

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 13th July 2011.

Present

Howard Singh Vice- Chairman
David Howes
Tim Webber
Christine Peck - Parish Clerk

In attendance

Dominic Watts (Chairman School Governors)
Rob Ireland
Terry Clements joined meeting at 8.10 pm

Rob Ireland, who had previously missed the deadline for submission of election papers by 2 hours, returned to the meeting and was duly co-opted back as a Councillor.

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Thomson
Peter Royce

2. Minutes of Meeting held on May 11th 2011

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

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

Sale of furniture – matter still ongoing. Clerk again raised the issue with St Edmundsbury, who in turn wrote to the occupier of property on 21st May. Nothing further heard and a subsequent reminder has been sent to St Edmundsbury for update.

Howard reported that he had attended a SALC meeting. One topic was the street lighting being switching off at an earlier time. In addition the intention is to change the light bulbs to a lower wattage, thus saving money for the whole county.

4. Members Declaration of Interest

Howard Singh is a member of the Community Council Committee.

5. Police Matters

Police not present. However, email was received by Clerk upon return home following meeting offering apologies and giving the following report:

“My apologies for not attending the meeting this evening as I had hoped but I’m currently on restricted duties due to an injury” Sheena Tate Pc 161

Great Whelnetham

Theft of lead flashing from St Thomas A Beckett Church overnight 31st May/1st June

Burglary other building (shed) Cockfield Road overnight 30th June/1st July – John Deer ride on mower and two off road petrol buggies stolen.

Little Whelnetham

Criminal damage to business premises perimeter fence overnight 6th/7th July.

Howard also reported that two weeks ago a private party took place at a property in Stanningfield Road which was very noisy and the sound could be heard 300 yards away with doors and windows closed. He phoned the Police who stated this was not a Police matter but to ring the St Edmundsbury emergency number. On doing so, the operator could hear the noise level over the telephone but stated all he could do was to report the matter on Monday morning.

Children were causing damage to gardens in Great Whelnetham but owners were reluctant to reprimand them.

A window had been broken at the Community Centre by vandals.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk had received a letter from Suffolk County Council with regard to them compiling a “thatch register” of all properties in the county with a thatch roof and were asking for the full address of any such properties in the parish.

David volunteered to provide such addresses to the Clerk.

Hire charges at the Community Centre were being increased by 10% with effect from 1st July.

Notification from the Pageant master for HM The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Beacons had been received via St Edmundsbury inviting parishes to join in with celebration by having a bonfire beacon or church tower beacon. Chris had already suggested we should join in and all councillors agreed.

7. Chairman’s Report

In the absence of the Chairman, the Clerk read out the following report –

“I apologise for my absence this evening. These weeks are the only ones we can fit in a family holiday so when you meet I will be in South Africa. I realise this makes me sound like Mrs Ward but I do expect to be at all other meetings this year.

After the last meeting Christine and I met with Barry Colson on the railway line. He apologised for making such a mess of the line last year. He says he tried to cut it straight after the snow had melted, he admits it was far too soon and he

should have waited. He plans to cut it this month and then do so again in early November, before the ground is too wet (i.e. rather than January). He offered to put in a complicated drainage system but given that the line is meant to be a country walk I think it is expensive and unnecessary, it only gets boggy when he has made a mess of it. He also said he would send us a quote for repairing the damage he has caused. He hasn't and I suspect he has either forgot or realised we might ask him to do it without charge. We do at least now understand what he does and what he charges for it, which was the main objective of meeting him.

Howard tells me that he has written confirmation from the Probation Service to cut all other areas on a regular basis, he will report on that.

I went to the Borough consultation event in May. I met a member of Hambrook Close, who was exercised by the possible designation of the neighbouring field for development. He told me that the Parish Council is useless since we have not stopped it. I promised that if we receive a planning application we will tell them immediately. Until then there is nothing we can do or should do, and he should not assume that we are for, or against, the designation. I warned him that we may be in favour, which was my favourite moment as Chairman so far! I told him that we would form a view on it when an application is in, not before. He accepted this.

