

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Community Centre on 8th July 2015

Present

Peter Royce Chairman Cliff Dive Vice Chairman
Howard Singh Tim Webber Christine Peck Parish Clerk
Members of Public - Steve Smith Jim Armstrong

Apologies for absence

David Howes

Police Report Not attending but reported that there has only been one incident since last meeting. Theft in Little Whelnetham 23rd -24th June over a two day period a galvanised metal tank has been stolen from church.

Our dedicated PCSO is now 3314 McDaid

Minutes of meeting held on 13th May 2015 and matters arising

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

Members declaration of office

Howard Singh is a member of SALC and Whelnetham Community Centre

Chairman's Report Peter informed the meeting that following his post on the website regarding the Erskine situation he had been invited to attend a meeting with Scott the development manager at Havebury. It appears reference to a development at Fentons Farm should have been removed from their website. Peter emphasised at the meeting that Havebury had breezed into the village with plans for a large number of properties but he does get the impression that even now they have not listened to previous comments and still intend to press ahead with the same number of properties. He therefore requested more consultation going forward,

Peter reported that he has secured funding from Terrys locality budget for the requested street light by the bus stop at Grove Cottages. This is currently on order with Suffolk County Council and could take up to three months.

Following several complaints regarding the grass cutting in the villages the contractor was requested to redo this which has now been completed but under the circumstances it was felt alternative quotations should be obtained, the Clerk would do this.

Updates

- **Planning** – no current applications
- **Whelnetham School** – currently building two new classrooms.

- **Transport** – See Chairman’s report on lighting. Also several pot holes in area of school. Clerk to report to Suffolk County Council. Unsure of location of VAS. Pole near to Community Centre has now been repaired.
- **Housing** – Refer Chairman’s report above.
- **Railway Walk** Cliff reported that there were no undue problems. However although there is a walkable pathway some may consider some areas are overgrown.

Finance

Instant access account £1,132.24

Current account £9,089.52

Total £10,221.76

Payments to agree - Old Parsonage Garden Services £420

HMRC £104.65

Ensors Audit £84.00

The Clerk pointed out that the above figure from The Old Parsonage Garden Services included a charge of £60 for returning to rectify the grass cutting which was not satisfactory. All agreed this should not be paid.

The Clerk had received the accounts documentation back from the internal auditors and had forwarded same to BDO for external examination who have queried why we have spent £1,849 less compared to previous year.

Correspondence

The Clerk had received a letter from St Edmundsbury regarding the two vacant positions in each parish for Councillors.

A letter had been received from The Pensions Regulator regarding a new scheme coming into force whereby all employers need to set up a pension scheme for employees. This was discussed and it was considered this was not really applicable in our circumstances but further details were awaited as to any possible opt out. Howard would mention this at the next SALC meeting.

Any other business Howard reported having received a telephone call from a resident of Parsonage Lane Little Whelnetham regarding a dispute with a neighbour (who he would not name) in connection with grass cutting of verge and hedge. Howard did inspect the site but has taken no further action feeling this is not a matter for the Parish Council to be involved in but should be dealt with in a neighbourly fashion.

Cliff mentioned the broken glass in the public telephone box. The Clerk did report this to BT at the beginning of the year, but would do so again.

Peter queried as to whether the lay by opposite Sicklesmere Stores was being tied up. The Clerk had instructed Tom to proceed at his quoted figure of £200 but would remind him again.

Peter questioned as to whether we should consider a village sign. This was generally considered to be a good idea particularly as there was a wealth of history in the area that could be incorporated. He suggested the item be deferred to the next meeting when further ideas could be discussed.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Next meeting – 9th September 2015

Signed Chairman

Date