

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Community Centre on 13th July 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR
 Tim Webber TW
 June Attwood JA
 Stephen Smith SS
 Clifford Dive CD
 Howard Singh HS
 Terry Clements Borough Councillor TC
 Simon Curl Suffolk County Council SC
 Kath Parkins Gt Whelnetham School Head Teacher

Others - 2 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Diane Everitt Parish Clerk (family illness)

2. Simon Curl Flood Water Manager Suffolk County Council re recent flood on A134

SC explained his role investigating flood incidents in this area and how working with other agencies they meet on a regular basis to discuss strategies. Under section 19 his department investigate the incident and ring lead to make sure other agencies, and partners do the identified work. This sometimes comes down to land owners. They also work with highways re water on the roads. Then risk of flooding can be reduced but not eliminated. The County Council have a website for more information. On here are strategies that have been identified to reduce risk. It also has details of the various partners including land owners. For example if you have a ditch on you land you have a responsibility to keep this clear. He gave other examples but said it was very complex.

In mid April 2016 after substantial rain the river running through the village broke its banks and flooded the A134 and Riverside Cottage. Part of the problem here was water coming down from the industrial estate over the road. Highways have put in a system, but this is not working well, and an additional drain has been added to the watercourse, so they have dealt with some of the problem. There is a meeting at this hall next week (w/c 18th July), with residents to discuss the flood, and although partly due to the watercourse not being able to cope with so much water, debris in the stream also added to the situation. A wheelie bin was trapped beneath a bridge, also branches and general undergrowth. Land owners will be made aware that it is their responsibility to keep steams/ditches on their land clear. There may also be land ownership issues to sort out. The meeting is primarily for the 14/15 houses that are considered vulnerable, but anybody else who thinks they may become affected by this issue are welcome to attend. This is not an open meeting. Landowners of the affected area have also been invited. SC said that other issues may come to light at this meeting. He encouraged anybody who had flooding issues to report online to the Council. One question raised, what is a well maintained ditch and who polices this?

Public Question time

Charity dog walk to be held in September Parish Council asked whether any objections against using footpaths and railway walk. – No objections

3. Borough Council Report – Terry Clements

TC updated the meeting on the Devolution issue; this now looks likely to be 2 authorities Suffolk and Norfolk. It will bring benefits and money to our area, i.e. transport and infrastructure. As the east has always been a net contributor to the national purse it will be good to get some money back to the area.

Chairman's Report

PR has spoken with St Edmundsbury Borough Council re the ownership of the land near the garages on Raynsfield Road, where there are flooding issues. They have confirmed that the land is still owned by LJC Sewell, local residents have no legal documents around this. The Council have suggested that residents get a solicitor involved to approach the company to push this forward. The Parish Council cannot do any more regarding this situation.

PR has been in contact with both the SCC and St Eds BC reference to the fly tipping in the same area near footpath. St Eds have put up A4 sign with warning of penalty cost and possible cameras, whilst SCC has admitted responsibility for footpath. A Council representative came out 2 weeks ago to look at the area. Her report has not been passed onto Steve Boor yet due to holidays. It has been suggested that a fence would work here.

With reference to the Erskine Lodge site an email was sent re the planning application to remove shrubs and trees on the 19th June asking for a site visit. The Borough Council replied on the 30th June. They had been out to visit site but could not determine the trees shrubs etc. to be removed, and it was felt that as permission had already been granted, they could see no reason to refuse. It was pointed out that only the development brief had been agreed detailed planning still needed to be obtained.

A suggestion has been made to look into the Parish Council employing a street cleaner. Clerk is to make enquiries with other councils who do this.

We have again received a request to help with the cost of grass cutting at Great Whelnetham Church; this will be discussed under correspondence.

The VAS sign has been repaired, the cost has had to be borne by us, no offer made from other Councils who use it. Our insurance will cover the cost with us paying a £100 excess. Looking at getting an agreement between Parish Councils in the future to share costs for any repairs needed.

4. Minutes of previous meeting dated 14th of June 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 June Attwood

Seconded by Steve Smith

5. Declarations of interest.

Howard Singh member of SALC and Community Council

6. Police Matters

No current information

7. Updates

7.1 Update from Great Whelnetham School. Kath Parker introduced herself as Head Teacher. She then went on to tell the Councillors about the incident outside the school in May, where a 6 year old child stepped out between parked cars and was hit by a cyclist. Police were informed. Fortunately the child was not badly injured, but there are concerns that a more serious accident could happen. A strong letter has been sent to parents asking them not to park right outside the school, and this has improved. More of the parents are using the community centre car park and walking up to the school, but some consider this footpath to be hazardous. Various options are being looked at by the school with highways and road safety, also TC Borough Councillor to try and improve this situation. Road marking have faded and vegetation is blocking signs. The School have taken short term measures to improve the situation, but thought needs to be put into the long term. Data from the VAS machines shows maximum speed 40 mph for 2 vehicles, the average speed is 28/29 mph. In the past the County Council have been approached re straightening out the bend by the school and a local land owner re putting in a straight footpath to the school. With reference to parking at the Community Centre, school to be notified when day time clubs meet to avoid parking issues at the hall.