I also met several employees of the Borough's planning department. At our last meeting we agreed I should make certain points; I did and they noted them. One of them is a keen cyclist and lives in Stanningfield Road. Hence my email to you all re. a cycle path to Bury. Please would you discuss possible routes and decide what we can suggest? I will pick that up with Christine as soon as I am back and get in touch with him, making it clear the whole parish council; has discussed it, is behind it etc. further details in my email.

Peter will report on parking problems at the school. I discussed that with the Borough employees in May. Their support for any solution can only come after a lengthy exploration of options, such as a written travel plan, parental involvement etc. I will have a word with the head in September, at the start of the new school year". **END OF REPORT**

There were no further ideas on a cycle route to Bury and it was generally felt the idea already mentioned was appropriate.

As Dominic Watts, Chairman of School Governors was in attendance, Howard then invited discussion regarding the issues of parking at the school.

- It was agreed this was an accident waiting to happen.
- Children are being let out of vehicles on the road side rather than kerb side.
- Re-locate footpath to enable safer walking and park at Community Centre.

- Why not allocate a drop-off point, therefore no need for parents to park and go into school. If culvert pipes were placed in ditch and hedge removed, adequate land for a drop off area.
- Get someone from County to attend School Governors meeting.
- Tim stated that a piece of land had previously been offered for parking but the reaction was it was not in the County remit to provide parking.
- Possibly parking needed for 70 vehicles. Terry made point that whilst some parents did walk to school, many of the vehicles came from outside village.
- If and when school become under two tier system, how would this affect this issue.

It was then agreed that the best idea would be to pursue the drop off idea and Dominic and Terry would refer this point back to the next Governors meeting.

8. Finance

Current bank balance **£.15,050.81**
 Current account £14,920.51 (reconciled with bank statement number 21)
 Instant Access account £130.30 (reconciled with bank statement number 38)

Expenses to be deducted –

BT - £108.00
 Clerk's salary £112 (net)

The books had been returned from the internal auditor. Comment was made that a budget had not been set for 2010/11 by the previous Clerk but one was in place for 2011/12 following the previous audit.

Also, although the bank balance had been reconciled for the year end, no reference had been made to this each month in the minutes.

A new signatory was required for the bank account. This was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Updates

PLANNING - None received since last meeting

GT WHELNETHAM SCHOOL - See item above

TRANSPORT - Peter was not at the meeting but he was concerned regarding the parking outside the school on 25th June when they held a fete. Cars were parked continuously from the junction of Copdoes Farm beyond the full length of School Cottages and even beyond the junction to Cocks Green. Peter did speak to the Police suggesting they could have put **Police Slow** signs out but they had not been informed the event was taking place. A police officer did attend but the event was over by then. He does not feel this parking invokes good community spirit especially for residents of School Cottages.

Peter also wanted to know if anyone knew the route the cycle race in September was taking between Bury and Lavenham. Terry thought it would be via Chedburgh.

HOUSING – Howard had received an invitation to a Suffolk Housing Society cream tea meeting and was not sure of there motive. Terry said they were an independent housing society, obviously looking to drum up trade.

RAILWAY WALK – Rob Ireland volunteered to report on this in future.

PLAY AREA – David reported that Wicksteed. were carrying out repairs to the playarea equipment the day after this meeting.

10. Any other business

Howard reported that a resident of St. Thomas’s Way had made some children interested in carrying out a litter pick and generally making the area tidy. Terry to speak to Sandra Pell at St.Edmundsbury. Howard also said that this particular area was an urban highway and the county authority should therefore be responsible for the location, and in particular look at erecting some kind of fencing along the perimeter opposite the housing at the bottom of St. Thomas’s Way. Terry mentioned funding could possibly come from the “Quality of life fund”,

Rural Vision 2031 - St Edmundsbury have written to say they are analysing responses received and now feel it would be beneficial to meet with Parish Councils and Ward Members to discuss the potential impact. Meetings are to be held at West Suffolk House in Bury St Edmunds on August 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Parish Councils to limit attendees to 2 per parish. Howard confirmed he would attend.

11. Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates

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

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 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.