



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held **MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2017** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

- Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Vice-Chair), B Kemp, K Knights, H Bowes, M Blair, T Thorogood, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC), and 5 members of public
- Apologies: Accepted from P Wright (Chair) and M Appleby (Tree Warden)
1. Chair's Welcome: The Vice-Chair opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
 2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
 3. Minutes of Meeting held 10 July 2017: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Vice-Chair. Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held 14 August 2017: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Vice-Chair.
 4. Village Forum: No items raised.
 5. Reports:
 - 5.1. Cllr Stringer (SCC)
 - Highways Changes: New Customer Service Team of SCC integrated with Kier staff launched on 04.09.17, consisting Customer Co-Ordinators, Community Wardens and Community Engineers. First point of contact remains as <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> or 0345 606 6171.
 - School Transport: SCC consulting on revising services of school transport, suggesting only funding pupils that attend nearest school, as opposed to catchment. Reformed school bus service will also take paying general public on routes. Ambiguity of policy is causing great concern to parents.
 - Bus Route Rethink: Recent change to 113 Service about turned by SCC due to confusion of villages served. Bus companies naturally wary of publishing potential changes due to competition. Services to be reviewed in next 6 months.
 - 5.2. Cllr Stringer (MSDC)
 - Mid Suffolk on the Move: Majority of Mid Suffolk services about to migrate to Endeavour House, Ipswich, leaving presence in Stowmarket, as well as "touch down point" in Eye.
 - Local Plan: Joint Local Plan of Babergh and Mid Suffolk now at public consultation stage, which will allocate housing sites for next 20 years. Adoption of new plan will trigger reset of lack of 5-year supply (information on Parish Meeting to be included in next Newsletter).
 - Boundary Review: Now in hands of Boundary Commission (with plans to keep Wickham Skeith Mendlesham and Cotton together, including either Wetheringsett or Finningham).
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police (via Parish Clerk): No crimes were reported within Wickham Skeith on website.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk:
 - Village Signs: Sign along Wickham Road towards Thornham Magna now restored, however, still awaiting repairs to sign on junction of Wickham Road/Broadway (originally logged in March 2017 – Parish Clerk/Cllr Stringer still chasing).
 - SALC inviting entries for Newsletter and Website of the Year. It was agreed not to enter either.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors:
 - Cllr Knights queried who had trimmed Willow on Village Green, as debris not cleared. No-one knew who was responsible.
 - Cllr Blair advised that recent hedge/ditch maintenance had left branches on electricity wires along Grange Road. Cllr Blair to contact UK Power Networks.
 - Grange Road/Oak Farm Lane: Ditch has been dug out, pipe should be visible for drainage.
 6. Correspondence Received:
 - 6.1. Daisy Green Lane: Parish Council have been approached by developer regarding plot of land possibly for sale. In view of Local Plan consultation, it was agreed to defer until November meeting.
 - 6.2. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): EU regulation will come into force on 25.05.18 and SALC have advised that this will have direct effect and Councils should begin to prepare for compliance and appoint a Data Protection Officer. It was agreed that Parish Clerk would take this position and attend Training Session, together with Cllr Kemp (Treasurer).
 - 6.3. Local Plan: Joint Local Plan of Babergh/Mid Suffolk for consultation has been received. Cllr Blair and Parish Clerk to attend Parish Briefing Meeting at Rickinghall (information on Parish Meeting to be included in next Newsletter).
 - 6.4. All correspondence which has not been circulated via email included within Agenda Items or in Circulation File.

