

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting AGM held at Community Centre on 09th May 2018 at 7.40pm.

Present

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR
June Attwood JA
Howard Singh HS
Tonie Armstrong TA
Terry Clements Borough Councillor TC
Karen Soons Count Council
Diane Everitt Parish Clerk DE
Others - 1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Tim Webber due to other commitments

2. Election of Chairman.

Peter Royce proposed by Howard Singh seconded by June Attwood, unanimously agreed.

3. Election of Vice Chairman.

Howard Singh proposed by Peter Royce seconded by Tonie Armstrong, unanimously agreed.

4. Election of the Transport Representatives.

This has been left floating at present due to Councillor numbers.

5. Public Forum.

Flooding issues due to collapsed drains on the A134 by the Round house. This is now at formal complaint level. Photographs were handed round Councillors by member of the public. They have lived at premises for over 20 years and this has only recently become an issue.

Action: clerk to draft letter to Suffolk County Council expressing concerns.

6. Minutes from previous meeting.

Minutes from meeting held 14th March 2018 agreed signed and any matters arising were discussed during the meeting.

Proposed June Attwood Seconded Howard Singh, unanimously agreed.

7. Members declaration of interest.

Howard Singh currently a member of SALC

8. Police Updates- Police attended Parish Meeting and gave report**9 Updates**

9.1 Planning – Communication received from Havebury Housing re Erskine Lodge site and organising a date to give a presentation of the archaeological finds from the site. There have also been excavations

the Fenton farm site with some interesting finds. Havebury are also looking to involve the local primary school with these excavations. There are still concerns about working conditions on the Erskine Lodge site, contractors are still starting too early. TC will raise this with planning. Interest has been shown in the local windmill and restoration work, but they are looking to put a small dwelling on the site in a similar style. PR to supply details to TC who will take this to planning. DC/18/0704/VAR, this is a variation to DC/18/0193/HH Stonemeade House Station Hill, Little Whelnetham, IP30 0DT, there were no comments or concerns – all agreed.

9.2 Great Whelnetham School and parking – No update, as no representatives from the public who have been working on the petition for a path to the school, and there has been no contact with the school. There has been no mention in recent school newsletters about the parking outside the school at start and finish times, concerns were raised at the meeting by Councillors. The school is the only one in the County that does not have any buffer zone to the 30mph area. The sign warning of no footpath only indicates that condition for the 30mph zone not the 60mph part. This has been raised with the County Council who are not looking to change this at present.

9.3 Railway walk update and maintenance – The County Council are to put up a sign for the landfill, this is compulsory. UK Power have made contact as they need to cut back some trees that are too close to power lines, this is work that was done last 5 years ago. A request was made that they take away any rubbish. PR has completed an Open Space survey for the local Council, he has included the railway walk in this.

Action: clerk to liaise with UK Power to set date and allow access.

9.4 Transport and VAS Speed signs – Both signs returned to Westcotec for repairs and service, one is working correctly the other needs a new PCB cost £395 plus vat, it was agreed unanimously to go ahead with repairs. Also discussed the online reporting system for highways, this is considered ineffective and Parish Councils need a point of contact within highways to address certain situations. Using a defective system to report the defective system is not good practice. Suffolk County Council must listen to the public they serve and Councillors must represent people's concerns effectively to the County Council and not defend it otherwise there is no true democratic process.

9.5 Playground report/Playground equipment – Most recent report discussed at meeting this is now moderate risk. TA has meetings planned for the end of the month with 2/3 companies to discuss additional equipment. Borough Councillor Terry Clements has given a donation of £1000 from his locality budget towards the additional equipment.

Action: Clerk to send letter of thanks

9.6 Proposal to avoid double election costs – No update decision made to take of the agenda.

9.7 Defibrillator update – This is ongoing, clerk to complete online application.

9.8 Battle Over 11.11.18 update – Decision taken to go ahead with this, TA liaising with the team who will be making the beacon. There will also be a joint village event organised with Whelnetham Community Centre.

9.9 Improving Local Communications – Ongoing TA is working on a leaflet which will be distributed around both villages.

9.10 Membership updates, co-option of additional Councillors – There have been 2 resignations this year. The Parish Council are able to co-op members.

10 Correspondence

10.1 East Anglian Air Ambulance – poster for fund raising walk

10.2 SARS Suffolk Accident Rescue Service – Newsletter and update

11 For Consideration

11.1 Standing Orders and financial orders for 18/19 and code of conduct – Copies sent to all Councillors. There are SALC recommended changes to Standing Orders, Councillors have been asked to read through these, and the item to be put on next meeting agenda for discussion and approval.

11.2 Budgeting Ideas for next year – To be discussed at next meeting

12 Finance

12.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliation – Clerks expenses £36.00, new railway signs £322.68, grass cutting services £1581.44, website £29.15. Receipts, precept £10575, and Locality budget monies toward play area £1000. Current account balance £21523.14, instant access savings account £1133.95.

12.2 To receive and approve end of year accounts 2017/18– Copy handed round, proposed June Atwood seconded Howard Singh unanimously agreed.

12.3 To approve the Councillors’ statement in end of year accounts – Ongoing these to be approved at next meeting, after audit done by SALC.

12.4 To confirm PKF Littlejohn as external auditor for 18/19 – Proposed by June Atwood seconded by Tonie Armstrong, unanimously agreed.

12.5 To approve bi-monthly statement and cheques to be issued - SALC subscription £365.26, St Edmundsbury BC grass cutting railway line £1008 one off charge, Clerk expenses £96.99 – unanimously agreed.

12.6 Clerk update – Recently MP’s have accepted the Government amendment to exempt all Parish and Town Councils and Parish meetings in England from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer. The initial impact assessments to be done by the DPO have therefore been put on hold and the Council is waiting on further updates.

13 Matters for consideration at next meeting - None

Meeting finished 9.20pm

Next meeting 11th July 2018 at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman

Date