



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held **MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2012** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: N Merriam (Chairman), S Sparrow, K Knights, M Appleby, B Bloor, H Bowes, T Goodacre (Clerk)
A Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 4 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from B Kemp, 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 9 January 2012: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum
 - Cllr Sparrow advised of a pot hole opposite Sunflowers on Daisy Green Lane and on the unevenness of the road to Mendlesham (between Oak Farm Lane and Chantry Corner). Clerk to advise SCC.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. SCC: A Stringer
 - Broadband: SCC backed project for Better Broadband in Suffolk. Government backing secured last year for the £41.7 m fibre optic backbone planned for Suffolk. Tender for contract due out this spring. Cllr Stringer urged residents to register support at www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband.
 - Policy Development Panels: SCC reviewing policies to improve Locality Budget arrangements and Our Place initiatives.
 - Budget Setting: SCC agreed to a 0% increase again this year in response to grant offered from Government. In accepting grant, SCC signed up to 0% increases in subsequent years without any assurance of future grants.
 - Household Waste: The site at Bramford has been closed by new operators, Boltons, after only 6 months of trial period, which raises concern for local household waste site at Brome.
 - Annual Litter Pick: To be held on Saturday, 14 April 2012, commencing at 10.00 am at the Village Hall – all residents welcome.
 - 5.2. MSDC: A Stringer
 - Budget Setting: Budget recommending MSDC to not accept conditional grant offer from Government to freeze Council Tax overturned at last minute as Councils that did not freeze this year's Council Tax levels may be penalised in subsequent years.
 - Gypsy Conference: Norfolk and Suffolk Councils exploring opportunities of joint gypsy/traveller policies.
 - Integration: Following appointment of Joint Management Team for Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils, work is now on shared Tier 4 appointments, the final round, which should allow for better analysis of savings from entire integration process.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police: No report received.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk
 - Footpaths FP12, FP31 and FP21: SCC have been advised of queries raised but, as yet, no action has been taken.
 - Footpath FP8: The remains of the old bridge have now been removed.
 - Village Green - Roadside Drains: SCC have cleared the blocked kerb offlets/road gullies and jetted the outfall pipes.
 - Public Transport Survey: Clerk liaised with local resident users and completed survey online.
 - Heritage Consultation: Survey kindly completed online by P Davidson, History Recorder.
 - Suffolk ACRE's Oil Scheme: Information emailed to J Bassett.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors
 - Queens Diamond Jubilee: Cllr Bowes advised of celebratory events to be held 5 June 2012 (2 pm - 6 pm). Village Hall Committee to provide tree to commemorate this event; Parish Council agreed to provide tree guard (options discussed with possibility of allocating costs against Locality Budget grant).
 - Village Hall: Cllr Stringer to provide Cllr Bowes with information on how to make the Village Hall "Greener".
 - Orchard Survey: Cllr Appleby advised that she would be surveying the orchards known within the village.
 - The Knoll: The Chair thanked the working party for their work on The Knoll. Cllr Appleby to review future project of the pond at The Knoll.
 - Active Art: Cllr Knights advised that Active Art have taken over the cabins at Thornham and will be providing activities/accommodation.

6. Correspondence Received:
- 6.1. Renewable Energy Plant, Mendlesham: Planning Application now submitted to MSDC (see Item 8.4). For more information visit www.mendleshamrep.co.uk.
- 6.2. Village Green: It was noted that the reconditioned bench on the Village Green was replaced by the Chair, N Merriam (wood kindly machined by S Pyke).
- 6.3. All correspondence dealt with during Agenda or included in Circulation File.
7. Finance:
- 7.1. Financial Position: The accounts as at 29 February 2012 showed a balance of £2,564.99. The Chair gave thanks to B Kemp for all his work as Treasurer.
- 7.2. Internal Accounts and Audit Control Review 2011/12: Review updated by Treasurer and circulated to all Councillors. All Councillors in agreement of updated amendments and completion of review.
- 7.3. Annual Governance Statement: Copy statement circulated to all Councillors. All in agreement of Treasurer's statements for 2011/12 Annual Return. R Bassett has kindly agreed to continue as Internal Auditor for 2011/12 Annual Return.
- 7.4. The following invoices were approved for payment:
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|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ▪ M Downard (Mill Hill Farm: Cutting of Village Green) | £600.00 inc VAT |
| ▪ Suffolk ACRE Membership Renewal | £25.00 |
| ▪ Clerk's Expenses | £50.16 |
- 7.5. Clerk's Salary: The Treasurer had provided the Chair with current pay scales received from NALC, suggesting an increase from SCP19 to SCP21. Following discussion, it was agreed that there would be no change to the Clerk's Salary.
8. Planning Matters:
- 8.1. Planning Training Session: The Clerk attended The Electronic Consultation Process training session in January and the Parish Council is now registered as a consultee.
- 8.2. Application No 0129/12: Jacks Barn, The Green – No objections were submitted from Parish Council or MSDC for removal of Ash Tree.
- 8.3. Application No 0241/12: 9 St Andrews Close - No objections were submitted from Parish Council. MSDC have now approved the erection of rear conservatory.
- 8.4. Application No 0610/12: Surwood Farm, Grange Road – It was agreed that no objections would be submitted from Parish Council.
- 8.5. Application No 0759/12/12: Mendlesham Renewable Energy Plant – It was agreed that the Parish Council would comment on the concern of increased traffic through the village. Councillors/Residents are encouraged to view application online and submit any concerns as individual consultees.
9. Emergency Plan: Cllr Appleby and Clerk met to finalise outstanding issues/ action accordingly. Clerk to meet with Clerk of Mendlesham Parish Council to view Mendlesham Community Centre as alternative location in event of an emergency.
10. Stoke Ash Primary School: Cllr Knights read report received from Peter Arnold, Head Teacher of Stoke Ash and Thorndon Primary Schools Partnership.
11. Matters for next Agenda: Emergency Plan, Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Parish Councillor Vacancy (The Chair advised that after 8 years as Councillor, Cllr Sparrow would be resigning due to moving home. The Parish Council wish both Stephen and Georgina good luck for their forthcoming move).
12. Next Meeting: 14 May 2012 (to include Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM)

Meeting closed at 9.17 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: