



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2014** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Chairman), B Bloor, H Bowes, B Kemp, K Knights, M Appleby, T Goodacre (Clerk), Suffolk Police (part of), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC – part of) and 5 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from P Wright

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: None Received
3. Minutes of Meeting held 8 September 2014: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum:
 - The issue of parking along Grange Road and at the bottom of the hill on Broadway was raised.
 - Roadside flooding outside Swan House, due to hedge roots in drain, also raised.
 - Both points to be raised with the new Highway Engineer (see Item 6).
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
 - Better Broadband: Plans to extend rollout programme in Suffolk have been signed and sealed. The contract aims to extend coverage to 95% of homes and businesses. As the service becomes increasingly available, faster broadband services can be viewed at www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com. Thatch Fires: The number of chimney/thatch related fires is slowly increasing in Suffolk and residents are encouraged to maintain properly, use correct fuel for wood stoves, check attic electrics and ensure smoke detectors are working.
 - Thornham Walks: Cllr Stringer officially opened the new waterless toilets at Thornham Walks at the beginning of November.
 - Highways Questioned: Portfolio holder for roads and transport being asked to account for lack of progress with outstanding highways works. New Highway Engineer, Philip Wright is hoped to make an improvement.
 - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
 - Call for Sites: Babergh and MSDC undertaking call for sites, providing opportunity to put forward potential land (2 hectares or more) for future development.
 - Community Infrastructure Levy: MSDC conducting public consultation for Community Infrastructure Levy which replaces majority of Section 106 payments (S106 still to exist for Affordable Housing and off site works, ie footpaths etc). This levy will apply to extensions to existing properties as well as new builds – applicants will have knowledge of costs prior to applying for planning permission.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police: PC Jayne Gardiner
 - Reported Crimes: There have been no reported crimes recorded in the parish since last report. (The Council did advise of a non-reported break-in at Homeleigh although nothing was taken.)
 - Crime Prevention Advice: To lock oil tanks, take advantage of free catalytic converter marking events and install timers to switch on lights in the darker evenings.
 - SNT priorities: Reducing anti-social behaviour and reducing rural crime/incidents of hare coursing.
 - Area Forum and Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 5 January 2015 at Great Ashfield Village Hall, 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm, all welcome.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk:
 - Pot Holes: Although issue raised and reference number obtained, works have still not been carried out opposite No 1 Kitchen Close and along the Wickham Road. Clerk to raise with new Highway Engineer (see Item 6).
 - Parish Council of the Year Award 2014 – Support for Older People: SALC have advised that Wickham Skeith's entry was successful – The Chair, R Elsdon, A West and J Harvey to attend SALC AGM on 12 November 2014 when the winner will be announced.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors:
 - The Chair advised that vacancy at St Andrews Close filled by someone who works in the village.
 - Coal Fund: The trustees of Wickham Skeith's Coal Fund have contacted the Chair requesting for funds to be transferred. The Chair requested for funds to be transferred to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take receipt of Coal Fund Revenue.
 - Cllr Appleby, Tree Warden, advised that Parish Councils are now responsible for managing ash trees at risk from ash dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) and that a survey should be undertaken every summer. Details to be published in the newsletter.
 - Cllr Appleby has noted a new gate erected between Pear Tree Cottage and Willow Lodge.

- Cllr Bowes commented on amount of lorries driving through village and how dangerous it was on corner of Broadway near to Homeleigh/Green Farm; sign on Footpath 29 (opposite Jessie's wood) has been broken off; style has collapsed near pumping station on Footpath 15 along Wickham Hall/Church.
 - Due to the number of highway issues raised, it was agreed to invite new Highway Engineer (see Item 6) to Wickham Skeith for a site visit.
6. Correspondence Received:
- SCC Highways: John Simpson has advised of new schedule of Highway Engineers effective from 3 November 2014. Wickham Skeith is now being looked after by Philip Wright.
 - Filming at Meetings: New regulations now permit members of the public to film, blog and broadcast at council meetings. There are also new requirements about recording decisions made by Clerks. Seminars are being held should there be concerns as some councils experiencing adverse publicity.
 - All other correspondence included in Agenda items or in Circulation File.
7. Finance:
- 7.1. The accounts as at 31 October 2014 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £3,444.94. A budget for 2015/16 was also presented.
- 7.2. Parish Precept: Cllr Kemp advised that, following the agreed precept for 2014/15 of £2,200 plus grant of £113, due to the form process, the precept had been calculated/received as a total of £2,426 (which is to be noted for the 2015/16 precept).
- 7.3. The following invoices were agreed for payment:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Village Hall Hire (September meeting) | £7.50 |
| Community Action Suffolk – Insurance | £172.37 |
8. Planning Matters: Application No 3353/14: Abbey Farm, Cotton Lane – Following the refusal of Application No 2389/14, a second application has been received for the installation of ground mounted photovoltaic panels. Again, it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objections.
9. Village Green – Tree Maintenance: It was agreed to hold a working party on Saturday, 13 December to tidy up the broken limb of the willow tree on the Village Green, with a further working party in January 2015.
10. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Village Green: Tree Maintenance, Parish Precept
11. Next Meeting: 12 January 2015

Meeting closed at 9.06 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