

## GREAT &amp; LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held at Community Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm.

**Present**

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR

June Attwood JA

Howard Singh HS

Tim Webber TW

Stephen Smith SS

Diane Everitt Parish Clerk DE

Others - 3 members of the public

**1. Apologies for absence**

Clifford Dive CD

Tonie Armstrong TA

Terry Clements County and Borough Councillor TC

Kath Parkins School Head Teacher KP

**2. Public Question time.**

**No public questions**

**3. Chairman's Report – Peter Royce**

PR met with Richard Webster Suffolk County Council. There are two major resident's concerns. In Tutelina Road a new LED lamp fitting will be installed on the two posts concerned that will provide more Omni directional lighting. This will be the first time this type of fitting will have been used in Suffolk. Secondly the defective lamp unit on the A134 Sicklesmere Road is to be replaced. Suffolk County Council is to fit the taller unit with an arm that will extend over the road; this will improve light distribution in the vicinity. Also additional light to be provided on the junction with Stanningfield Road by the relocation of a lamp currently situated on the private road serving Erskine Lodge. PR also took the opportunity to show him the poor condition of the footpaths on Sicklesmere Road. The lighting work is expected to be completed by March.

Out line planning has been agreed for 1250 homes on the outskirts of Bury, Nowton area, so this is a good opportunity for the Parish Council to start lobbying for road improvements at Sicklesmere and also to start campaign for Cycle path. There has been no update regarding the Fenton Farm development. If approached again the PC should possibly take the stance that these homes should be exclusively rental with a local connection.

Plans for year ahead include, training for all Parish Councillors, to improve equipment for play area and to include some for older children and adults, this will involve identifying funding/grant opportunities, also to approve the precept and to prioritise projects and expenditure.

**County/Borough Councillor report – Terry Clements not at meeting no report received**

**4. Minutes of previous meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to be agreed (any matters arising to be discussed during course of meeting)**

Minutes from previous meeting agreed and signed by Chairman.

**Proposed by** Howard Singh **Seconded by** June Attwood **no matters arising**

**5. Declarations of interest.**

Howard Singh member of SALC but no longer sits on Community Council, attends as a member only

**6. Police Matters**

Copies of the SNT newsletter handed out. This can be found on the Police website. There have been several burglaries in the local area.

**7. Updates**

**7.1 Planning** – DC/16/2578/HH Red Gates Cocks Green Lane Great Whelnetham, single storey rear and side extension, no concerns, and DC/16/2480/FUL The Grove Bury Road Sicklesmere, retention of an Aviary, no concerns. The PC has not received any updates reference the Erskine Lodge Development, but the local shop/post office has received a demolition notice. It was considered that PC's are not being notified as they should be about these issues.

**Action:** Howard Singh to take to SALC that the PC's are being ignored when important information as above if being given out. Again comments that no update on Fenton Farm. There has also been no feedback re the Archaeological Dig on the field site.

**7.2 Gt Whelnetham School and parking-** KP Head Teacher gave apologies, but did forward an update. The land outside the School adjacent to the main gate, this is not owned by the school or diocese but by the County Council highways. She said that the school continued to work with parents, adults visiting the school re their parking, this is face to face and via the regular newsletter. With support from a local resident the grass area adjacent to the school main gate has been taped off in order to prevent any further parking here. But there are now cars parking on the smaller grassed area on the other side. The above is only temporary and other options need to be explored i.e. bollards. Clerk has written to the County Council re buffer zone warning signs on road leading to school, reply stated that this now needed to go through TC County Councillor; information has been forwarded on to him.

**7.3 Railway line** – quotes have been received for next year's grass cutting, and Andrew Cobbold from the Council has requested that a Councillor walk the Railway Line with him, JA has volunteered to do this.

**Action: Clerk to forward email on for contact details.**

**7.4 Transport and VAS Speed signs** – The Council closed a large section of road recently but have only repaired a couple of pot holes, there is still work outstanding. The second VAS sign that was only partly working, is to be repaired free of charge. A bracket is needed for the sign to be used on the other side of the school. The cost of this would be approximately £50.00. **SS proposed HS seconded**

## **Action SS to purchase on behalf of Parish Council**

**7.5 Housing** – Already discussed above.

**7.6 Proposal to avoid double election costs** – Currently with NALC, and was raised at SALC AGM by HS on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016. A suggestion was made that a decision could be forced by asking for a van/polling station in Little Whelnetham at next election, this would create an extra cost and could make the Authorities think about changing the system.

**7.7 Playground report/fence, playground equipment replacement seats and maintenance** – The latest Playground report has been circulated to all Councillors; there were concerns re the accuracy of this, as the broken and damaged equipment had been replaced several days before and would have been in place at the time of the inspection. TS who was looking into the cost and funding for additional equipment not present at meeting, no update.

**7.8 Improving Local Communities** – TS not at meeting therefore no update.

**7.9 Membership update, co-option of additional Councillors** – None

**8. Correspondence** – The Councillor Magazine was distributed. Also correspondence from SALC re a Nations Tribute and WW1 Beacons of Light 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The aim is for 1000 WW1 Beacons of Light to be lit at 7pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to remember the end of the war. Registration for the involvement in this project needs to be made by the end of March 2017.

**Action: Clerk to forward on details to all Councillors for decision, also to put on agenda for March Meeting.**

**9. For Consideration**

**9.1 Budgeting for 17/18 proposals for the renovation of the Community Centre and associated request for financial support, street cleaner, Church requests for money for grass cutting, Councillor training.** – Agreed to spend approximately £450 on Councillor training. Employment of a street cleaner, this was deferred for a year, and decision made to ask the Villagers. It was agreed to give both churches £150 each towards grass cutting costs for the year. After discussion it was agreed to give the Community Centre a donation of £1000 towards the cost of new curtains. All of the above are dependent on agreement of a precept increase for 2017/18. Annual form to be submitted by clerk before 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**Proposed by JA seconded by SS agreed by all Councillors**

**9.2 Blocked drains on Stanningfield Road A134 junction on Sicklesmere Road** – already discussed above.

**9.3 Campaign for a Cycle Path from the town to Sicklesmere** – SS and CD looking into funding/grants for this project. Outline planning now been given for development of 1250 houses on the outskirts of Bury, Nowton side of town, there will be 106 money, which could possibly be accessed towards this project. Ongoing.

**10. Finance**

**10.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliations-** As attached on bi monthly accounts.  
Balances current account £11163.58 Instant Access account £1133.13 total in bank £12296.71. **Proposed HS Seconded SS**

**10.2 Payments for approval-** Clerk £36 expenses, SALC AGM Buffet £24 for HS and DE, St Edmundsbury Borough Council Gardening services for the year £1878.26, HMRC Revenue clerks income tax £91.20, Wicksted Leisure replacement playground equipment £770.40, Clerk costs for computer scanner for PC work £645.04. Total £3444.90.

**Proposed HS seconded SS**

**10.3 Projected rest of year expenditure** – Spreadsheet being updated.

**10.4 Computer/Scanner for Parish Council** – Transparency money received and equipment purchased.

**10.5 Precept Details** – Councillors agreed unanimously to raise the precept by £3000 to cover projects as above in the budgeting for 17/18.

**11. Any other business**

The next St Edmundsbury Parish and Town Forum meeting is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to be held in Barrow village hall between 6pm and 8pm. Both SS and HS are looking to attend

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm*

**Next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 7.30 pm**

Signed Chairman .....

Date .....