



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2012** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

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

A Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 4 members of the public

Apologies: Noted from Suffolk Police

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
3. Minutes of Meeting held 14 November 2011: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum
 - R Elsdon advised that the signage on footpaths FP12 and FP31 require correcting/reinstating (there is no right of way straight ahead of FP31, FP30 should be used to gain access to PF13). Cllr Sparrow advised that the footpath sign off Rose Lane (FP21) was also missing. Clerk to report to SCC.
 - The Chair commented that the remains of the old bridge on FP8 have not been removed. Clerk to liaise with R Wright.
 - Mr Bowes mentioned the roadside drain alongside the Village Green was blocked. Clerk to advise SCC.
 - The Chair advised that a complaint had been received regarding mud on road at the junction of Thwaite Road/Wickham Road/Grange Road/Oak Farm Lane where contractors were working. The Chair had contacted both parties and the mud was promptly cleared.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. SCC: A Stringer
 - New Chief Executive: Deborah Cadman's background in local government at District level acknowledges the vital role that District Councils play within rural communities and fully supports the vision for changes to the way that County Hall is run. 2012 will be a challenging year.
 - Operation Eydon: Suffolk has suffered a number of copycat incidents where items have been thrown from bridges along A12/A14. Prompt reporting of suspicious sightings is welcomed by the Police.
 - 5.2. MSDC: A Stringer
 - Snow and Ice Clearance: Last year MSDC launched the successful volunteer snow clearance programme. It was confirmed that volunteers clearing snow on behalf of the Parish Council would be covered by insurance, provided they have registered with the Parish Council and have read/understood the Health and Safety points in MSDC's Guidance Notes.
 - Regal Theatre, Stowmarket: Cllr Stringer encouraged residents to use this cinema (Annual Membership of £75 gives unlimited admissions).
 - Joint Management Board: A colour montage of the new Joint Management Board of MSDC and Babergh District Council was provided by Cllr Stringer, listing responsibilities of each Officer.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police: Report received and read by Clerk.
 - Reported Crimes: One reported crime on 28 December when two loose dogs attacked a woman out walking with her own dogs.
 - Security for Winter: With dark nights, security of premises/outbuildings/oil tanks was emphasised.
 - Priority Setting Meeting: Next meeting on 23 January 2012 at The Black Horse, Thorndon at 7.00 pm – all welcome.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk
 - M Downard has kindly confirmed that the Village Green can continue to be cut at a cost of £500+ VAT. The Chair to liaise with M Downard regarding possibility of advertising hedge cutting service.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors
 - Cllr Knights advised that a report on behalf of Stoke Ash School would be presented at the next meeting.
6. Correspondence Received:
 - 6.1. Public Transport: Survey received from SALC. Clerk to liaise with resident users.
 - 6.2. Heritage Consultation: Survey received from SCC. Clerk to liaise with P Davidson, History Recorder.
 - 6.3. Oil Scheme: Suffolk ACRE introducing new bulk buying scheme for domestic heating oil. Clerk to publicise and advise J Bassett.
 - 6.4. Queens Diamond Jubilee (4 June 2012): Clerk to liaise with Village Hall Committee regarding parish involvement for publication purposes.
 - 6.5. All other correspondence dealt with during Agenda or included in Circulation File.

7. Finance:

7.1. The accounts as at 31 December 2011 showed a balance of £2,809.75. The following invoice was approved for payment: Village Hall Hire @ £45.00.

7.2. Parish Precept: It was agreed that the precept should remain at £2,200. Clerk to confirm with MSDC.

7.3. Care Group Funds: Cllr Kemp has now received confirmation of funds to be incorporated into Parish Council's accounts (as previously agreed 12 September 2011 (Item 9.3)).

8. Planning Matters: No applications received.

9. Emergency Plan: Sub-committee meeting still to be held. Clerk to re-email dates to Councillors.

10. The Knoll: Councillors' working party to be held 14 January 2012 at 10.00 am. Cllr Knights to provide cones and florecent jackets.

11. Matters for next Agenda: Stoke Ash Primary School, Internal Accounts and Audit Control Review, Annual Governance Statement, Emergency Plan.

12. Next Meeting: 12 March 2012

Meeting closed at 8.47 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: