanks to Tonie Armstrong who did not stand for re-election. He also thanked the other Councillors for all the work they have done during the past year. The WW1 Beacon is something that the whole Community really appreciated, this was shown by the support and numbers attending the event on the 11th of November 2018. It has been decided to place a memorial bench near the Beacon, and to have this as a permanent memorial. This was achieved with the help of the Whelnetham Community Centre Committee. The Parish Council has recently purchased a Defibrillator, this is due to be fitted at the Memorial Hall 9th May 2019. One training event has already been held, paid for by the Parish Council, with the Whelnetham Community Centre committee

undertaking to continuing the free training for everyone in the Parish. PR had a meeting with representatives from Suffolk County Council and the local MP reference School Run Parking, and general safety issues in the proximity of the local School concerning speed, he proposed changing the speed limit of the road from Bells Lane which is currently 60 mph national limit to 40mph to provide a buffer zone to the 30mph limit which commences about 800 yards from the school, one of many ongoing concerns and the meeting generated several ideas and proposals which will be taken to the safety committee. In the coming year the Parish Council with the help of the Whelnetham Community Centre Committee will be working on refurbishing the play area and acquiring new play/activity equipment to place in an enlarged play area on the recreation field.

The Clerk has resigned with a new Clerk appointed to take over from June. In conclusion, PR said the Council was moving in a positive direction, but also that it needed more Councillors. The Council needs to be more in touch with the needs and wants of the Communities of both Great and Little Whelnetham and needs to engage with the Parishioners.

4 Police Report

There was no Police attendance at this meeting. Both Police and the Local Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator attended the January meeting. There are regular updates/emails from the NHW Co-Ordinator, and the latest crime statistics were available, Whelnetham has no recorded crime for March 2019. This area is a very low crime area.

5 Suffolk County Council and Borough Annual Reports

Report received from Karen Soons County Councillor this has been circulated and copies available at the meeting. This will be filed with the minutes. Karen gave updates from current on-going projects. These included the County grass cutting programme, the plan for £6 million upgrades to Suffolk recycling centres, a report on the booming Suffolk tourist trade. There were details of the budget and were the County Council will be spending money in the current year. Also, the department of education recognises the outstanding performances by Suffolk students.

Report received from Terry Clements Borough Councillor, this has again been circulated and copies available at the meeting, it will be filed with the minutes. This will be the last report for St Edmundsbury Borough Council due to the merger with Forest Heath and the formation of the new West Suffolk District Council. Exciting times but also sad due to the changing times. The decision now has to be taken as to whether to apply for Borough status again. Reference finances, this has been a difficult area due to the harmonisation of the Council Tax. This will happen over a period of 7 years due to the limit on Council Tax rises. Forest Heath Council Tax was lower than St Edmundsbury's and needs to

be brought in line. One of the main changes for the new West Suffolk Council is that they will have the ability to borrow money at a low rate (Public Works Loan Board rate) and reinvest that in projects obviously at a higher rate, which can be set against Council Tax. There is now a different emphasis on what role the new Council will play and how Councillors will need to have a wider remit on what is taken account of in West Suffolk. This will be a more strategic role, with the Council having a stronger voice with health and the environment. TC has given £1200 to Suffolk Mind from his Locality Budget this is to provide 'Suffolk Needs Met' training.

6 Organisation Reports/Public Questions

None

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As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.40

Signed Chairman

Date

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