GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish meeting held at Whelnetham Community Centre on Wednesday 8th May 2013 following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present

Chris Thomson - Chairman Rob Ireland Peter Royce Howard Singh Tim Webber

Christine Peck - Parish Clerk

Attending

Terry Clements - St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor Member of Public – Mrs Fletcher

PCSO's Jade Norton and Wil Pardoe

1. Apologies for Absence

David Howes

2. Election of Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations.

Chris Thomson - Proposed by Tim Webber. Seconded by Peter Royce All agreed

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Although not attending, Chris stated that David Howes was happy to continue if proposed. He was therefore proposed by Howard Singh Seconded by Chris Thomson

All agreed.

4. Election of Sub Committee for Planning

Tim Webber and David Howes to continue on planning.

Howard Singh and Rob Ireland as additions.

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 13th 2013 and matters arising

Minutes having been circulated to Councillors were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. No matters arising.

7. Members Declaration of Interest

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

8. Updates

• Planning - No applications received since last meeting -

• Gt Whelnetham School -

Terry reported that there would be a change of teacher in September. The school had linked up with Lawshall School and were working closely together in order to make savings. Following a review it transpires there would be a need for another 600 pupil upper school and this could well be in the Moreton Hall area, which, could possibly be a feeder for Gt Whelnetham. Terry would be 100% in favour of any such move. With schools having pupils up to age 11 years, stand-alone classrooms are being looked at, rather than extensions which would put pressure on existing systems.

• Transport -

Peter reported that other than the accident on the A134 in Sicklesmere last week there was nothing to report, other than the disregard for the diverted traffic through Gt Whelnetham by parents at the school.

Parking at the school was still an issue.

Chris commented that this must be a problem countywide and suggested we contact SALC to enquire as to whether there is National policy guidance in place. The Clerk will do this.

Chris reported that the speeding sign should be back round about 13th May. Terry still supporting scheme and feels there are at least five sites in village where these could be placed.

Housing

Chris reported that following information on the website as to the needs for local housing, four persons had lodged their details plus the Clerk had details of one further person. (Peter declared personal interest).

Chris supplied plans of the proposed Erskine Lodge development, which were discussed and the only objection was one block of flats being situated right on to the pavement. Chris would relay this objection to the architect.

• Railway Walk -

The Parish Council were continuing to work with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. A very successful day was held in April when 60 people attended an event along the line and good press was given to the event by both the EADT and Bury Free Press. The majority opinion was that it would be brilliant to develop an orchard and have parking places. The survey originally proposed has been carried out by SCC and over a 7 day period there were 7,000 car movements and only 1 was recorded as doing over 30 mph. therefore planning would be OK. Chris mentioned that SWT had received an objection from one nameless Little Whelnetham resident who in her opinion feels no children under 18 years should be allowed along the line, use should be restricted to Little Whelnetham residents only, gates at both ends should be locked and keys available to Little Whelnetham residents only This person was referred to Chris but he has heard nothing further

Councillors agreed that at the time of purchase, the Railway Line was for the use of both Great and Little Whelnetham residents. The land at the Little Whelnetham end of the line has now been offered by Suffolk County Council to purchase at a cost of £10,000. Chris stated that we have three options

- 1) Purchase
- 2) Sign a lease
- 3) Carry on as at present and pay a peppercorn rent

In any event being a public footpath SCC should maintain this so Chris would go back to them on the basis it would be cost effective for them to let the Parish Council have it.

It was agreed we would carry on with the parking area and siting picnic tables and David was in the process of obtaining estimates. The orchard planting would probably take place in October.

• Website -

Chris reported that this was an excellent means of communication with the electorate. Only last week there had been 328 hits and 250 in relation to the Railway Line.

9 Finance

The Clerk had circulated the end of year accounts and provided a breakdown of the annual expenditure. The accounts were approved and adopted. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return were completed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. Papers would now be sent to the internal auditor.

Current a/c balance £15,179.48 (checked with bank statement no. 43)

Direct Access £ 1,130.99

Total £16,310.47

Payments since year end Old Parsonage Garden Services £240

Payments to be approved - Suffolk Association Local Councils £341.00 Gt Whelnetham Church appeal £2,000.00

(this had previously been agreed when their total funding was reached)

The precept of £7,637 was confirmed and Chris stated that once again we had been able to reduce the requested figure.

In view of the work carried out by Suffolk Wildlife Trust Chris proposed that we should provide them with a donation, say £300. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to contact Tracey Housley to inform her of this and obtain forwarding address.

Terry left the meeting at this stage

10 Any other busi	ness
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The Clerk had received details from Suffolk County Council in relation to their Rights of Way Surface clearance programme giving locations of grass cutting.

Also a complaint had been received from a Tutelina Rise resident regarding lack of road naming signs. In view of the fact we did not get any cooperation from a previous request for School Cottages, it was agreed we should look into providing these ourselves. Rob to obtain estimates.

The clerk has received another request from Little Whelnetham Parochial Church Council for funding towards their churchyard grass cutting. After discussion it was suggested maybe we could get a quote from Tom for two cuts in a year rather than giving a lump sum.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Next meeting 11th July 2013 at 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman	Date