



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2012** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: N Merriam (Chairman), K Knights, B Kemp, M Appleby, B Bloor, H Bowes, D Erett, T Goodacre (Clerk)

S Johnson (Suffolk Police), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 6 members of the public

Apologies: None received.

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
3. Minutes of Meeting held 10 September 2012: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum
 - The issue of persistent dog barking during the day in Grange Road was raised. The Chair to speak with owners.
 - Cllr Bowes advised that she had received comments regarding the lack of village signage. Cllr Stringer kindly agreed to liaise with MSDC regarding this request. To be an Agenda Item for next meeting.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
 - Broadband: The preferred bidder (BT) for the broadband infrastructure investment has been agreed. SCC currently reviewing with BT any obstacles that may exist within current network. This investment should deliver a 2 Meg platform by 2015, uplifting to 20 Meg by 2020.
 - Review of County Farms: SCC currently owns/rents out 12,800 acres of farmland (170 acres ancient woodland, 85 farms with buildings/houses) with 97 tenant farmers making use of this resource. In the future, land holdings will be published and any individual/organisation can express an interest. Final approval for new policy should happen in January.
 - Fire Service Merger: SCC looking into developing Joint Business Case for Collaborative Working between Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Services, leading to merger proposal of the two fire services.
 - Care Homes Sell Off: SCC looking to transfer all care homes to Care UK, which will mean all existing homes will close with new ones being built in deal with Schroder UK.
 - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
 - Community Engagement and Council Tax Benefit: Questionnaires to be returned to MSDC. This engagement is not going to be time limited and will become an ongoing conversation between community and MSDC.
 - Integration and Transformation: Planning Department undergoing integration and transformation process to improve planning performance/customer service and clear backlog of cases. A Planning Officer, Enforcement Officer and Technical Officers to be employed with training provided for existing staff.
 - Waste and Recycling: MSDC and Babergh made joint application this year for the Clean Britain Awards and retained the 5 star rating. The Textile Re-cycling Trial continues to be successful, with waste collectors running out of replacement bags before end of round reached. Bags are available from MSDC Reception.
 - Christmas Trees: Cllr Stringer confirmed the usual collection of Christmas Trees will be available at the Village Hall.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police: PCSO 3192 S Johnson
 - Reported Crimes: There have been no crimes reported.
 - Autumn Security: Residents encouraged to consider the security of outbuildings/oil tanks and install security lighting/secure locks.
 - Oil Thefts: Once again, the theft of heating/fuel oil is causing concern.
 - Hare Coursing: Recent offences in local villages have taken place (hare coursers usually have 4x4/Subaru Estate vehicles, often with 2 or 3 dogs. If seen, do not approach but call 999 (with index mark of vehicles/brief description if possible).
 - Resiting of Police Bases: Debenham will be moving from the existing Police House to the Fire Station. Eye Police Station is due to relocate to The Lodge, Hartismere Hospital once improvements to communications equipment have been finalised.
 - Community Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 7 January 2013 at The Old School Room, Front Street, Mendlesham at 7.00 pm – all welcome.

- 5.4. Parish Clerk
- Kitchen Close: Following an application to MSDC for an official sign to be erected for Kitchen Close, Building Control are in agreement and recommend the installation of two signs (one at each end of Kitchen Close) at a cost of approximately £50/sign + VAT (dependent upon the ground). It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the two signs and advise MSDC to proceed.
- 5.5. Parish Councillors
- Cllr Bloor asked whether the Parish Council had any involvement in the forthcoming Police election. It was confirmed that this election is being organised independently by MSDC and Babergh District Councils.
 - The Chair advised that he had liaised with the owners of Salix regarding the overgrown hedge at the south end of The Entry.
 - Cllr Knights advised that Thorndon Primary School have appointed a new Head Teacher, commencing in January 2013. Stoke Ash Primary School is still liaising with other schools regarding working in partnership.
6. Correspondence Received:
- 6.1. Locality Budget: £250 has been received from the Locality Budget in aid of Jubilee Celebrations. As agreed at September's meeting, £190 to be given to the Village Hall Committee (see Item 7.2); the remaining £60 to be put towards the cost of an English Oak to be planted on Village Green (see Item 9.1). Thanks were given to Cllr Stringer for arranging these funds.
- 6.2. Temporary Closure of Public Right of Way: FP1 from Daisy Green Lane to where the footpath bears right to join PF41 in the direction of Finnerham will be closed from 07.01.13 - 29.03.13 to enable a new pumped sewage main to be installed underneath the footpath.
- 6.3. Bus Services: Changes are being made during November/December – please see www.suffolkonboard.com/timetables_leaflets/passenger_transport_service_changes for current updates.
- 6.4. Election of Police of Crime Commissioner: Notice of Poll being held 15.11.12 posted on Notice Board.
- 6.5. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service: Proposed Merger with Cambridgeshire. Details of 3 forthcoming events are available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/consultations/delivering-the-best-fire-service-to-you/.
- 6.6. All other correspondence dealt with during Agenda or included in Circulation File.
7. Finance:
- 7.1. Financial Position: The accounts as at 31 October 2012 showed a balance of £2,428.53. The following invoices were approved for payment:
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| Village Hall (hire of for September) | £7.50 | |
| SALC (Subscriptions) | £162.00 | |
| BDO LLP (Audit Fee) | £60.00 | |
| Village Hall Committee | £190.00 | (Funds received from Locality Grant – see Item 6.1) |
- 7.2 Parish Precept: It was confirmed by Cllr Kemp (Treasurer) that early indicators will allow for the Precept to be maintained at £2,200. Final decision to be made at January's meeting.
8. Planning Matters: No applications received.
9. Maintenance of The Grimmer/The Knoll: Date for working party for The Knoll to be agreed at the January meeting. The Chair volunteered to pull out ash saplings around The Grimmer.
- 9.1. Jubilee Oak: The Chair has liaised with Barchams Trees, Ely and been quoted £79 + VAT for a 70L container grown oak (3-4 m high/5" trunk). It is proposed that the oak will be sited in the middle of the Village Green (between the Village Sign and the trees in front of Green Farm/Jack's Barn).
10. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Parish Precept, The Knoll, Village Signs.
11. Next Meeting: 14 January 2013.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: