

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 9th May 2012 following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present

Chris Thomson - Chairman Rob Ireland
Howard Singh - Vice Chairman Peter Royce
Christine Peck - Parish Clerk Tim Webber
David Howes
Terry Clements - St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Election of Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations.

Howard Singh proposed Chris Thomson. Seconded by Peter Royce

All agreed

3. Election of Vice Chairman

David Howes proposed by Howard Singh Seconded by Chris Thomson

All agreed.

4. Election of Sub Committee for Planning

David Howes and Tim Webber agreed to continue on planning.

Howard Singh and Rob Ireland as additions.

Chris Thomson also to be consulted on any application in Little Whelnetham.

5. Election of Transport Representative

Peter Royce - Proposed by Chris Thomson Seconded by Howard Singh. All agreed he should continue

6. Minutes of Meeting held on March 14th and matters arising

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

Possible additional Councillors - Chris reported that nothing further had been heard from Lesa Lee so it could only be assumed she was not interested in joining. However, Rob reported that Justin Smith was still interested but was at present on holiday. He would attend the next meeting.

It would seem that the removal/topping of the trees on the playing field had been completed to residents requests, although Peter stated that he had received adverse comments.

7. Members Declaration of Interest

Howard Singh and Peter Royce are members of the Community Council Committee.

8. Updates

- **Planning** - Applications received since last meeting -

Mr S Smith The Round House Bury Road Sicklesmere - single storey extension and ground floor shower room

Mrs H McCallam The Rectory Little Whelnetham Road Sicklesmere – rear conservatory

Mr Clive Williamson Manor Farm Bury Road Little Whelnetham - 2 storey side extension

Mr & Mrs Faiers Stirling House Station Hill Little Whelnetham – single storey rear extension

Mr & Mrs R Ireland 4 School Cottages Great Whelnetham – single storey rear extension (demolition of existing conservatory)

All approved by Parish Council

Mr & Mrs Gregory Hillcrest Station Hill Little Whelnetham – erection of outbuilding to provide garage and domestic store Application approved by Parish Council but refused by St Edmundsbury

The Clerk had obtained an update from St Edmundsbury on the application from Mr A Edwards regarding the sale of furniture along the A143 and they were awaiting his clarification over the proposed use.

- **Gt Whelnetham School** -

Terry reported that the teacher currently on maternity leave was to return shortly. There was a possibility that future intake of pupils could be up to age 11 years. The school could possibly be due an Ofsted inspection very soon. All policy documents are up-to-date. Governing Body remains strong. The staggering of opening times had eased the parking congestion slightly.

- **Transport**

Peter reported that the coloured safety strip on the road by the Post Office was becoming worn. There had been flooding at the junction of Little Whelnetham Road and the rear entrance to Erskine Lodge.

Tim stated that the Council have a right to drain surface water into the land owners ditches.

Chris again raised the possibility of having an electronic flashing sign for speeding motorists. Terry said the idea of these was becoming popular with other villages. They cost in the region of £2,500 - £3,000 and it was generally agreed that we should purchase a static one. This would be subject to permission and a suitable site. Terry would endeavour to obtain further particulars.

Chris raised the issue of the sudden appearance of the double yellow lines outside Nowton Park with Terry. Apparently there was no consultation on these but were done as a safety issue following the charges for parking in Nowton Park. However, these are subject to review following several objections.

- **Housing -**

Chris reported that he along with David and Christine had attended a meeting with Max Milburn of MArchitects in relation to a proposal by their client Abbeygate Properties to build affordable housing on the site beyond Erskine Lodge. We have given support to this and also suggested to St Edmundsbury under the Rural Vision 2031 this could be a potential site in preference to the Hambrook site.

- **Railway Walk -**

Rob reported that he had carried out a survey of the line from a safety aspect and would issue a report defining the details. .

David said that the tree surgeon had agreed an annual inspection.

Howard reminded the meeting that the Water Board carry out a drilling process every two years or so.

Chris said that the walk was previously used by St Edmundsbury as a tipping site. The Parish Councils responsibility is the actual walk from beginning to end and not for any public footpaths crossing it.

Rob suggested it might be a good idea to have a sign erected giving the full history of the line.

- **Website**

David reported that Premier Printers Limited had kindly offered to print 450 flyers free of charge for distribution to households informing them of the website. Chris stated that already a lot of interest had been shown.

9 Finance

The Clerk had circulated the end of year accounts. The accounts were approved. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return were completed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. The Clerk reported that Mr Ian Brookman was no longer working at Ensors and thus our previous arrangement for the internal audit had ceased. However, a quotation of £50 plus VAT had been given by Ensors. All agreed this was very reasonable bearing in mind we paid Twin Accountants £123.37 in July 2008. Therefore in view of the time limit involved, this would be accepted.

Current bank balance £4,984.95
Direct Access £1,130.43

Total £6,115.38

Payments since year end BT Rental £ 46.11
BT Internet £112.50

Peter queried the high cost of the internet rental. Howard stated that when this was originally installed, a grant was received from St Edmundsbury for a year. After discussion, in view of the limited use by hirers of the Community Centre, it

was agreed this should be cancelled for the time being. The Clerk would arrange this.

Payments to be approved - Old Parsonage Garden Services £900.00
Suffolk Association Local Councils £306.00

The precept of £8,637 was confirmed.

Terry left the meeting at this stage

Any other business

Peter commented that the grass bank fronting properties in Stanningfield Road needed cutting. Howard confirmed that an agreement was in force with the Probation Service but due to the wet weather they had not as yet been able to commence their schedule.

Although there was no earlier response to organising a village event to celebrate the Jubilee, Peter has now been approached by Mark Bryant who was interested in getting an event together. Chris requested more information and we would then consider making a donation towards costs.

Howard reported more complaints regarding the dangers in Raynsford Road whereby cars are not being parked in the allocated bays but on the road and half on the pavement thus causing blind corners for vehicles having to pass. It was agreed the Clerk should initially approach the Police informing them of the obstructions.

Rob stated that he had the planting of the Diamond Jubilee tree in hand but the very wet weather had delay the planting.

Howard reported that the fence at the entrance to the wood at the end of Raynsford Road was broken down. However, not the responsibility of the Parish Council but the owner of the wood, Mr Hodge. Also, there had been complaints of youngsters racing up and down the Raynsford Road estate on quad bikes.

Peter reminded us of the Whelnetham Vintage Car, Bike and Tractor Rally on 24th June.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Next meeting 11th July 2012 at 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman

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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.

