

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 9th March 2011.

Present

Howard Singh	-	Chairman	
Chris Thomson	-	Vice Chairman	David Howes
Christine Peck	-	Parish Clerk	Beryl Ward
Tess Wright			Steven Hagger
Attending	-	Terry Clements SCC	

1. Apologies for Absence

Rob Ireland
Tim Webber
Peter Royce
PCSO Gemma Robinson

2. Public Question Time

There were no public present.

3. Police Matters

Although not attending, PCSO Gemma Robinson had informed the Clerk of four crimes reported between 12th January and 9th March as follows :-

05/02/11	Theft of plants from front garden	Raynsford Road
Between 11-14/02/11	Theft of scooters	Stanningfield Road
04/03/11	Theft of pedal cycle from front garden	Tutelina Road
06/03/11	Theft of heating oil	Stanningfield Road

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 12th January 2011 and matters arising

Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. Regarding sale of furniture etc .from property in Sudbury Road. Visit now made by Enforcement Officer. Agreed this was a business activity and planning permission was required.

5. Members Declaration of Interest

Howard Singh is a member of the Community Council Committee

6. Chairman's Report

Howard reported that he had attended several meetings recently. One was a Suffolk County Council meeting at the Apex on 31st January in relation to the New Strategic Direction. The Chief Executive was present, but Howard was not impressed with her attitude, particularly when she had agreed to speak to him following the meeting but promptly disappeared. (Apparently there have been recent national press reports relating to the salary of the CEO and her spending on a personal training scheme). Chris asked if there was any direction as to any service that may be handed to the Parish Council to deal with in the future but nothing had been finalised.

Another meeting attended was arranged by Suffolk ACRE with training in relation to the Anglia Region TV Switchover. If residents are in need of assistance, Howard can give advice and arrange for guidance to be given.

Howard is still endeavouring to clarify the situation with regard to the ownership of the land opposite the properties in Stanningfield Road, but without success. He now suggests that the Clerk writes to SALC in order to obtain their assistance. This was agreed. Also, the condition of the pathway in St. Thomas's Way was mentioned to a Borough planning department officer at a recent meeting but Howard has heard nothing further to date.

An estimate for the forthcoming grass cutting season had been received from the Borough but this needs to be broken down between the Parish Council and the Community Centre. Also, an estimate of £640 plus VAT has been received from Barry Colson for railway maintenance and further estimates are awaited.

7. UPDATES

Planning

The following applications have been received since last meeting –
P Hamlin - 2, Hambrook Close, Gt. Whelntham. - Front porch and single storey rear kitchen. No objections

C Faiers – Langdale, Low Green, Little Whelntham . – Erection of 1½ storey side and rear extension and 1st floor extension over garage.

Although the Parish Council raised no objections, St. Eds refused planning permission in view of the fact “ proposed extension being 15.2 metres in length at one and a half storey height at the side of the existing dwelling would be a dominant addition which would not be subservient to the original. The extension it is considered would not be subordinate to and would be out of character with the original dwelling and would therefore detract from the open character of the countryside”

J Williamson - Barn at Manor Farm, Gt. Whelntham - change of use and conversion of agricultural barn to dwelling. No objections

Rushbrooke Arms Provision of new and replacement non-illuminated and illuminated signage. Floodlights and external re-decoration.

Steven Hagger stated that the planning sub-committee had decided this application should be put to the general meeting in view of the quantity and size of the new signage and in addition the illuminated sign proposed. The plans were discussed and it was agreed to object as it was thought the illuminated signs were not in keeping with the village environment, there were too many of them and they were too large. The Clerk would therefore reply to St Edmundsbury accordingly.

Gt Whelnetham School - Terry reported that pupil numbers were holding up well particularly with an influx from Stanningfield following the new build properties. The Cygnets were also doing well. In the future, all pupils will be starting school in September, which means some children will only be just over four years of age. Liaison remained good between the primary, middle and upper schools.

Housing - Howard had not been able to speak to Kevin Marshall for an update but suggested that we might transfer the project to Havebury from Hastoe. However, Terry stated location was the problem and within the borough a projection figure was a build of 534 properties per year, whereas only 270 were built last year. It was therefore agreed to stay with Hastoe.

Railway Walk - Tess reported that the railway line was generally in a good state, apart from the usual natural hazards expected on a county walk. However, Chris was concerned with the condition of the walk at the Little Whelnetham end. Seemingly someone had been shooting rabbits which were left lying along the line and were subsequently being ground into the soil. He had photo evidence to show members. Also, there were deep tyre ruts which had filled with water following rainfall. Chris therefore proposed that if Barry Colson retains the maintenance contract, he should be informed not to work on the line in very wet conditions. All agreed.

Transport – Peter Royce absent but his only report was that the main road into Bury St Edmunds, had, once more, been dug up in Sicklesmere.

Play area – Howard stated that there was funding available. David is awaiting feed back from the school of suggested requirements and will then take the layout further.

- 8. Correspondence** . The Clerk had received a letter from Little Whelnetham PCC enquiring as to whether funding is available again towards the upkeep of the churchyard. The matter was discussed but it was felt we are not in a position to make further commitment but that they should be referred to the Probation Service for assistance.

A letter had been received from St. Edmundsbury Borough Council in relation to making a donation towards the “Wos Up” Rural Mobile Youth Project for 2011. After discussion, it was decided not to make such a donation as it was felt if the youth could be bothered to look, there were numerous activities available in the community without relying on such funding.

9. Finance

Current balance **£3,381.29**

Instant Access £ 130.23 Current account £3,251.06

Payments since last meeting - BT rental £38.31

Payments to be made -

Clerks expenses £44.21

Wheltenham CC Rent £120
H Singh Annual expenses £100
B Colson Annual Railway line £738
Suffolk ACRE Membership £25
All approved.

The Clerk reported that following ruling from HMRC, Parish Clerks must, from 6th April, be paid under a Pay Roll system, which means the Parish Council have to register as an employer, deduct any appropriate tax and pay a net salary.

10. Risk Assessment Review A copy of the Risk Assessment Records as attached to these minutes had been given to Members and the following amendments were agreed on.

Item 2 Clerk to email copies of Cashbook, Minutes, Planning Log updates etc. to Chairman on a monthly basis.

Item 3 Currently only have three signatures to bank account. Will appoint four following election.

Item 6 Notice Board in need of refurbishment. Rob Ireland nominated for such work.

Item 7 Dave Balmer remove his name, recently deceased.

Item 8 Obtain copy of Contractors Public Liability Insurance Certificate.

Item 9 Include reference to volunteers clearing snow and using grit from bins provided. Covered by County Council's public liability insurance.

11 Elections Howard reminded Members that elections were due in May and hoped that everyone would be standing for re-election. However, Steven Hagger had decided not to stand again and Tess Wright was considering whether to stand again and would advise accordingly.

12. Any other business The Clerk had been approached by Brian Holmes, who used to do voluntary work along the railway line with Dave Balmer, to suggest that some form of recognition be placed along the railway line to note the work carried out by Dave Balmer. After discussion, it was agreed that a tree be planted with a plaque attached. The Clerk to speak to Brian to see if he would clarify with Dave's family.

13. Confirmation of Future Meeting Date

The next meetings will be the Annual General and Annual Parish meetings which will be held on Wednesday May 11th 2011 at 7.30 pm. in the Community Centre.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed Chairman

Date

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

