

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Community Centre on 14th March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR
June Attwood JA
Terry Clements Borough Councillor TC
Howard Singh HS
Tonie Armstrong TA
Tim Webber TW
Diane Everitt Parish Clerk DE
Others - 5 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Karen Soons County Councillor KS
Steve Smith SS

2. Public Question time.

A petition has been started by parents for a better a footpath from the Village to the local school, they have 120 signatures to date, and are wanting the Parish Council to support this. Will need to check land available to purchase and obtain funding, will be a long-term project. It was suggested that obtaining individual letters with the petition could be more effective.

3. Borough Councillor report – Terry Clements

TC confirmed that he has contributed £1000 from his locality budget towards new play equipment. He also gave an update about the work to be done at the school, to make the area safer for picking up and dropping off children. With reference to the new development on the Erskine Lodge site, TC has been working with both Havebury Housing and the developers around parking issues. They have agreed to reinstate any damaged grass verges. He said that he has also liaised with the planning department reference the terms and conditions of the planning application for the site. This will hopefully help smooth out any issues when the second phase of the development starts, and the same problems will not occur again.

County Councillor report – Karen Soons

KS had given apologies, but monthly newsletter received, this has been forwarded to all Councillors, and is filed with the minutes.

Chairman's Report- Peter Royce

PR has also been working to resolve the parking issues at the Erskine Lodge site. This has also caused issues on the main road by the Post Office. PR had asked for double yellow lines down Stanningfield Road but the financing of this is a problem as the Council do not have any budget left. There are still issues with the Suffolk County Council online reporting system for pot holes and repairs. PR is to meet with the County Council to discuss lighting improvements in the village. This will include lighting at the school and the new development.

4. Minutes of previous meeting dated 10th January 2018 to be agreed (any matters arising to be discussed during course of meeting).

Minutes from January meeting agreed JA proposed HS seconded all in agreement.

5. Declarations of interest – Howard Singh Member of SALC

6. Police Matters – SNT report sent to all Councillors. PR gave an update of the local news as this not included on the SNT report.

7. Updates

7.1 Planning – There were no further updates from Erskine Lodge and the Fenton Farm developments. DC/18/0083/HH 4A Hawstead Lane Sicklesmere, single storey garden room, after the removal of existing lean to. No concerns or comments. DC/18/0161/HH 3 Kent Cottages, Ixer Lane Great Whelnetham, Cart Lodge with living space above. No concerns or comments. DC/18/0221/LB the Old Rectory, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, replacement of a box sash window with a new historic box sash window. No concerns or comments. DC/18/0193/HH Stonemeade House, Station Hill Little Whelnetham, conversion of existing garage to ancillary accommodation. No concerns or comments. DC/18/0374/TCA Rose Cottage, Bury Road, Sicklesmere, tree work in conservation area. No concerns or comments.

7.2 Gt Whelnetham School and Parking – Still ongoing issues with parking, discussed earlier in the meeting. The condition of the road near the school was raised, Cocktail Street leading to Copdoes Farm, the road is subsiding and in poor condition. Clerk to report this to Suffolk County Council.

Action: Clerk to report to County Council

7.3 Railway line – Signs are now up and the line has been trimmed, although muddy after recent rain.

7.4 Transport and VAS speed signs – One VAS sign is not working, as cost is the same for one or two signs to be returned, it was agreed by all Councillors to get both signs sent back, one for repair and the other for service. SS will arrange this on behalf of the Parish Council. With reference to Bus Stops it was agreed to object to any proposals for designated stops and to keep as at present, demand stops, as this is working well for everybody. The Parish Council has received an email from the County Council re ownership of some land along the A134, where they have been doing some work on the watercourse. The Parish to reply that they do not have details of ownership of the land. The proposal to extend the layby near the A134 Sudbury road to be removed from the agenda.

7.5 Extension of Layby outside the Post Office - The proposal to extend the layby near the A134 Sudbury road to be removed from the agenda.

7.6 Proposal to avoid double election costs – Currently with NALC. There is no update and Parish Council has not received any charges.

7.7 Playground report/fence, playground equipment replacement seats and maintenance – The latest Playground report has been circulated to all Councillors; there is nothing outstanding and it is minimal/low risk. Parish Council is looking to update current equipment and purchase new, 106 monies are available and also locality budget money from TC of £1000. The Community Association has also indicated that they would be prepared to donate money towards this project. A sub-committee to be formed with Community Association representation with TA as Chairman.

7.8 Improving Local Communities – TA handed round copies of the proposed leaflet to be distributed around the 2 villages with updates from the Parish Council meetings.

7.9 Membership update and co-operation of additional councillors – The Parish Council now has 2 vacancies due to Steve Smith's resignation. Currently no new prospective Councillors.

7.10 Battle Over Beacon – Update re Beacon cost will be £600, details of post to be provided, looking at oak post and to include cost of putting Beacon up. This to be completed 1 month before the due date. Details of local serving officers to be supplied by Suffolk Regiment. Decision needs to be made as to who will light the beacon. HS to look for any funding available. Proposed entertainment, PR to liaise with Community Centre as a Village event.

7.11 Provision of a defibrillator to be placed outside the Village Hall – Proposed by TA and seconded by TW all in agreement. TA has forwarded on online details for purchase of defibrillator at reduced cost.
Action- Clerk to complete online application for Defibrillator

8. Correspondence –

St Nicholas Hospice Care Carolling all the Way 2018
Planning direct Neighbourhood plan for Parish

9. For consideration –

9.1 Budgeting ideas for next year – Current projects Beacon for Memorial of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. Purchase of a defibrillator to be placed outside of Hall. Updating and purchase of new equipment for Play Area.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliations- As attached on bi monthly accounts. Balances current account £12364.61 Instant Access account £1133.90 total in bank £13498.51 less cheques to be presented as below £2141.27

10.2 Payments for approval- Coastline Graphics railway line signs £322.68, St Eds Borough Council grass cutting £1581.44, clerk expenses £36.00, Peter Royce word press website £9.96, HMRC clerks tax £172.00 – **all in agreement**

10.3 Projected expenditure for rest of year – Clerk presented spreadsheet of project costs to end of year total approximately £1382.00

10.4 Agree charges for grass cutting quote for 2018/2019 – Proposed TW and seconded by HS all in agreement

10.5 Appointment of DPO and or related services – Clerk explained that due to new laws being introduced in May 2018 the Parish Council would need to appoint a Data Protection Officer, and that the Clerk or any Councillor could not fulfil this post due to conflict of interests. SALC have worked with the DPO centre to provide a service for Parish Councils, the approximate cost dependant on precept level would be £220 first year then £100 per year.

Action: clerk to confirm with SALC that the Parish Council would be fully covered for DPO services

10.6 Update for end of year accounts and new auditors – SALC to do end of year accounts and PKF Littlejohn LLP have been appointed new auditors

11. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Footpath behind Rushbrooke Arms, there is a dog bin in pub garden but once on footpath people are leaving dog waste in plastic bags. Suffolk County Council to be contacted.

Meeting finished 9.40pm Next meeting 09th May 2018 at 7.00pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman Date