



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (AGM) held **MONDAY, 14 MAY 2012** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: N Merriam (Chairman), B Kemp, K Knights, M Appleby, B Bloor, H Bowes, T Goodacre (Clerk), A Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 9 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from Suffolk Police

1. Election of Chairman: The Clerk invited members of the Parish Council to elect a Chairman. Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Merriam, seconded by Cllr Knights. Cllr Merriam agreed to accept the position of Chairman and signed the Acceptance of Office.
2. Election of Officers: For the role of Vice-Chairman, Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Appleby, seconded by Cllr Bloor. For the role of Treasurer, Cllr Appleby proposed Cllr Kemp, seconded by Cllr Bowes. The Chairman advised that there was one vacancy on the Parish Council following Cllr Sparrow's move. D Erett was co-opted following a proposal by Cllr Kemp, which was seconded by Cllr Appleby. D Erett signed the Acceptance of Office and took his place on the Council.
3. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting, which followed the Annual Parish Meeting.
4. Minutes of Meeting held 12 March 2012: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. Treasurer's Report:
 - Cllr Kemp presented the Treasurer's report for 2011/12, giving thanks to R Bassett for continuing to act as Internal Auditor.
 - The annual accounts as at 31 March 2012 showed a balance of £1,906.83 and were proposed by Cllr Kemp for adoption, seconded by Cllr Appleby.
 - The following invoices were approved for payment:
 - Village Hall Hire £20.00
 - MSDC: Emptying of Village Litter Bins £36.00 inc VAT
 - 5.2. SCC: Cllr Stringer
 - New Chief's: This year saw the departure of Chief Executive, Andrea Hill, who was replaced by Deborah Cadman. The phase, "New Strategic Direction", has been airbrushed out of all committee papers and there has also been a change in political leader with Mark Bee taking over from Jeremy Pembroke.
 - National Planning Policy Framework: The new planning policy framework has now become law and it appears that the District Council will be responsible for funding the new neighbourhood plan and associated referenda.
 - Better Broadband: Government backing for the £41.7m fibre optic backbone planned for Suffolk in order to deliver better broadband for Suffolk has been secured. A website was set up and, to date, over 12,000 have registered (www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband).
 - Libraries Saved: During this year the library network was transferred to an "arms length organisation" and the mobile service was cut from a fortnightly service to a monthly one.
 - 5.3. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
 - District Councillor's Position: Cllr Stringer now leads the official opposition at MSDC and members run the Scrutiny Committee at Needham Market.
 - Mid Suffolk and Babergh Working Together: Joint Chief Executive, Charlie Adan, has now completed her first year at both Councils. Since the decision not to merge both Councils, they continue to work together, integrating workforces and services to save money against Government cuts (26.4% over 2 years). Over the next few months the last stages of staff re-organisation will be complete with new department teams established.
 - Budget Consultation: In September 2011 MSDC held a public consultation on the Budget 2012/13. Despite poor response across the District, Cllr Stringer gave thanks to those who did participate.
 - Council Tax: Improvements have been made to the way Council Tax can be paid. A bar-code on the bill enables payment to be made at any Post Office with no extra handling fees applied.
 - Tenant Services Partnership: This is a new business whose aim is to improve tenant involvement. In December the Partnership purchased a bus that visits communities across both Districts.
 - Cllr Stringer gave thanks to all Parish Councillors and the Clerk, quoting an "active and supportive community".

- 5.4. Suffolk Police: Report received – read by the Clerk
 - Reported Crimes: There have been 3 reported crimes in the village during 2011/12 (a reduction of 50% over the previous year).
 - Crime Advice: Residents are encouraged to take precautions in securing equipment and outbuildings during the summer months.
 - Police Direct: Neighbourhood crime updates are available at www.suffolk.police.uk or 01473 613997.
 - Sgt Nick Emerick: After 30 years in the force, Sgt Emerick retired in April 2012 and has been replaced by Sgt Jon Eaves, Sgt 1118, who is currently based in Eye and can be contacted on 01473 613500.
 - New Non-Emergency Telephone Number: The contact number for non-emergencies where a Police Officer is required is 101.
 - How Are We Doing: Suffolk is a very safe county and crime levels have reduced for the 5th year in succession.
 - Community Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting will be held at The Stonham Baptist Chapel Community Hall, Norwich Road, Little Stonham, IP14 5JT at 7.00 pm on 16 July 2012 – all welcome.

- 5.5. Parish Clerk
 - SCC speedily filled the pot hole opposite Sunflowers on Daisy Green Lane and carried out works on the road to Mendlesham (between Oak Farm Lane and Chantry Corner).
 - Footpaths FP12, FP31 and FP21: Still no action has been taken by SCC but we are advised that contractors do have the appropriate signage for erection.

- 5.6. Parish Councillors
 - The Chairman advised that Mr K Martin had again raised the issue of the ditch on Grange Road and had provided Mr Martin with confirmation that the Parish Council had requested for ditch maintenance to be given consideration by Orwell Housing.

- 6. Correspondence Received:
 - Speedwatch Campaign: Both Gislingham and Old Newton Parish Councils have requested to share the speedwatch equipment provided by Cllr Stringer. It was confirmed that “sharing” was acceptable – Clerk to advise Gislingham and Old Newton Parish Clerks.
 - Transport Survey: Cut off date extended to end of May with residents encouraged to complete survey highlighting any problems they may have with the current transport service. Forms were issued to those in attendance at the meeting who use the transport service; further copies available from the Clerk or online at www.midsuffolkaction.org.uk/transportsurvey.
 - All other correspondence dealt with during Agenda or included in Circulation File.

- 7. Queens Diamond Jubilee: Cllr Bowes advised of celebratory events being held 5 June 2012 (2 pm -6 pm), requesting help with erecting tables, providing cakes etc on the day. Clerk to email Margaret Horne to gain confirmation of itinerary timings.

8. Planning Matters: No applications received.

9. Matters for next Agenda: Emergency Plan.

10. Next Meeting: 9 July 2012.

Meeting closed at 9.02 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: