



# Wickham Skeith Parish Council

## MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 14 JANUARY 2013** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: N Merriam (Chairman), K Knights, B Bloor, H Bowes, T Goodacre (Clerk)  
S Johnson (Suffolk Police), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 3 members of the public

Apologies: Received from Cllrs Appleby, Erett and Kemp

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
3. Minutes of Meeting held 12 November 2012: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum: The following issues were raised:
  - Pot holes on Daisy Green Lane.
  - Erosion of roadside verges due to weather/large vehicles, especially on east side of Grange Road between St Andrews Close and 9 Grange Road. Clerk to contact Highways.
  - Dog fouling along hedge/roadside to Place Farm.
5. Reports:
  - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
    - New County Farms Policy Agreed: SCC (together with David Lawrence of Otley & Easton Colleges) have agreed new policy whereby maps of land that County own are now to be available for all to see and expressions of interest are invited from potential tenants' business plans at any time during any tenancy. As tenancies come up for renewal (or earlier if the current tenant agrees), business case submissions will be assessed.
    - Broadband: The contract to supply fibre optic based broadband network for Suffolk has been signed with BT (many parts of Suffolk to gain 15mbps + line speeds, with close to 100% to at least 2mbps).
    - Schools Reorganisation: SCC have agreed to move forward with the move from 3-tier to 2-tier in the Stowmarket and Stowupland Schools Pyramids ( Cllr Stringer has provided a copy of Local Key Stage 2 Results which is available from the Parish Clerk). This signals the closure of Bacton Community Middle School whose Head Teacher, Alison Nicholson has resigned. Should residents wish to discuss this reorganisation, Cllr Stringer can be contacted on 01449 780339 or 07774 199061.
  - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
    - Benefits Update:
      - Council Tax: As from April 2013, there will be a reduction by 5% for working age applicants, there will be no second adult rebate, there will be no discounts for second homes and there will be changes regarding empty properties.
      - Housing Benefit: The criteria for housing benefit will also change with 14% cut in benefit for one spare bedroom and 25% cut for 2 spare bedrooms. The cap for non-working households will be £500/week for single parents, £500/week for couples (with or without children) and £350/week for single people (without children).
    - The MSDC Information Bus will be available to give advice with sessions running between 9 am – 12 noon at ASDA Car Park on 2 February, Station Road, Elmswell on 9 March and Broad Street, Eye on 23 February 2013.
    - Christmas Trees: The Chair thanked Cllr Stringer for organising the collection of Christmas Trees for recycling.
    - Litter Pick: Cllr Stringer will kindly organise the litter pick for Saturday, 23 March 2013. All to meet at the Village Hall for 10.00 am – all residents welcome to join in.
  - 5.3. Suffolk Police: PCSO 3192 S Johnson
    - Reported Crimes: There have been no crimes reported.
    - Winter Security: There has been an increase in thefts of catalytic converters (mainly from 4x4 vehicles), number plates, laptop computers from schools and heating/fuel oil.
    - Community Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 8 April 2013 at 7.00 pm – venue TBC – all welcome.

- 5.4. Parish Clerk
- Reminder of temporary closure of Public Right of Way: FP1 from Daisy Green Lane to where the footpath bears right to join PF41 in the direction of Finningham will be closed from 07.01.13 - 29.03.13 to enable a new pumped sewage main to be installed underneath the footpath.
- 5.5. Parish Councillors
- Cllr Knights advised that Julia Humprey, Head Teacher at Wortham Primary School will be acting as Head Teacher of Stoke Ash Primary School until a permanent Head Teacher is appointed.
  - The Chair advised that the two wind turbines at Eye Airfield are on site, ready for erection.
  - The Chair questioned the minuting of names/properties at Parish Council Meetings that may wish to remain confidential when raised during the Village Forum. It was agreed that the Minutes would record the issue, with a separate record of confidential data being retained by the Clerk.
6. Correspondence Received:
- Litter Bins: MSDC have advised that as from 1 April 2013, the cost of emptying litter bins will increase from £10 to £15 per bin (3 x litter bins are located on the Village Green, totalling £45/annum).
  - All other correspondence dealt with during Agenda or included in Circulation File.
7. Finance:
- 7.1. Financial Position: The accounts as at 31 December 2012 were previously circulated to Councillors and showed a balance of £1,842.47. Following the purchase of the Jubilee Tree by the Chair for £75.00, the Chair has since received donations from residents to cover this cost and the reimbursement of VAT to the Chair was agreed at £15.01.
- 7.2. Parish Precept: It was agreed that the Parish Precept be maintained at £2,200. Clerk to complete forms for 2013/2014 Precept.
8. Planning Matters: No applications received.
9. Jubilee Oak: The Chair kindly organised the purchase/collection of the Jubilee Oak and sited it on the Village Green during November 2012. It is planned for the tree to have protection/seating when it matures and the subject of a plaque was discussed. Clerk to obtain quotes in liaison with Village Hall Committee.
10. Village Signs: Cllr Stringer advised that he will be walking round the village with a colleague to assess the village signage, including the No Through Road sign for Rose Lane which is yet to be forthcoming.
11. The Knoll: It was agreed that working party for The Knoll will be held on Saturday, 16 February 2013 at 10.00 am.
12. Footpaths: The Chair would like to organise a survey of the footpaths within the village. Clerk to copy map held for the Chair.
13. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: All current agenda items to be rolled-on for next meeting.
14. Next Meeting: 11 March 2013.

Meeting closed at 8.46 pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....