

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Community Centre on 9th January 2013.

Present

Chris Thomson Chairman Peter Royce

Christine Peck Parish Clerk Tim Webber

Howard Singh

Member of Public - Mrs Fletcher

In attendance

Terry Clements St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor

Mr & Mrs Max Milburn

1) Apologies for Absence

David Howes

2) Public Question time

Mrs Fletcher asked if the parish noticeboard could be refurbished. Howard agreed to obtain an estimate from Owen Orriss.

3) Police matters

Although not attending a report had been received by email as follows:

13/11/12-14/11/12 overnight theft of tractor from a farm inGt Whelnetham (Tim made the correction this was not tractor but a quad bike type vehicle).

20/11/12 – 21/11/12 theft of diesel fuel from secure compound on Linkwood Road.

10/12/12 forced entry into dwelling in Little Whelnetham, search made but nothing stolen.

31/12/12 - 03/01/13 a catalytic converter stolen from a 4x4 vehicle parked in Raynsford Road.

As from 1st February 2013, we are to have a dedicated PCSO – Jane Morton.

Peter queried the apparent lack of support from Police, Tim agreed and mentioned a personal incident. Peter suggested that a formal complaint should be made to The Police and Crime Commissioner. Clerk to write accordingly.

4) Minutes of Meeting held on 14th November 2012 and matters arising

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

Skate park – this seems to be at a standstill, no feedback forthcoming.

A134 layby opposite shop. The clerk had received an estimate from Tom Duchesne for clearing the area and painting the railings for £360 although this could increase if more paint should be required. It was unanimously agreed this should be accepted.

5) Chairman's report

Chris welcomed Max Milburn to the meeting who was attending in relation to the proposed Erskine Lodge development. Chris reminded Councillors of an earlier meeting with Max who on behalf of Abbeygate Properties, owners of the land, had identified the Erskine area as an ideal site for affordable housing, and the Parish Council had been supporting this scheme. However, Havebury were now on board and were interested in building new alternative accommodation to replace their Erskine Lodge property which is not now fit for purpose. Terry confirmed that the scheme had gone to cabinet and would now move forward to consultation and it was now generally agreed the land was not on a flood plain. Chris has been in communication with Scott Bailey at Havebury to register the Parish Councils interest and that the area should include affordable housing for young/old etc. of the village initially and not just for graduated housing. Howard mentioned that he attended a meeting at Erskine Lodge between the tenants and Havebury which was obviously premature in view of the fact there was a lack of funding. It was therefore agreed Chris should write to Scott at Havebury to reaffirm Parish Council interest for mixed development and also to state Terry was at our meeting and, he is equally interested in the development moving forward.

Regarding the mobile traffic signs, Chris confirmed he had been in touch with Suffolk Highways Department who had agreed in conjunction with Horringer and Tut Hill Fornham All Saints that Gt Whelnetham would be included in the scheme. Initially the signs were to be in place for the first two weeks of January on a site from Bury approaching the Rushbrooke Arms. However, upon inspection the pole in question is not tall enough and needs to be 2.2 metres. Therefore once the contractors erect a new pole, the sign will then be in place. These signs are being trialled and if successful more will be ordered. However, if it transpires the trial is unsuccessful they may go back to fixed signs, in which case we would be allowed to purchase our own.

Dog bin – Chris had received a complaint regarding a damaged bin along the Railway Walk. The Clerk contacted St Edmundsbury and was informed it was now the responsibility of Parish Councils to pay for replacements and the charge would be £191.65. Alternatives were looked into but a less costly bin could not be found. A replacement was therefore ordered from St Edmundsbury. However some days later it was pointed out that St Edmundsbury were looking into charging Parish Councils to empty both dog refuse and litter bins at a cost of £2.65 per bin per week. After some discussion it was agreed a replacement bin was still needed along the Railway Walk, Clerk to confirm to St Edmundsbury.

6) Members Declaration of Interest

Howard Singh and Peter Royce are members of Community Centre

7) Updates

- **Planning**

Mr & Mrs M Gregory, Hillcrest, Station Hill, Little Whelnetham

Erection of double garage

Mr & Mrs S Cooper, PO Stores, Sicklesmere

Erection of single storey front extension, demolition of existing garage and stores

GRANTED

- **Whelnetham School**

All is going well. The current term is a little shorter. Various activities are arranged for after school. Parking is slightly better since the staggered opening commenced.

- **Transport**

Nothing to report

- **Housing**

See report on Erskine Lodge development under Chairman's report

- **Railway Walk**

Chris reported that Suffolk Wildlife Trust are very keen to promote the walk as a County Wildlife Site and wish to offer guided walks in the spring. They feel the northern end has no value from a conservation point of view but suggest the area could be replaced with a community orchard. Chris feels that to create a facility for visitor parking off road the existing gate could be removed, a car park made and a fence erected beyond the area. Peter did raise a query on security and it was agreed this could be looked into further at the time. Planning permission would have to be obtained, Chris would therefore get quotations.

8) Finance

Instant access account £ 1,130.85 (agreed with bank statement 45

Current account £10,424.48 (agreed with bank statement 39

Total **£11,555.33**

Payment to agree PAYE tax £95.82

Payment since last meeting £180.00 grass cutting

9) Correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had received letters from East Anglian Air Ambulance and MAGPAS asking for donations. Chris proposed that £100 should be given to the EAAA, all agreed.

10) Any other business

There was no further business

Meeting ended at 9.05 pm

Next meeting

March 13th at 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman **Date**

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