

## GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of Parish Council meeting held at Community Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

### **Present**

Chris Thomson	Chairman	Peter Royce
Christine Peck	Parish Clerk	Tim Webber
Howard Singh	David Howes	

Member of Public - Mrs Fletcher

### **In attendance**

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

PCSO Hollie Cogman

#### **1) Apologies for Absence**

Rob Ireland (Work commitment)

#### **2) Public Question time**

No comment made.

#### **3) Police matters**

Hollie Cogman, new PCSO for the area, was welcomed to the meeting. Hollie informed the meeting that there had been one reported crime in Gt Whelnetham since the last meeting- theft of number plate from a vehicle in Stanningfield Road 26/27 January. Also a burglary of a dwelling but due to the sensitive nature it was requested no publicity; this was between 09/01/13 and 13/03/13. Hollie emphasised that the community should make sure their property is secure and to remove personal items from view. Howard highlighted to Hollie the on-going problem of “naughty” children in Gt Whelnetham, particularly the Raynsford Road area and the problems with quad bikes and small motor bikes, this was duly noted. With the speed sign in Sicklesmere Road now in place, it was suggested that now may be a good time to set up a speed check, Hollie agreed to look into this. Literature on Neighbourhood Watch and the priorities of the Bury Rural North were left with the Clerk.

Chris invited Hollie of an event on 27<sup>th</sup> April when Suffolk Wildlife Trust are to launch the Railway Line as a County Wildlife Site and she thought this would be an ideal opportunity to hold a Police surgery. Hollie then left the meeting.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received a reply from the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner in response to our complaint letter, which stated that the Rural North Team covered over 50 villages and many meetings were held on the same evening. However, shortly a new PCSO would be appointed to cover our area.

With regard to other policing concerns if we wished to provide details of specific incidents, these could then be looked into further.

#### **4) Minutes of Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and matters arising**

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

#### **5) Chairman's report**

Regarding the mobile traffic sign, Chris confirmed this had now been in place some three weeks and appeared to be effective, with positive feedback. This is likely to be moved to another village location shortly and whilst there are still only three to be shared, Whelnetham alone could well suggest at least five locations.

The development at Erskine Lodge seems to be going according to schedule and to include affordable housing. Howard stated that there had been another meeting with residents but was not aware of the outcome. Some residents had already found alternative accommodation and moved out. Peter expressed the view that there could well be a shortage of 2 bed accommodation. Furthermore, although the Parish Council were supporting the project, did we have any guarantee the available properties would be offered to local residents or village connections. It was therefore suggested that we endeavour to ascertain the number of such connections already on the waiting list. The Clerk would endeavour to obtain exact number of requirements.

Chris reported that he and David had met with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and a date has now been made, 27<sup>th</sup> April, to officially launch the Railway Walk, all members and public invited. A guided walk and talk will be included. Suffolk County Council has now handed over the Little Whelnetham end of the walk to the Parish Council on a lease basis at a peppercorn rent. Chris has been in contact with architect, Malcolm Lowe, who has drawn up plans for the proposed car parking area. There was some query as to the construction of this and Chris will get back to Malcolm to discuss further. Suffolk County Council has also raised an issue on visibility from the access and suggests a speed survey be conducted.

#### **6) Members Declaration of Interest**

Howard Singh and Peter Royce are members of Community Centre

#### **7) Updates**

- **Planning**

Mr P Block, Meadow View, Water Lane, Little Whelnetham – conversion of two outbuildings to form holiday cottages. NO OBJECTION

- **Whelnetham School**

In the head teachers report the school are supporting Red Nose Day, and are holding a family disco on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the newsletter to parents once again emphasis is placed on illegal parking and requesting that dropping off is

staggered. Terry stated that at a recent review meeting of school heads, primary school heads did not attend as they fully support the two tier system.

- **Transport**

Peter raised concern regarding the junction of Stanningfield Road and A134 as there are several cases of drivers making U turns at the mouth of the junction and he suggested a bollard be put in place. This was generally discussed but it was thought this would not be possible.

- **Housing**

See comments under Chairman's report above.

- **Railway Walk**

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Following the installation of the new dog bin, the Clerk had received a complaint that this was not located in a good position as dog refuse bags were still being deposited at the location of the old bin. However, Chris stated this will be rectified when the fence is moved for the car parking area.

## 8) Finance

Instant access account	£1,130.90	as per bank statement 46
Current account	£8,565.76	as per bank statement 42
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,696.66</b>	

Payment since last meeting £605.83 Old Parsonage Garden Services

Credit from BT following cancellation £27.40

Payments to agree

Community Centre Hire - £180

Clerk's expenses - £57.61

HMRC PAYE £99

Old Parsonage Garden Services - £360

Suffolk Acre - £30

St Edmundsbury Planning - £195

The Clerk confirmed the requested £7,637 Precept had been agreed.

Details were circulated showing expenses against the budget to end of March 2013 were well within the figures estimated.

The Clerk informed the meeting of a change to HMRC reporting of PAYE in that from April they had to be informed every time you made payment to an employee.

The Section 137 figure for 2013/14 is set at £6.98 per electorate.

#### **9) Correspondence**

The Clerk had received a letter from the secretary to Little Whelnetham PCC enquiring as to whether the Parish Council would be prepared to make a grant towards upkeep of the churchyard. General discussion decided we were not in a position to do so. Howard said they could use the services of the Probation Service along with Gt Whelnetham. The Clerk to inform them accordingly.

#### **10) Risk Assessment**

This was reviewed and the only alteration was the addition of residents spreading grit following snowfall who, if registered with the Parish Council, are covered by Suffolk County Council insurance.

#### **11) Any other business**

David informed the meeting that he had to postpone a meeting with Wicksteed to access the play area due to snow; this was now rearranged for 26<sup>th</sup> March. He had requested quotations for new equipment.

David had noted a case of fly tipping at the Community Centre but found details on packaging and duly contracted the company concerned who removed the items.

Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

**Next meeting - Annual and Annual Parish Meetings 8th May 2013.**

**Signed Chairman .....**      **Date .....**

