

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 8th January 2014.

Present

Chris Thomson - Chairman Howard Singh
Peter Royce Tim Webber
Christine Peck - Parish Clerk
Attending Terry Clements – St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor

Members of Public

None present

Public Question Time

No public attending

1 Apologies for Absence

None received.

2 Members Declaration of Interest

Howard Singh is a member of the Community Council Committee.

3 Meeting held on 13th November 2013 and matters arising

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

4 Borough Councillors Report

Terry reported that the barrier outside the school will be fitted during half term. Two further possible locations have been indicated for a VAS, approaching school near 30mph sign from Grove Cottages and up the hill towards school. There are still only 10 VAS in operation to be moved around the villages.

Terry has a meeting with Karen Mayhew at Havebury the day after this meeting regarding the Erskine Lodge development. Chris confirmed there was a definite need indicated by at least 20 persons showing interest, and wish to put on record again the Parish Council view that the flats near to the road should be re-sited more to middle of site.

Terry left the meeting at this point.

5 Police Matters

Although not attending, the Police report indicated that there had been no reported crimes in the parishes since the last report.

The SNT wished to thank the Chairman, the Council and the community for their continued support.

There has been a change to the staff of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, PC Simon Collins having moved and been replaced by PC Andre DeJongh who is our dedicated PC and Hollie Cogman remains our dedicated PCSO.

Over the next few weeks a programme of visits to all schools in the area will be taking place, distributing leaflets and speaking to parents who drive/walk their children to school to discuss issues around parking and general road safety.

6 Chairman's Report

Chris reported that confirmation had been received from Suffolk County Council that we can purchase a VAS although no response had been forthcoming in relation to questions posed –

- What would be the cost?
- If we purchased a sign would it always be on one post in the village? If not what proportion of the time would it not be up?

A schedule of dates/locations for the VAS has been received Six sites in the two villagers had been identified.

Following the last meeting Chris asked Howard if the matter of the football wall had been discussed by the Community Centre Committee but they do not meet until the week following this meeting.

Chris attended the Christmas lunch at the school. The school is very successful and well supported. They are well aware of the parking issues. With regard to the “crocodile” system (parking at the Community Centre and walking to school) there could be a health and safety issue as it would mean crossing the road three times. Tim suggested the solution would be for the school to approach Mr Hodge in order to have access along his field from the Community Centre to the school. All agreed that the Parish Council could give support if required.

In relation to Erskine Lodge, Chris had received confirmation from Havebury that they are now in a position to move forward and planning application should go in during the first half of the year, subject to the design being revised taking into consideration the Parish Council's request that the block of flats showing on the edge of the pavement be amended.

7 Updates

- **Planning -**

Mr & Mrs D Hardy 39 Raynsford Road Great Whelnetham

Erection of single storey detached dwelling following demolition of existing garage.

Parish Council raised concerns this would be an overdevelopment on a small site and on a dangerous bend with insufficient provision for parking.

Rev. Duncan Green – Flints, Hawstead Lane, Sicklesmere

Erection of 2 storey rear extension, new garage and chimney.

No objection

Mr. A Rice Drake House, Water Lane, Little Whelnetham

Single storey rear extension

No objection

- **Gt Whelnetham School** - Covered in Chairman's report.
- **Transport** - Peter reported that the condition of the footpath from Post Office towards the Rushbrook Arms is covered in leaves and mud. Clerk to report this. The residents in property next to Post Office had no power on New Year's Eve and UK Power could not access the line due to overhanging trees. However, the residents are now arranging for the trees to be cut.
- **Housing** - Refer Chairman's report
- **Railway Walk** - Tom has agreed to our annual budget figure of £1,800 and which would also include three cuts per season for Little Whelnetham churchyard.
- **Play area** - No update

8 Correspondence

The Clerk had received a letter from Rosemary Currell on behalf of Great Whelnetham Parish Church confirming that a check of the trees in the churchyard had been made by a tree surgeon. The reported rotten ash tree has been removed and also some dead elms.

9 Finance

Current a/c balance	£5,087.54	(checked with statement No. 51)
Direct Access	£1,131.41	(checked with statement No. 50)
Total	£6,218.95	

Payments to be approved - HMRC PAYE £100.33

The application form for Precept was completed as discussed and agreed at the previous meeting and duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

10 Any other business

None therefore the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Next meeting 12th March 2014 at 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman

Date

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