7.2 Railway Line – the vegetation has been cut back, but it is felt that it should have been wider, clerk to check what the normal width would be. The hog weed that was going to be sprayed has been put on hold as to late in the season and now too high. Update re land opposite the Post Office this should be tidied up next week.

7.3 Transport and VAS speed signs – VAS sign currently at Little Whelnetham this is due to be switched to another site, we have permission to put up on the Sicklesmere to Bury bound side of the road. Decision taken that SS and PR will continue to be responsible for the putting up and moving of the signs

7.4 Housing- only update read out in Chairman's report re Erskine Lodge, they are going to progress with planning. To date no archaeological report has been seen, and the removal of the trees and shrubs will not be able to be done until the autumn due to bird nesting season.

- 7.5** Flooding A134- report from Simon Curl at start of meeting. He added that there is a council website with information on flooding that anybody can access. Also that they will work with landowners and flooding on private land.
- 7.6** Flooding garages Raynsfield Road- in Chairman's report
- 7.7** Proposal to avoid double election costs- no update
- 7.8** Playground report and fence- PR said he is looking to circulate the report and then put on agenda for next meeting. Money for fencing and repairs is needed; this can be raised through next year's precept and budget also possibly 106 monies.
- 7.9** Improving local communities- Toni Armstrong will prepare a report to bring to the next meeting in September. This is reference a local newsletter to be distributed around the village with details of news, events, and meetings. PR said that he would like a representative from the Community Centre to come to the Parish Council meetings or to give an update.
- 7.10** Membership update, co-option of additional Councillors- 2 possible new Councillors, Mr Lambert and Mrs Toni Armstrong to be confirmed September meeting
- 7.11** Planning application DC/16/1412/HH 4 School Cottages Stanningfield Road. **Proposed by HS Secoded by TW** unanimous vote and no objections

8. Correspondence

A letter has been received from Great Whelnetham Church asking for money to pay for grass cutting. PR suggested that this be moved to the budget discussions later in the year with the street cleaner, railway line, and Community Centre. One idea put forward is to buy a lawn mower for volunteers to use in the church yard.

9. For Consideration

- 9.1** Proposal for the renovation of the Community Centre and associated request for financial support- to be considered in budget review as above
- 9.2** Risk assessment- for next meeting
- 9.3** Budgeting for 17/18 training- also above mentioned items to be considered
- 9.4** Great Whelnetham Church request for money- as above
- 9.5** SCC re overgrown hedge on footpath, Water Lane and Stanningfield Road junction on Sicklesmere Road- clerk to contact SCC.
- 9.6** Blocked drains on Stanningfield Road- mentioned above

9.7 Campaign for a cycle path from town to Sicklesmere - more cyclists using this road now, also there is a planned large development of houses opposite Nowton Park this side of Bury, and the Havebury development at Erskine Lodge. A cycle path would improve safety on this road, and the current footpath is not wide enough. A similar project has been done between Bury and Thurston successfully.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliations- clerks salary £121.20, Ensors £85.00. Monies back £83.45 VAT back from 2015/2016. Current balance £12216.60.

10.2 Payments for approval- £900 Westcotec for repair of VAS sign, Parish Council to pay but insurance company will reimburse all apart from £100 excess. Community Action Suffolk £15.60, this is to insure the second VAS sign. Clerk expenses £42.60, stamps and weekly £4 a week office expenses allowance from May 2016, spread sheet and receipts available. Cheque book to be taken to future meetings so that this can be initialled by signatories.

10.3 Request for Parish Clerk to receive duplicate bank statements and have online access to view accounts only. Request made so that updates can be done during the month and not all be left to the last few days before meetings. This was agreed by councillors.

10.4 Parish Clerk to attend networking day total cost £15.00, agreed by councillors

11. Any other business

An update was given on refurbishment of hall, also a request to help with funding to finish this off. PR requested that they come back to the next meeting with some figures that can then be considered at the budget meeting.

There is concern re the Play area, and possible accidents with vehicle’s driving in and out of the car park. Also even though there are signs stating no dogs, people are still taking dogs into this area, the signage is not working. Councillors asked whether they can enforce the no dog’s issue. PR to ask clerk to find out whether council can pass by laws, and who would enforce them.

Apologies were made to the Councillors for not being able to use hall last meeting (June) due to refurbishment.

Railway line dog waste bin now placed outside gate, clerk to ask whether this can be put back to original location.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm

Next meeting September 14th September 2016 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman

Date