



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held **MONDAY, 9 MARCH 2015** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Chairman), B Kemp, K Knights, B Bloor, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC – part of) and 2 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from Cllrs Appleby and Wright, noted from Cllr Bowes and 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 12 January 2015: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum: The amount of potholes along Wickham Road and the northern end of Cotton Lane were discussed – see Item 6 regarding forthcoming carriageway repairs on the C569.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
 - Highway Diversions: A number of diversions are currently taking place in surrounding parishes causing disruption - journey planning is encouraged.
 - Children Centre Closures: A number of Children Centres are being closed within Suffolk, mostly in Ipswich with the closest being in Thurston.
 - Broadband Update: Cllr Stringer is to join group tasked with addressing gaps in the roll out of Suffolk Better Broadband (the Mendlesham upgrade is due between June-September 2015).
 - Litter Pick: Cllr Stringer to advise date of proposed litter pick, concentrating on outskirts of village.
 - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
 - Replacement Street Name Signs: Cllr Stringer has looked into why reported signs have not been replaced and this is due to street name signs being responsibility of Building Regulations Department. Cllr Stringer has circulated the appropriate forms (available online) and stressed the importance of clarifying "replacement" sign or charges will be applied.
 - Budget Borrowing Increase: Income from new homes bonus to be £2.2M (1/5th of Core Budget) and Revenue Support Grant will drop from £4.2M to £3.6M. MSDC have also agreed to borrow up to £25M to go alongside £6M reserve to be invested in unspecified projects that will deliver a profit for the Council.
 - 5 Year Land Supply: All councils have to demonstrate a 5 year land supply which is currently being questioned and may void Local Plan, with the National Policy Planning Framework taking precedent. Figures to be announced in April 2015.
 - Recycling Lorries: Should anyone witness litter being dropped from Recycling Lorries, contact Cllr Stringer direct on 07774 199061.
 - Projector for Village Hall: Cllr Stringer encouraged quotations to be received for locality grant funding consideration to be given.
 - Bus Services: The Chair queried the services being offered by Suffolk Links with Cllr Stringer as he was aware of incidents of refusal. Cllr Stringer to personally visit residents in question.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police: Report received and read by Parish Clerk
 - Reported Crimes: There have been no reported crimes recorded in the parish since last report.
 - Crime Prevention Advice: To lock oil tanks and take advantage of free catalytic converter marking events.
 - SNT priorities: Reducing rural crime, incidents of hare coursing and speeding.
 - Area Forum and Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 27 April 2015 at The Village Hall, High Street, Thorndon, 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm, all welcome.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk:
 - Telephone Box: Following Cllr Knights enquiry, it has been confirmed by BT that the telephone box (modern style KX100) is not in working order and, as it is not the traditional red kiosk, it is not available for adoption. Therefore it is currently being reviewed for removal by BT.
 - Grange Road – Following request to Highway Engineer, no action as yet taken place on the upturned drain on Grange Road.
 - Damaged Road Sign: Following Highway Engineer's visit in November, the broken sign at junction of Broadway/Wickham Road is to be replaced.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors:
 - Information Board: Following request from Village Hall Committee for an Information Board to be erected on Village Green, it was agreed that the Village Hall Committee should be asked to put forward their proposals together with costings for further consideration.

6. Correspondence Received:
- Section 137: SALC have advised that the S137 limit for 2015/16 has been confirmed as £7.36.
 - Road Closure: SCC have advised that the C569 (Wickham Road/Finningham Road/Workhouse Road) will be closed from 30-31 March 2015 for carriageway repairs.
 - Transparency Code for Smaller Councils: Details of this code were circulated to Councillors as certain details are already published on the website. It was agreed that the Accounts/Annual Governance Statement/Internal Audit Report/List of Councillor Responsibilities/details of Assets would also be published on the website to meet this code.
 - Parish Council Elections: The nomination paperwork was issued to all Councillors. The deadlines for completion were highlighted and it was agreed that a follow-on meeting at West House would take place on 23 March 2015 to aid completion.
 - All other correspondence included in Agenda items or in Circulation File.
7. Finance:
- 7.1. The accounts as at 28 February 2015 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £3,172.38.
- 7.2. The annual Internal Accounts and Audit Control Review had been carried out and was presented and proposed for adoption by Cllr Kemp, seconded by Cllr Knights.
- 7.3. The following invoices were authorised for payment:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Village Hall Hire (Nov/Jan Meetings) | £40.00 |
| M A Downard (Grass Cutting) | £600.00 inc VAT |
8. Planning Matters:
- 8.1. No 0295/15: Abbey Farm, Cotton Lane – A third application for the installation of ground mounted photovoltaic panels has been received (previously Application Nos 2389/14 and 3353/14). It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objections.
- 8.2. No 3774/14: Allfield Farm, Daisy Green Lane – Retrospective application for installation of flue (on north side of barn) has been approved by MSDC.
- 8.3. No 3969/14: Hazelwood, The Street – Application for the demolition of existing cottage and erection of two-storey dwelling, store and garage, associated access and landscaping has been approved by MSDC.
9. Village Green – Tree Maintenance: Follow-on working party yet to take place. Chair to liaise with Tree Warden, Cllr Appleby, regarding ash/self-seeded saplings on south side of Grimmer and triangle of hedging adjacent Lianne.
10. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: The Chair advised that as the next meeting will include the AGM, he formally wished to give notice that he would be standing down as Chairman but will continue to stand as a Councillor.
11. Next Meeting: 11 May 2015 (to include Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM)

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

Wickham Skeith Parish Council

Chairman:	Nigel Merriam	01449 766222	Parish Councillors:	Kevin Knights	01449 767708
Treasurer:	Barry Kemp	01449 766813		Brian Bloor	01449 766633
Vice Chairman:	Melinda Appleby	01449 766879		Harriet Bowes	01449 766708
Parish Clerk:	Tara Goodacre	01449 768696		Paul Wright	07921 292233