

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Community Centre on 9th November 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR
 June Attwood JA
 Clifford Dive CD
 Howard Singh HS
 Terry Clements Borough Councillor TC
 Tim Webber TW
 Stephen Smith SS
 Kath Parkins Whelnetham School Head Teacher KP
 Others - 0 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Public Question time.

No public attendance

3. Chairman's Report – Peter Royce

Sicklesmere Road Issues – A134 there are problems with flooding. Blocked drains have again been reported and workers did turn up to clear, but cleared the wrong ones. The blocked ones with weeds and other vegetation growing through the grates have been reported again.

Footpaths – The footpaths on both sides of the main road from the junction of Little Whelnetham Road and the Rushbrook Arms has been reported, also the poor quality of lighting for the paths.

Lights – Hedges and trees have grown over and now shade some street lights, this has been reported with one of these being adjacent to the entrance of the local Primary School.

Potholes – These continue to be an issue, with some being repaired while others nearby left. There are also concerns around how these issues are reported. There is the online route but PR said that he has put forward a suggestion to SCC that Parish Councils should have the ability to contact those in the relevant position of authority directly, as a first level of escalation on the basis that although as local authorities go Parish Councils are the lowest tier, we should play a more active role and at least have some ability to hold local authorities to account.

Playground – PR gave an update, a quote has been received for replacement/broken equipment, £650. TC County Councillor has contributed £450 towards this cost from his locality budget. In his report PR said that we need to make provision also for the older members of the community and in doing so perhaps participate in the 'fit village's scheme'. He put forward a proposal to extend the play area and asked Councillors to consider the provision of additional equipment and possibly 2 picnic tables and seating. He has also attached to his report images of equipment suitable for use by children over 14 to adults. This would require a working group to be formed to identify funding and obtaining the equipment.

Sicklesmere is nearly 2000 years old- PR gave an update, earlier this year initial assessment work uncovered human remains, now it seems the land is hiding a lot more evidence, and there is genuine interest to discover and recover it in order to determine exactly what existed here nearly 2000 years ago. The details are in a report that is on the planning website, and it goes on to say that there should be public engagement on this matter. This is an opportunity to discover the long forgotten part of the history of the Parish.

County/Borough Councillor report – Terry Clements

TC's October 2016 monthly Round-Up newsletter was handed round. This included details of the results re early year's education and the continued rise in standards, also the distribution of free safety reflectors as part of new road safety campaign. Rail network infrastructure requirements needed to deliver the new Greater Anglia Rail Franchise were the key topics discussed at this year's rail conference held 24th October. Finally mentioned was the Suffolk Record Office's shortlist of international digital preservation awards-pioneering project which provides digital preservation and access to 900 years of Suffolk history. With respect to Borough Council news there was nothing to report, he said he was checking on how much money he has left in his budget.

4. Minutes of previous meeting dated 14th of September 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** Clifford Dive **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.

7. Updates

7.1 Planning – DC/16/2154/TCA Beech Cottage Sudbury Road Sicklesmere, trees in conservation area reduction in height and thin out, also to fell Ash, no concerns with this application. There has been no movement with the Erskine Lodge plan. An update re the Fenton Farm application, this has been withdrawn and will be re submitted probably in January 2017, this is around layout. Clerk was unable to find out any more details from the planning office. This application currently does not have a local connection policy, as it is an allocated site. PR is looking into this as the Village will have 70 new houses, an increase of more than 10% of the village population; therefore need a local connection policy for local people who require local houses. He said that he will keep going back to the Council to press this point, using the Government Guidance document for Local Councils.

7.2 Gt Whelnetham School and parking- KP Head Teacher gave update re the new markings outside the school. She said that the County Council have asked that if more markings,

signage is required this would be better received from the Parish Council. Consideration to be given to warning signs of coming into a 30 MPH zone and of pedestrians as the Enforcement Agencies and Council would find this more acceptable. There is also reduced visibility where cars are parking on the grass verge, KP to find out who owns this land to ask re the possibility of putting bollards up. The latest school newsletter does again ask parents to drive/park safely. It is a message that is constantly being reinforced by the school.
Action: Clerk to write letter to County Council re buffer zone warning signs

7.3 Railway line – The noticeboard by steps has been vandalised, completely smashed, including all the details and history that was displayed on the board. Councillors commented on how good the cutting was. This is currently done by the Local Council. It is also working out cheaper and more reliable than previous years.

Action: Clerk to chase re quotes for cutting etc. for next year.

7.4 Transport and VAS Speed signs – VAS signs now both working, issue with repaired one, in that it does not always record speed, it does flash up, this to be looked into.

Action: Clerk to chase County Council re prohibited HGV sign and width limit on lanes, also condition and surface of bridge on Cocks Green Lane.

7.5 Housing – Already discussed above.

7.6 Proposal to avoid double election costs – Currently with NALC, to be raised by HS at SALC AGM on 14th November.

7.7 Playground report/fence, bylaws re Parish Councils and dogs in play area, playground equipment replacement seats and maintenance – Playground report has been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed to replace the broken damaged equipment. With reference to the dogs in play area, advice was sought on Public Space Protection Orders. These can only be made by Local Authorities, around ASB, which is ongoing and affects the quality of life for others. There are also problems around enforcement, so the Local Authority would be reluctant to put an order in place as not considered practical for the above.

7.8 Improving Local Communities - Tonie Armstrong showed councillors a rough draft of the newsletter she is intending to send out after each meeting. There will be details of what is discussed at the meetings, dates of future meetings, and contact details for any correspondence. This is aimed mainly at people without internet/computers.

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

8. Correspondence - Letter from Ensor's handed round re Invitation to People Performance and Profit seminar. Two letters handed in tonight both about lack of lighting in Tutelina Rise. Clerk to forward these to St Edmundsbury Council, and also to TC County Councillor.

9. For Consideration

9.1 Proposal for the renovation of the Community Centre and associated request for financial support- To be included with 9.3 budgeting.

9.2 Risk assessment- Now completed and circulated to councillors. PR explained the spreadsheet.

9.3 Budgeting for 17/18 - Spreadsheet prepared for possible projects and costs. Also to include Railway line grass cutting, this to be extended to include certain area's as to encourage growth of wild flowers. Training for all councillors, cost approximately £450, this could be shared by inviting other Parish Councils to session. The idea of a street cleaner possibly 2 hours per week was discussed; cost would be around £720 per annum. Councillors to think about this and come back January, as this would have to be paid for by an increase in the precept. Grass cutting at both the Churches and the cost of supplying lawn mowers, discussion that contribution towards costs a more practical solution. Playground equipment as above is being looked into by TA. Cycle Path to Bury, process and funding streams to be looked by CD and SS. A new estate is to be built on the outskirts of Bury (approx. 1250 homes), so money could be available. The Community Centre has requested money towards replacing the curtains in the hall. Estimated cost between £3000 and £5000. After discussion a contribution will be offered towards this cost. The above will be finalised at January meeting.

Action – Clerk to speak with SALC re precept increase required after amending budget spreadsheet

9.4 Blocked drains on Stanningfield Road- mentioned above

9.5 Campaign for a cycle path from town to Sicklesmere – As discussed above.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliations- As attached on bi monthly accounts. Balances current account £10381.37 Instant Access account £1133.08 total in bank £11514.45. **Proposed** Howard Singh **Seconded** Clifford Dive

10.2 Payments for approval- Clerk £36 expenses to 7th November, SALC Clerks networking day £19.20 and Peter Royce for Website fees £14.39

10.3 Projected rest of year expenditure – Projected details of rest of year expenditure circulated to Councillors. This being approximately £1640.00.

10.4 Computer/Scanner for Parish Council – Current computer needs to be replaced as out of date also scanner needed to allow updating Parish website. This to be done through the SALC and transparency fund, currently being processed, Clerk has chased.

10.5 Website update – Clerk gave update on Suffolk One website and the future. Other options being, working with CAS at £50.00 per year, or Suffolk Cloud at £100 per year with confirmed back up. Money can be claimed back for 2017/2018 through the transparency fund but this is not guaranteed after this date. Decision made to stay with current site due to cost this can be reconsidered at a later date. **Proposed by** Howard Singh **Seconded by** Clifford Dive all Councillors in favour.

11. Any other business
None

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm

Next meeting 11th January 2017 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman

Date