



# Wickham Skeith Parish Council

## MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 13 JANUARY 2014** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Chairman), B Bloor, H Bowes, B Kemp, K Knights, M Appleby, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (part of (MSDC and SCC)) and 8 members of the public

Apologies: Received from Cllr Erett, noted for 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 11 November 2013: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum:
  - Pot Holes: The pot hole outside No 1 Kitchen Close was again raised, along with the many which have appeared along the Wickham Road towards Thornham. Clerk to report to SCC Highways.
5. Reports:
  - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
    - Public Transport Panel: Cllr Stringer is on this panel which is looking at how diminishing budget is targeted to help areas of need gain sustainable bus services.
    - Stoke Ash Primary School: The Head Teacher has now resigned and will be leaving shortly. Closure orders have now been published as an academy partner has not been forthcoming.
    - Ancient Woodland Offsetting: SCC to raise concerns following government allowing developers to offset removal of ancient woodland in forthcoming developments.
    - Kier Contract: The outsourcing of highways operations to Kier is going to be scrutinised regarding service levels. Please advise Cllr Stringer of any change in the level of service experienced.
  - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
    - Planning Appeal Outcome: The Secretary of State's Inspector has determined the appeal of the G&R Warehousing Site, Mendlesham, and upheld MSDC's refusal of planning for 51 properties. Boundary Review: Stowmarket is to have a boundary review following development proposals on outskirts of Onehouse and Haughley (this will not affect the District Ward area).
    - Bin Collections: Please advise Cllr Stringer of any problems encountered following MSDC's failure to deliver leaflet with Christmas collection dates.
    - The Chair questioned Cllr Stringer on fly-tipping, noting the unofficial access between Wickham Road and Cotton Lane. Cllr Stringer asked to be advised personally of fly tipping incidents.
  - 5.3. Suffolk Police: (report received and read by Clerk)
    - Reported Crimes: There have been no crimes in the parish since last report. In general, latest statistics show that overall crime is down by more than 5% compared to last year.
    - Community Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 7 April 2014 at 7.00 pm (venue TBC). The Chair made mention of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes but it was felt that residents look out for others voluntarily.
  - 5.4. Parish Clerk:
    - Barnardo's Story: Cllr Stringer has kindly agreed to support Peter Davidson's enquiry regarding funding for the Barnardo's weekend/visit planned later in the year.
    - Newsletter of the Year 2013: This was won by Pettistree for the smaller category and Elmswell for the larger category.
    - Standing Orders: As requested, these were reviewed by the Clerk and, in agreement with the Chair, no further action is required as currently up to date.
  - 5.5. Parish Councillors:
    - The Chair commented on the state of village road signs and asked if residents close by to signs could possibly give them a wash over.
6. Correspondence Received:
  - Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2014/15: NALC have advised that the sum is now £7.20
  - MSDC Community Achievement Awards 2013/14. Nominations need to be received by 07/02/14 and forms are available from the Clerk
  - Dog and Litter Bin Emptying Service: MSDC have advised that there will be an increase in the charges, Little Bins to £20 each and Dog Bins to £25 each per year.
  - All other correspondence included in Agenda items or in Circulation File.

7. Finance:
- 7.1. The accounts as at 31 December 2013 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £3,003.87.
  - 7.2. Minute Book: The Clerk advised that the cost of a new minute book would be £134.72 inc VAT. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase in this financial year.
  - 7.3. Parish Precept: The 2014/15 Budget was presented by Cllr Kemp together with precept grant offer of £113.75 from MSDC. It was agreed that the grant would be accepted and that the precept remain at £2,200. The Chair gave thanks to Cllr Kemp for his work on the budget/precept.
8. Planning Matters:
- 8.1. Eye Airfield. Consultation ran from Jul-Sep 2012 with MSDC adopting the Planning Position Statement in Nov 2013. The Statement can be found at: <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/business/economic-development/eye-airfield-development-framework/>.
  - 8.2. Application No 2131/13: Kisumu, The Street – Demolition of existing garage and erection of open cart-shed style garage. Following request from residents at Kisumu, samples submitted for consideration were agreed by MSDC.
  - 8.3. Application No 2145/13 (previously 0348/13): Hazelwood, The Street – Erection of detached bunglalow with integral garage and detached outbuildings after demolition of existing dwelling. The Application has now gone to appeal and the Parish Council has submitted letter requesting decision of MSDC's refusal be upheld.
  - 8.4. Application No 3654/13: Sarah's Folly, Grange Road – Erection of single storey garden room. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit support for this application.
  - 8.5. Application No 3/14:0015: Homeleigh, The Broadway – Tree Works. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit support for this application.
9. Village Green: Maintenance: Working party held on 30/11/2013 cleared debris following St Jude's storm. Further maintenance was discussed and it was agreed that the Chair would inspect/trim the triangle area between Jack's Barn and Lianne/Mill House with further maintenance being left until later in the year. The Clerk was asked to obtain quote for grass cutting for the village green from Mr Downard.
10. Village Signs: Cllr Stringer advised that John Simpson's visit to Wickham Skeith was still to be arranged but due to be held shortly.
11. Emergency Plan: An update was not available in the absence of Cllr Erett, however, it was confirmed that Cllr Erett has consulted with the Care Group.
12. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Village Signs, Emergency Plan.
13. Next Meeting: 10 March 2014

Meeting closed at 9.02 pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....