



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2014** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Chairman), B Bloor, H Bowes, B Kemp, M Appleby, T Goodacre (Clerk), Suffolk, Police (part of), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 6 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from K Knights

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: None Received
3. Minutes of Meeting held 14 July 2014: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

The Chair brought forward Item 9 – Parish Councillor Vacancy. Mr Paul Wright expressed an interest in being co-opted. Cllr Kemp proposed Mr Wright as a Parish Councillor, seconded by Cllr Appleby. Mr Wright signed the Declaration of Office and took position of office alongside the other Councillors.

4. Village Forum: No matters raised.

5. Reports:

5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer

- Gypsy Transit Sites: SCC has stalled consultation to bring transit sites to Suffolk due to insufficient local information/proposed sites deemed not safe.
- White Lines: Outsourced contract may need to be examined as Cllr Stringer finds workers from Milton Keynes in Haughley on single job assignment.
- Bournemouth Local Government Association Conference – 8-10 July 2014: Cllr Stringer gave a brief overview of the sessions covered during conference.

5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer

- Voter Registration: New system of voter registration being implemented over next few months. New home owners will be automatically updated with others needing to re-register. Forms can be filled in online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.
- Keep Britain Tidy Campaign: Series of Autumn litter picks being encouraged. It was agreed that Wickham Skeith's litter pick will be on Saturday, 18 October 2014 at 10.00 am, meeting at the Village Hall – all welcome.
- Licensing Concerns: District Councils have responsibility for licensing, however, should establishments not respond to an application, they cannot be present at any relevant hearings. A recent application at Stonham Barns has highlighted the rigidity of this system.
- Hi-Vis Safety Vests: 20 mph hi-vis safety vests have been issued to dog walkers/children within Occold. Cllr Stringer to be contacted should Wickham Skeith require similar scheme.

5.3. Suffolk Police: PC Jayne Gardiner

- Reported Crimes: There have been no reported crimes recorded in the parish since last report.
- Local team members of Mid Suffolk Central for Wickham Skeith are PC 70 Jayne Gardiner and PSCO 3294, Edward Wright.
- Free Catalytic Converter Marking continues to be available.
- SNT priorities continue to include preserving security of school premises, enforcing speed restrictions in rural parishes and addressing anti-social behaviour in Debenham.
- Area Forum and Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 6 October 2014 at Stonham Baptist Chapel Community Hall, 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm, all welcome.

5.4. Parish Clerk:

- Film Licence: SALC have confirmed that a Film Licence would be required for the showing of films at the Village Hall to the Youth Group.
- Emergency Plan: The revised edition was circulated to all residents in September's edition of the village newsletter and is also available on the village website.

5.5. Parish Councillors:

- Cllr Bowes questioned what buses were available and the advertising of timetables. R Arthey advised that timetables were available on the village website and at designated bus stops. It was requested for the Clerk to post timetables on village noticeboard.
- It was also agreed to publicise contact numbers of Parish Councillors/Clerk in the newsletter and on village noticeboard.
- Cllr Appleby asked if the IQ poems displayed on trees around the village could be removed, advising that she was not responsible for their publication.
- Cllr Bowes raised the pot hole opposite No 1 Kitchen Close. Pot holes along the Wickham Road and on Cotton Lane were also mentioned. Clerk to report.
- The Chair gave thanks to Cliff Galsworthy for strimming round the Village Green.

6. Correspondence Received:
- SALC Competitions: It was agreed that Cllr Appleby would submit copies of the village newsletter for Newsletter of the Year. R Elsdon agreed to enter the Lunch Club for the competition entitled "Proud of what you have done for older people in the village".
 - All other correspondence included in Agenda items or in Circulation File.
7. Finance:
- 7.1. The accounts as at 31 August 2014 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £2,483.79.
- 7.2. Annual Return: BDO LLP have completed the External Audit and the audit opinion was presented, which was approved and accepted by all Councillors. The Notice of Conclusion has been displayed on the notice board.
- 7.3. The following invoice was agreed for payment: Village Hall Hire (May/July meetings) @ £15.00.
8. Planning Matters:
- 8.1. Application No 2282/14: Star Farm House, Clay Street, Thornham Magna – Alterations and extension to existing farmhouse. The Parish Council raised no objections.
- 8.2. Application No 2389/14: Abbey Farm, Cotton Lane – Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic panels. The Parish Council submitted no objections but noted footpaths running through/around Abbey Farm and requesting for suitable planting to screen panels.
9. Parish Councillor Vacancy: Item brought forward in Agenda, following Item 3.
10. Play Area: The Chair suggested that this item be raised in the village newsletter, with agreement that if there was an enthusiastic group in the village to undertake this project, they should contact the Chair/Clerk.
11. Village Green – Tree Maintenance: Thanks were given to the Chair for cordoning off the broken limb of the willow tree on the Village Green. It was agreed that Cllr Appleby, Tree Warden, would submit an application to pollard this willow, together with the willow opposite Jack's Barn. The overgrown verge alongside the Grimmer was also raised and this will be actioned by the working party when scheduled.
12. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Village Green: Tree Maintenance, Parish Precept
13. Next Meeting: 10 November 2014

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: