

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Community Centre on 14th September 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR
June Attwood JA
Clifford Dive CD
Howard Singh HS
Terry Clements Borough Councillor TC

Others - 4 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Tim Webber
Stephen Smith
Kath Parkins Gt Whelnetham School Head Teacher

2. Public Question time.

A member of the public updated the Parish Council, that her husband has been cutting back brambles along the railway line and footpaths. TC said other Villages employ people to do these tasks. The Parish Council are looking into this option for next year; this will be added to the budget.

Havebury Housing have put up industrial fencing along the back area of the conservation field behind the Erskine Centre, by the houses at the bottom of the field it has always previously been open, also the rest of the field has not been fenced. This has been raised by member of the public who has a house backing on to the field and fence: she has tried to make contact with Havebury without success.

Action: TC to take this up with Havebury

3. Chairman's Report – Peter Royce

VAS signs have been moved around the village 3 times, now on Sicklesmere Road.

Whilst erecting the VAS signs it was noticed there were 2 drains on the A134 at junction with Stanningfield Road that are blocked with grass. These have been reported, they should have been cleared in July. Council are coming out in the next few days to clear these, also drains outside Erskine Lodge.

The drains on Raynsford Road near the garages, the Parish Council cannot do any more reference this issue, and it has been suggested a residents group needs to be formed to take this forward. Details of possible funding avenues have been passed on.

County/Borough Councillor report – Terry Clements

Due to the summer break there have not been many meetings. Devolution is still high on the agenda and as the East has always been a net contributor to the national purse it will be good to get more money back to the area. This may also mean more responsibility for Borough and Parish Councils. Devolution is still considered a forward step, TC advised not to think about Devolution just around the Mayor issue, but to look at the bigger picture and advantages it could bring to the area.

The reporting of drainage issues, pot holes etc. was raised, as you are now directed to the website to report these, even the Parish Clerk. Any member of the public can do this now, and the question was asked whether the Parish Council should have a direct contact in the Council. TC supplied contact name at Suffolk County Council, Highways, and said that these issues could be reported through him also. There are still pot holes near the village hall and school that have been reported, but have not been repaired. Other issues include lights covered by trees/branches near the school, with one obscuring the school sign.

Action: Clerk to take this up with County Council

TC asked whether the street light at Grove Cottages was up and working, confirmed that it was. He also said that there was a programme to update other lights in the village to LED. This is being done in stages. Comments were made re the bad lighting on Stanningfield Road, between the school and main road, and whether this would be upgraded when the Erskine Loge development was done. Also the state of the foot path both sides of the road near the Rushbrooke Pub, due to the hedges being overgrown and covering the path. This was reported in June.

4. Minutes of previous meeting dated 13th of July 2016 to be agreed (any matters arising to be discussed during course of meeting)

Minutes from previous meeting agreed and signed by Chairman.

Proposed by June Attwood **Seconded by** Howard Singh **no matters arising**

5. Declarations of interest.

Howard Singh member of SALC but no longer sits on Community Council, attends as member only

6. Police Matters

Copies of the SNT newsletter handed out. This can be found on the Police website. There has been one report of ASB at the Community Centre dating back to June.

7. Updates

7.1 Planning – No update re Erskine Lodge and the survey done. Planning applications DC/16/432/HH School Cottages, extension and DC/16/1432/HH Peacock House, wild life pond, supported. Update from planning department School Cottages now been approved.

DC/16/1268/FUL Fenton Farm this has now come through as a formal planning application. Discussion around this application, the history and links to the Erskine Lodge development.

In light of the way the previous numerous objections from the residents and indeed the Parish council were ignored, together with the recommendations for limited small scale development that are clearly stated in the St Edmundsbury Borough Councils Rural Vision 2031 Policy, a decision was taken to object on the grounds of the excessive number of new houses in village that would be created at the Erskine Lodge Site and this proposal.

However, in the knowledge that the objection would again be dismissed the following comments would be made to the effect that the proposed development at Fenton Farm would result in an excessive development for the village and would not be in accordance with the indicative number of 10 for this site as detailed in the RV21 document of the Rural Vision 2031 plan. This application states 12.

The parish Council will comment considers 8 houses to be a more appropriate number if the application is granted.

The Parish Council determined further comments,

- I. that there should be a provision made for housing of elderly,
- II. that local residents should have priority for housing on this development ad infinitum.
- III. Housing should be within keeping of wider village, traditional housing not apartments or flats.

DC/16/1975/TE3 removal of telephone box on Stanningfield Road, this was supported. Due to the proposed telephone box removal there was a discussion around Community Hall being an emergency centre, but that there has never been any kind of practice.

Action: Clerk to find out details re emergency plans

7.2 Gt Whelnetham School and parking- Kath Parkins Head Teacher has given apologies due to other meetings. Concerns again re dangerous and inconsiderate parking outside the school at drop off and pick up times. Parents are parking on the grass outside the school and across the entrance. This blocks the view of children leaving for motorist and drivers of larger vehicles accessing the farm. It is suggested that bollards should be placed around the kerb leading to the school entrance to prevent this dangerous practice to prevent vehicles parking there. The Parish Council have also noted that there has not been any Police presence at the school during the times when the hazards in this area are present. Notable a large brown van was parked partially on the pavement and road, blocking the crossing point at the top of the hill opposite the road to Copdoes Farm.

The Parish Council are fully aware that options have been put forward to the Local Council and Local Education Authority, in the past which would ensure traffic serving the school could park safely which would remove the inevitable hazards that are currently present during periods of activity at the school, this would include activities outside normal school hours which currently results in vehicles being parked in unlit sections of the road which is

not served by a footpath, and is frustrated that none of the options were considered by Suffolk County Council

7.3 Railway line – Width of cut is consistent with our original specification, if a wider cut is required the cost will be revised accordingly. Dog waste bin, when this was on the actual line it was vandalised, the current position by the gate is considered better, as bin is in a visible place. It will cost to have this moved. Decision to leave where it is. Possibly consider putting a sign up to let people know where bin is.

Action: Clerk to get quotes for cutting etc. for next year

7.4 Transport and VAS Speed signs – VAS signs now both working, issue with repaired one, in that it does not always record speed, this to be looked into. Highest speed recorded 95 miles per hour.

Hawstead Lane HGV's are being directed down this lane not only by their Satellite Navigation systems, but also the Police if Sicklesmere Road is closed. Hawstead Lane is not wide enough or constructed for these types of vehicles and damage to property has been caused because of this.

There are also similar problems on Bells Lane.

Concerns have been reported regarding the condition and surface of Cocks Green lane and the Bridge.

Action: Clerk to ask County Council re prohibited HGV sign and width limit on lanes, also condition and surface of bridge on Cocks Green Lane.

7.5 Housing – Neighbourhood planning document sent to all Councillors.

To be discussed at next meeting.

7.6 Proposal to avoid double election costs – SALC waiting to hear from us. In the meantime they have put forward a bill to National organisation, which should reach the Government to get this changed. Affects many Parish Councils. HS to monitor.

7.7 Playground report/fence, bylaws re Parish Councils and dogs in play area – will be looking at section 106 funding for this when available.

Fencing is being damaged by youths, and is constantly having to be repaired.

Dogs in the play area, there is a problem with people taking dogs into this area.

Action: Clerk to contact St Eds re Public Space Protection Orders

7.8 Improving Local Communities - Newsletter Tonie Armstrong looking into this. No costs as setting up from home initially. Would contain details of Parish news and what is being discussed at meetings. Tonie to create a draft and circulate to Councillors first.

7.9 Membership update, co-option of additional Councillors – new member proposed Tonie Armstrong. **Proposed** June Attwood **Seconded** Howard Singh

8. Correspondence

Letter received from Clerk of Bradfield St George, re broadband and doing survey in the Village. There are issues in Whelnetham but decision taken not to take part in the survey. Newsletter of local Councils handed out.

9. For Consideration

9.1 Proposal for the renovation of the Community Centre and associated request for financial support- Have now obtained 3 quotes for curtains for the hall, £3000 to £5000, have to be fire resistant etc. last replaced 15/16 years ago. To be looked at in next year's budget, Clerk currently setting up spreadsheet.

9.2 Risk assessment- this has been discussed at previous meeting.

9.3 Budgeting for 17/18 including training- Clerk preparing spreadsheet with items to consider in budget preparation. To include training for Councillors, Community Centre, Railway Walk grass cutting etc., strimmer's lawn mowers for use in churchyards. Also the cost of employing a handyman/street cleaner for Villages.

9.4 Blocked drains on Stanningfield Road- mentioned above

9.5 Campaign for a cycle path from town to Sicklesmere - more cyclists using this road now, also there is a planned large development of houses opposite Nowton Park this side of Bury, and the Havebury development at Erskine Lodge. A cycle path would improve safety on this road; also the current footpath is not wide enough. Project for the future. PR to look into this.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliations- As attached on bi monthly accounts. Balances current account £11201.30 Instant Access account £1132.83 total in bank £12334.13. **Proposed** Howard Singh **Seconded** Clifford Dive

10.2 Payments for approval- Clerk £40 expenses to 11th September 2016 HMRC £152 Clerks income tax

10.3 Request for Parish Clerk to get Balances – Bank variance form completed and signed to enable clerk to get up to date balances from the bank to prepare financial reports for meetings and accountants.

10.4 Computer/Scanner for Parish Council – Current computer needs to be replaced as out of date also scanner needed to allow updating Parish website. This to be done through the SALC and transparency fund,

10.5 Approval of and acceptance of annual return and certificate (BDO) to be minuted – Notice of Conclusion of Audit approved and accepted. Certificate displayed for the public to see.

11. Any other business

One Suffolk Websites to move from SALC to CAS to be administered. As a Parish Council we were looking to change to One Suffolk. There will now be a cost involved with this £50.00 plus vat per year. PR is to look at the current cost of the Whelnetham site for comparison.

Then decision to be made as to whether to stay with current website for move to One Suffolk.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm

Next meeting 9th November 2016 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman

Date