

GREAT & LITTLE WHELNETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Community Centre on 13th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present

Cllrs Peter Royce (Chairman) PR
June Attwood JA
Tonie Armstrong TA
Howard Singh HS
Tim Webber TW
Diane Everitt Parish Clerk DE
Karen Soons KS County Councillor
Terry Clements TC Borough Councillor
Others - 2 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Public Question Time.

None.

3. County-Borough Council and Chairman's Reports.

Chairman's report- PR confirmed that a meeting had been held on the 23rd February at the Local School re road safety and buffer zone. This was attended by Peter Royce, Jo Churchill MP, Lesley Canham Constituency Office Manager, Mary Evans County Council portfolio holder for Highways, Terry Clements Borough Councillor, Tim Webber Parish Councillor and one member of public. Several proposals were put forward, including a buffer zone and parking. The County Council will also be able to use information from the VAS signs when making decisions. PR confirmed that the Clerk had handed in her resignation, with the view to leaving June 2019. Interviews have been held and a new Clerk has been appointed.

Borough Councillor's report- TC confirmed that St Edmundsbury's Borough Council will no longer exist after the 31st March 2019, they will merge with Forest Heath District Council to become West Suffolk District Council. There will be a period of equalisation between the Councils as currently Forest Heath pay less in Council tax. The Council will be borrowing money at a low rate from the Government for future purchases, this will enable the Council to make money from the purchases. An example being the Old Post Office in Bury, this will enable the development of the walk way through to the new ARC development. These are investments that nobody else would be interested in. The whole of West Suffolk will benefit from projects similar to the Bury one.

County Councillor's report- KS report attached with minutes and circulated to Councillors. Updates included budget details. Due to demand the Council is significantly increasing spending in the two top priority areas vulnerable children and adults. Also, savings of over £260 million have been made over the last 6 years in response to reductions in funding from Central Government and increasing demand for services. The Council is looking to make more savings over the next few years. General Council tax will rise by 2.99% in 2019, this is 1% less than last year. Funding has been agreed for the CAB for the next year, this is from the Clinical Commissioning Group. Suffolk County Council is implementing changes to its School Travel Policy from September 2019. Details can be found online. One of the main changes is that it will now be an opt in process. Parish Councils are being asked to publicise this. The Council recently had a return visit from Joint Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission around SEND services. There has been some improvement in one of the 4 highlighted areas, but still concerns reference the other 3 areas. Full details and more information available in March newsletter.

4.Minutes of previous meeting held 09th January 2019 to be agreed, (any matters arising to be discussed during the meeting).

Minutes agreed **proposed HS seconded JA all in agreement.** No matters arising

Minutes of previous extraordinary meeting held 28th January 2019 to be agreed, (any matters arising to be discussed during the meeting).

Minutes agreed **proposed TW seconded HS all in agreement.** No matters arising

Minutes of previous extraordinary meeting held 13th February 2019 to be agreed, (any matters arising to be discussed during the meeting).

Minutes agreed **proposed JA seconded HS all in agreement.** No matters arising

5.Members declaration of interest.

HS member of SALC.

6.Police updates.

Regular updates from Andy Tucker BSE NHW Reporting Area B Co-ordinator, these are forwarded onto all Councillors. Other information can be obtained from the Police website.

7.Updates.

7.1Planning – DC/19/0137/FUL 1no dwelling, 1 Hall Cottages The Street, Little Whelnetham. No decision at present, Parish Councils objections and comments available on the website. Erskine Lodge phase 2, work has already started on this site. An apologetic email was received by the Clerk from Havebury as local residents were not informed of the start date.

7.2Great Whelnetham School and Parking- Covered earlier in meeting.

7.3Railway walk update and maintenance- No update, grass cutting costs for 2019/2020 to be discussed under finance.

7.4Transport and VAS signs- Both now working and situated by School.

7.5Playground report/playground equipment update- The Community Centre has done a survey around the Village re play/gym equipment. Current amount of 106 money available to bid for is £47118.29. Both Parish Council and Community Association looking to work together with the Borough Council to plan and create a new play and gym area for all ages. Joint meeting to be planned for the 25th April 2019. Most recent inspection of current play area shows moderate risk.

Action: Clerk to book Hall for 25th April playground area meeting

7.6Defibrillator update- Defib has arrived and was on show at the meeting. Quotes for installation to be obtained. And dates available for training to be arranged. Clerk to contact Company with some dates, also to liaise with Neil Petit Paramedic, who wants to attend the training.

Action: Clerk to contact Company with possible training dates

7.7Membership and Election Update, co-option of additional Councillors – All emails and details forwarded onto Councillors. No update re prospective new Councillors.

8. Correspondence – For viewing Suffolk County Council (Borough of St Edmundsbury) (stopping, waiting and loading prohibitions and restrictions and on-street parking place) (map-based) order 201. This is to be made available for public inspection.

9. For consideration

9.1 Parish Council contribution for installation of memorial bench near Beacon- Cost will be £400.00.

Proposed TA Seconded JA all in agreement.

9.2 Risk Register and updates for adoption- Items to be added, Beacon and loss and damage to VAS signs. Discussed and agreed by Parish Councillors.

Proposed TW and Seconded by JA all in agreement

9.3 Great Whelnetham Archaeological Display 28th March 2019- For information, posters have been displayed around the Village.

9.4 Update on replacement for Parish Clerk- Covered earlier in meeting, replacement has been appointed.

10. Finance-

10.1 Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliation- As attached on bi-monthly accounts statement, and cash book. Balances Current account £13074.13, Instant access account £1134.44, total in the bank £14208.57 less cheques to be presented as below.

10.2 To Approve bi monthly statement and cheques to be issued- Statement approved.

Proposed HS seconded TA all in agreement

10.3 Payments for approval- Clerks expenses £160.98, HMRC Clerks Tax £103.20, Whelnetham Community Association hall rent £217.80, Beacon erection £500.00, Plaques for Beacon £285.00, Defib purchase £2376.00.

Proposed HS seconded TA all in agreement

10.4 Budget Spreadsheet and costs to end of year- Brief discussion on budget and costs to end of year.

10.5 Agree Charges for grass cutting 2010/20- Cost compared with this year's charges, this shows a small increase.

Proposed JA seconded TA all in agreement

10.6 Update for end of year accounts and confirmation of auditors- Decision taken to use SALC as auditors again this year.

Proposed JA seconded TA all in agreement

11 Matters for consideration at the next meeting- None

Meeting finished 9.05pm

Next meeting 08th May 2019 at 7.30pm following the Annual Parish Meeting

Signed Chairman Date