

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 12th September 2012.

Present

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

Members of Public -

3 members

In attendance

Terry Clements - St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor

Rosemary Currell (Churchwarden)

1. Apologies for Absence

Tim Webber (Work Commitment)

2. Public Question time

Mrs Fletcher queried how to find details of Parish Council on the Whelnetham website. Chris explained this to her. Also, suggested that an Agenda might be displayed in the Parish Council notice board. It was agreed this could be arranged, but it could possibly be subject to change.

As requested, Rosemary attended the meeting to give more information on the Great Whelnetham church appeal for funding of the bellcote, which is Grade 1 listed. She stated the wood was rotting and after obtaining three estimates the most realistic was £13,000. The work would need to be carried out at a time when there was no interference to the bats such as now or March/April. So far, £7,000 has been raised/promised and there were seven applications in hand for grants. Howard enquired as to the attendance at church services which is between 12-15. Rosemary also stated they were keen to open up the building for social events and this is already widely used by the primary school. Chris thanked Rosemary for attending and confirmed the Parish Council would give the matter further consideration. Rosemary then left the meeting.

This was then discussed further and it was agreed some donation should be given. Chris suggested £2,000 but subject to the remainder being raised prior to this amount being donated. All agreed and the Clerk would write to Rosemary accordingly.

Skatepark – Two youngsters attended to give an update and advised that Mark Bryant had agreed to assist with their fund raising and would act as treasurer. Peter confirmed that the Community Centre had provisionally agreed to donate a piece of the playing field in the top corner by the wood for this purpose. David stated that he had received no parental assistance in obtaining further costings etc. Chris therefore requested the youngsters to endeavour to get parents involved.

3. Police Matters

Although not attending, the Clerk had received a report as follows –

Two crimes in Great Whelnetham – 09/08/12 assault occasioning ABH
30/08/12 criminal damage to garden furniture

Two crimes in Little Whelnetham - 25/07/12 Public order offence
28/07/12 Theft from motor vehicle

4. Minutes of Meeting held on July 11th 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 confirmed that all Councillors had completed the new Code of Conduct forms and so all were now fully compliant.

Chris and David had met with Tom Duchesne along the railway line who has now issued an estimate giving various options. The annual total would be £2,550 for an extensive maintenance plan to cut the main path four weekly (previously cut twice a year) cutting new walkways, looking after branches, cutting around benches and clearing and maintaining a path on the walk on the other side of the road in Little Whelnetham. Chris proposed that we should accept the full option. All agreed. Clerk to instruct Tom accordingly and obtain a key to the gate for him. Chris also mentioned that he has a meeting with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust on 1st October who are keen to make recommendations on development.

Chris again raised the question with Terry on the flashing speed sign. Terry advised this would be subject to Traffic Regulation Orders. A mobile type would be in the region of £2,600 and would not be difficult to move. In any event the County are in the process of pursuing a scheme.

Peter had raised various queries prior to the meeting and Chris addressed these as follows –

Website – a total of 2,400 hits so far, an average of 8-9 per day.

Children playing in road in front of cars - as matter has been reported to police, nothing more Parish Council can do.

Ground by river bank opposite Pot Office – not sure who is the owner

Parking outside school – this is a long ongoing problem

Grit bin being tipped over – Clerk to ask Tom to anchor this down

6. Members Declaration of Interest

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

Terry left the meeting at 8.40 pm

7. Updates

- **Planning**

Clive Williamson Manor Barn Bury Road Little Whelnetham – erection of 2 storey side extension. NO OBJECTION

Tim Webber 2 Copdoes Farm Great Whelnetham - erection of carport with storage NO OBJECTION

Mr & Mrs S Cooper PO Stores Sicklesmere – single storey front extension erection of garage demolition of existing garage and store PENDING

The Clerk has heard from St Edmundsbury Enforcement Officer with regards to the sale of furniture along the Sudbury Road that the application is still being processed.

- **Whelnetham School** No information available
- **Transport** See Chairman's report
- **Housing** No further developments
- **Railway Walk** See Chairman's report

8 Finance

Current bank balance	£ 13,240.00
Direct Access	£ 1,130.57
Total	£14,370.57

Payment since last meeting	£162.00	BDO external audit
	£165.00	Old Parsonage Garden Services grass cutting

Payments to be approved -	£94.23	HMRC PAYE tax
	£42.12	Clerk's expenses

The Clerk reported that the audit documents had now been returned by BDO and they had no issues to raise.

9 Correspondence

The Clerk had been in communication with St Edmundsbury regarding a requested name sign outside of School Cottages. They state the responsibility is with Havebury. However, Havebury have referred the matter back to St Edmundsbury and are awaiting a response. Rob confirmed living in the location it is very difficult for deliveries without a name sign. Chris therefore suggested we might erect our own sign and nominated Rob to make enquiries regarding cost etc.

With regard to "A" boards for advertising, the Clerk has had a reply from Suffolk County Council and the ruling is that if there are illegal signs they can be stickered to be taken down, and if they are not taken down by the owners, then they will remove them. After discussion, it was agreed it would be prudent to request the offending signs be removed (Cleaning Services, Printing and Rushbrooke Arms).

Howard had received a letter showing appreciation from Mrs Wendy Beales for his efforts in getting the pathways in the St Thomas's Way area repaired. Chris thanked Howard for doing so.

10 Any other business

The Clerk reported that the renewal invitation had been received from Zurich at a figure of £361.41. This was less than last year (£395.70) and for exactly the same cover. Agreed therefore to renew.

Rob enquired as to the land ownership of the Parish Council. Chris confirmed this was the Railway Line Walk and the playing field at the Community Centre.

David has received an annual inspection report of the play area from a company in Dorset. They make the suggestion that the entrance gate should be in a different colour to the fencing to be easily identified. It was generally felt this was unnecessary.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Next meeting 12th September 2012 at 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman

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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.