



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2013** 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 (MSDC and SCC) and 6 members of the public

Apologies: Received from Cllr Erett, noted for Suffolk Police

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting.
2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
3. Minutes of Meeting held 8 July 2013: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman. Minutes of Meeting held 26 August 2013 (Planning Meeting): The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum: No issues raised.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
 - Expenses Issues: SCC looking at asking Remuneration Committee to inspect member's allowances and expenses. Cllr Stringer not in favour of monthly claims and would prefer these to be fixed for the term of office, saving on variation following elections and administration costs.
 - Energy Smart Buildings: For ideas and inspiration on energy efficient buildings, open house style exhibitions are being held. To look at some of Suffolk's most efficient dwellings between 12-15 September contact 01473 26455 or book via www.greensuffolk.org/hod2013.
 - Patron Saint: SCC looking into supporting campaign to make St Edmund a Patron Saint, including naming the Council Chamber the St Edmunds Room.
 - Fly Tipping Crackdown: Suffolk Waste Partnership has secured funding of over £25k from Defra to help tackle illegal dumping of waste. Officers to patrol roads checking commercial vehicles/licences, liaise with landowners to help reduce fly tipping and reporting process to be streamlined.
 - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
 - Planning: Government target for deciding Planning Applications set to 8 weeks from registration. There is a 21 day public consultation period at the beginning of the timeline, allowing planners a further 5 weeks to determine application. Unless there is an exceptional reason or it is clear that there are concerns/issues, planners will not extend consultation period.
 - Transformational Enquiry Groups (TEGs): The two Councils have now fully integrated staff with single Terms and Conditions of Employment, Pay Scale and Policies. The next stage will be looking at the services Councils deliver.
 - Staff Reorganisation: Final stages of reorganisation on pause following sudden management decision. Each vacancy is being reviewed with staff morale being hit hard (concerns over consequences as large number of unfilled vacancies in Planning/Planning Policy Functions).
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police: (report received and read by Clerk)
 - Reported Crimes: There has been no crimes in the parish since last report.
 - With the warm weather, residents are reminded to lock all doors/windows when leaving properties.
 - Community Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 30 September 2013 at Dove Cottage, Debenham, IP14 at 7.00 pm – all welcome.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk: No items raised.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors:
 - The Chair mentioned the plans for the development of the kitchen in the Village Hall, requesting for volunteers. Any ideas/proposals welcome.
6. Correspondence Received:
 - 6.1. Bus Services: Commencing from 1 September 2013, bus services have changed with full details available on 0845 606 6171 or via <http://www.suffolkonboard.com/timetables-and-leaflets/passenger-transport-service-changes>.
 - 6.2. Electric Blanket Testing Campaign: Suffolk residents are being offered free testing/replacements during September/October. Details can be found at <http://salc.onesuffolk.net/news/electric-blanket-testing-campaign/>.
 - 6.3. Newsletter of the Year 2013: It was agreed that the village Newsletter would be entered. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Appleby.
 - 6.4. Litter Bins: MSDC had advised that the litter bin positioned near the telephone box was not accessible due to overgrown vegetation and requested for this to be cut back. This request has been actioned by the Chair.

7. Finance:

7.1. The accounts as at 31 August 2013 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £2,543.54.

7.2. The following invoices were approved for payment:

- SuffolkACRE (Insurance) £184.61
- Village Hall Hire (May/July meetings) £15.00

8. Planning Matters:

8.1. Application No 0759/12: Biomass Renewable Energy Plant, Mendlesham. Cllr Bloor attended MSDC's Planning Committee meeting on 17 June 2013. This application has since been refused by MSDC.

8.2. Application No 1694/13: Blacksmith Meadow, The Street – Erection of Greenhouse. Permission has been granted by MSDC.

8.3. Application No 2145/13 (previously 0348/13): Hazelwood, The Street – Erection of detached bungalow with integral garage and detached outbuildings after demolition of existing dwelling. Following the Parish Council's Planning Meeting of 26 August 2013, the Clerk has confirmed objections raised to MSDC.

8.4. Application No 2131/13: Kisumu, The Street – Demolition of existing garage and erection of open cartshed style garage. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed to support this application. Clerk to advise MSDC.

9. Village Green

9.1. Jubilee Oak: Thanks were given to D Challinor and Cllr Bowes for erecting tree guard. The Chair continues to water on regular basis and plans to mulch underneath prior to erection of plaque.

9.2. Grimmer Working Party: Date to be set at November meeting for removal of ash saplings on south side of the Grimmer. The collapsed Willow opposite Jack's Barn was also raised. Cllr Appleby, as Tree Warden, to assess and put forward planning application to crown lift.

10. Village Signs: It was agreed that the signage off The Street should read "Village Centre" (positioned at the top) with "Thwaite" and "Mendlesham Green" (positioned underneath). The Clerk also questioned the classification of Rose Lane as a No Through Lane. Cllr Stringer advised that, following discussions with SCC, the Clerk should now liaise directly with John Simpson, SSC Highways, to progress signage further.

11. Emergency Plan: Cllrs Erett and Appleby and the Clerk to meet again following Cllr Erett's consultation with the Care Group.

12. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Village Signs, Grimmer Working Party, Precept, Clerk's Review.

13. Next Meeting: 11 November 2013

Meeting closed at 8.38 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: