

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 11th May 2011 following Annual Parish Meeting.

Present

Chris Thomson David Howes
Peter Royce Tim Webber
Christine Peck - Parish Clerk
Terry Clements joined meeting at 8.10 pm
Brian Holmes

1. Apologies for Absence

Howard Singh

2. Election of Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations. Chris Thomson reported that Howard was happy to stand down as Chairman. Peter Royce therefore proposed Chris for Chairman. This was seconded by David Howes. All agreed.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Chris proposed Howard and this was seconded by Peter
All agreed.

4. Members

Following the election, we were now four councillors short, and Chris asked if any member had any person(s) in mind who would be prepared to stand. David Howes possibly had a neighbour who could be interested. Rob Ireland to be approached by the Clerk to see if he would be prepared to be co-opted again.

5. Sub-Committees/Representatives

- a) Planning - Chris Thomson, David Howes and Tim Webber
- b) Transport – Peter Royce
- c) Gt. Whelnetham School - Terry Clements
- d) Railway Line –
- e) Housing – Howard Singh
- f) Play Area - David Howes

6. Minutes of Meeting held on March 9th 2011

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

7. Matters Arising from Minutes

Chris mentioned that with regard to the sale of furniture etc at property in Sudbury Road this was ongoing. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Enforcement Officer at St Edmundsbury once again.

The County Council have now accepted responsibility for St Thomas's Way and the footpath has now been cleaned and overhanging branches trimmed.

Brian Holmes attended the meeting to report that he has been in contact with the family of the late Dave Balmer who are in total agreement of the planting of a tree along the Railway Walk in his memory. Brian has made enquiries and a tree would be in the region of £25 and a further £25 approx. for a plaque. All agreed for Brian to go ahead.

8. Members Declaration of Interest

Peter Royce is a member of the Community Council Committee.

9. Police Matters

Not present

See attached report as presented to Annual Parish Meeting

10. Correspondence

The Clerk had received a letter from Suffolk County Council with regard to a proposal that street lights would be on a part night lighting system. No objections were raised.

A letter from Suffolk Wildlife Trust had been received requesting their annual donation. However, Chris proposed that for this year we should concentrate on our own projects. All agreed.

11. Chairman's Report

Chris suggested that there was a strong need for the provision of a cycle path from the village into town particularly as it was dangerous using the A134 or even the footpath which is over grown. Peter stated that this had been looked into previously but to no avail. Terry made the comment that this could be well worth looking into as there may be monies available from the growth development fund, and it could well benefit the reverse way round, i.e. people living in town might well like to cycle out to visit the Rushbrooke Arms for example. Chris would draft a proposal to St Eds Borough Council.

A meeting is to be held at the Community Centre on 18th May entitled Rural Vision 2031 and Chris suggested it might be an idea for Parish council members to attend.

12. Finance

The Clerk had circulated the end of year accounts. The accounts were then approved. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return were completed and were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. The papers will now be forwarded to the internal auditor.

Current bank balance £1,937.24

Expenses to be deducted – Clerk’s expenses £25.46
 Clerk’s Course - £24.00
 BT - £52.88

The Precept figure of £13,820 has been accepted by the Borough and we were awaiting credit for this into the bank account.

13. Updates

PLANNING -

Anglian Water - Erection of two GRP Kiosks to house dosing and control equipment at Great Whelnetham Sewage Works, Stanningfield Road.

John Williamson – Conversion of barn at Manor Farm to form residential dwelling.

C Fairs – Langdale. Low Green, Little Whelnetham erection of 1½ storey rear extension. Plan amended

Mr Bowyer – single storey rear extension 8 Grove Cottage, Great Whelnetham Agreed.

Rushbrooke Arms – revised plans for new and replacement illuminated signs Agreed.

GT WHELNETHAM SCHOOL - Terry reported that all was well and things were moving forward regarding the two tier system between King Edward and the Primary schools.

TRANSPORT - Peter reported that there were still ongoing issues regarding parking outside the school and there are occasions when motorists are making dangerous U turns in the mouth of Stanningfield/Sicklesmere Road.

HOUSING - There were no known further developments. It seems the issue is obtaining the necessary land.

RAILWAY WALK - Barry Colson had agreed to meet up with any Parish Council member to discuss the needs/development of the Railway Walk. Chris thought his would be a good idea. All agreed. The Clerk would contact Barry.

PLAY AREA - David reported that he had met with a representative from Wicksteed and following this had obtained an estimate for fixing the existing equipment for £1,961 plus various estimates for adding to the existing equipment ranging from £10,000 - £37,000. It was unanimously agreed to repair

the existing equipment for the time being. David would give the go ahead to Wicksteed.

14. Any other business

Chris suggested we should discuss with Barry Colson the possible costings for cutting the various pieces of grass for which we are responsible in view of the fact the Probation Service are not entirely reliable. This would include the Play Area, the green at Little Whelnetham, the green opposite the Post Office, Stanningfield Road and Sicklesmere Road junction.

David raised the issue of a grit bin in the Cocks Green Lane area, and it was agreed we should install one there, David to check exact location. The Clerk would place an order once the Precept payment was in the bank.

15. Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates

The meetings for the remainder of the year will be on the following Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m: 13th July, 14th September and 9th November.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Chairman

Date

All Members of this Parish Council hereby agree to adhere to implement the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.