

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Chris Thomson	-	Chairman	Howard Singh
David Howes	-	Vice Chairman	Peter Royce
Christine Peck	-	Parish Clerk	

Members of Public -

Mrs Fletcher

Mrs Barry

12 Youngsters from village

In attendance

Terry Clements - St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor (Joined meeting at 8.15pm)

PCSO Jonathan Burke

1. Apologies for Absence

Tim Webber (Holiday)

Rob Ireland (Work commitment)

2. Public Question time

Following problems in the village of anti social behaviour, PCSO Jonathan Burke had suggested that any interested youngster should meet with the Parish Council to put forward their ideas of what they would like provided to ease their boredom. Chris gave them the opportunity to put forward their views and the unanimous request was for a skate park. Various ideas were discussed and it was pointed out the funding would not solely be the responsibility of the Parish Council but they themselves would have to be involved too. Peter put forward the idea that the Community Centre may be able to assist and suggested that they should attend their next meeting on 6th August. David along with a parent agreed to look at the facilities of the skate park in Barrow and enquire into costs, funding etc.

Mrs Fletcher thanked the person who delivered the flyer regarding the website.

3. Police Matters

PCSO Jonathan Burke gave a report on police matters since the previous meeting as follows –

23/05/12 burglary dwelling at Lower Green Little Whelnetham - property entered during daylight hours jewellery and laptop stolen and car from driveway

06/06/12 theft from Erskine Lodge/Stanningfield Road area victim requested no publicity

The overall crime level in Suffolk has reduced again by 1%. This is the sixth consecutive year that crime has fallen in Suffolk making it one of the most crime free areas of the UK.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on May 9th and matters arising

Minutes having been circulated to Councillors were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. Any matter arising would be discussed during the course of the meeting.

5. Chairman's Report

Chris informed Councillors that it was necessary by law to adopt a new Code of Conduct as from 1st July. He went through the main differences of the Suffolk Code of Conduct and the need for Councillors to register their own interests and also of their partner/spouse.

It was agreed to adopt this and forms would be completed at the end of the meeting.

Terry joined the meeting at 8.15pm

Chris informed him of the presence of the local children requesting a skate park.

Terry was familiar with the one in Barrow and felt a concrete one would be far better as this would be less noisy and a wooden one would be high maintenance.

Chris reported that numerous complaints had been received regarding the terrible state of the various grass areas in both villages and also the Railway Line. Howard stated that the Probation Service were still unreliable and the next time they were able to work would be the following Tuesday. However, Chris had previously requested the Clerk to obtain estimates from both Barry Colson and Tom Duchesne and these were considered. Unfortunately Barry Colson had decided to cut the areas in question prior to issuing an estimate or being given instructions in order to ascertain the timing involved. This cut was not up to standard and neither was the Railway Line and it was therefore decided to award the contract to Tom. Chris would inform Barry accordingly. Howard would cancel the Probation Service.

6. Members Declaration of Interest

Howard Singh and Peter Royce are members of the Community Council Committee.

7. Updates

- **Planning**

No applications since the last meeting.

- **Whelnetham School**

Terry confirmed that the County was committed to a two tier system. A timetable had now been drawn up and Primary schools would need to reorganise additional classrooms. Chris Lawson had attended the latest meeting involving local Heads and Heads of Governors which was chaired by David Ruffley MP. There will be a need for Primary schools to add classrooms for years 5 and 6. Some schools do

not need extra building work but there is an overall capital cost ranging from £6 - £8 million.

The timetable is as follows:

Public consultation summer/winter 2013

Statutory process completed 2014

Year 5 retained in primary schools 2015

Middle schools close August 2016

Year 6 in Primary schools Years 7 and 8 in Upper Schools 2016

The question does arise regarding the capacity for additional parking at the school following an increase in numbers. Chris pointed out that years 5 and 6 were entitled to free transport at present. That may not remain the case. It was agreed that we should make representations to the authority that if the school is to be further developed some off road parking should be provided at the same time Terry suggested that we discuss this again at our next meeting when plans might be clearer.

- **Transport**

Howard reported that he along with the Clerk and some villagers met with PCSO Jonathan Burke in Raynsford Road regarding the dangerous parking issues. Jonathan's suggestions were to continue the central white lines from the start of the first junction to around the blind bend to remind people to stay on their side of the road. Regarding parking on the second blind bend, he suggested a continuation of the double yellow lines from the car parking spaces, and that Terry could possibly assist in the matter. However, Terry did not believe that the County Council would add new lines and so after discussion it was felt nothing could be done to prevent people parking on the verges.

Chris again raised the possibility of having an electronic flashing sign for speeding motorists with Terry. Unfortunately Terry had misunderstood the situation and had not realised the Parish Council were definite in having their own sign rather than awaiting the outcome of a pilot scheme in Horringer and Barrow villages. He would therefore continue his enquiries.

- **Housing**

The Clerk had been notified by St Edmundsbury of a meeting during week commencing 16th July to review the comments submitted in relation to Rural Vision 2031. Howard agreed to attend this if the date when known is convenient. In the meantime the Clerk would re confirm our support for the Erskine Lodge site.

- **Railway Walk**

The Jubilee tree has now been planted along the Railway Walk

Rob has walked the Railway Line again and considers the next steps to be –

Formally id recognised entry points and put on notices boards both sides of the walk

Propose to bring the post office end notice board and associated items, bin etc up to scratch

Ask the Parish Council their views on steps after that
Get "friends of" group up and running

8 Finance

Current bank balance	£13,512.50	as per bank statement	33
Direct Access	£ 1,130.57	as per bank statement	43
Total	£14,643.07		

Payment since last meeting £60.00 Ensors internal audit
. £18.75 Old Parsonage Garden Services planting of Jubilee tree

Payments to be approved - £94.23 HMRC PAYE tax

The Clerk reported that the books had been received back from the internal auditor and there had been no query raised. These have now been forwarded to BDO for external audit.

Confirmation had been received that BDO would carry out our external audit for the next five years.

9 Any other business

Peter mentioned that residents of School Cottages have asked if it would be possible for a name sign to be erected outside their properties. The Clerk to enquire with St Edmundsbury.

Gt Whelnetham church has launched an appeal to renovate/repair the bell tower which will cost £13,000. Peter raised the question as to whether the Parish Council would be prepared to donate. After discussion it was decided a donation could possibly be made but the Parish Council would like more information and it was suggested representation be invited to the next meeting before a final decision be made.

David wished it be known and Terry made aware of work carried out on behalf of UK Power Networks in Cocks Green Lane whereby they claim permission had been given by the Council and local farmers to remove trees in the way of power lines.

Peter reported that drains at site of Little Whelnetham and Sicklesmere Road were blocked, also at back of Erskine Lodge.

Howard reported that the drains in Raynsford Road had recently been flushed out...

Howard mentioned the number of advertising boards along the main Bury-Sudbury Road. Clerk to contact St Edmundsbury to ascertain legal position of these.

Freedom of Information - it was agreed any information so requested would readily be available.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Next meeting 12th September 2012 at 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman

Date

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All Members of this Parish Council hereby agree to adhere to implement the new Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 11th July 2012.

