



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (AGM)

held **MONDAY, 12 MAY 2014** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Chairman), B Kemp, B Bloor, H Bowes, M Appleby, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 7 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from Cllr Knights and noted from Suffolk Police

1. Election of Chairman: The Clerk opened the meeting inviting nominations from Councillors for the position of Chairman. Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Merriam, seconded by Cllr Bowes. Cllr Merriam accepted the position of Chairman and signed the Acceptance of Office.
2. Election of Officers: The Chair invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Appleby, seconded by Cllr Bowes. Cllr Appleby accepted the position of Vice-Chair. For the position of Treasurer, Cllr Appleby proposed Cllr Kemp, seconded by Cllr Bloor. Cllr Kemp accepted the position of Treasurer.
3. Chairman's Welcome: The Chair opened the AGM, which followed on from the Annual Parish Meeting.
4. Declaration of Interest: None Received.
5. Minutes of Meeting held 10 March 2014: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

6. Reports:

6.1. Treasurer's Report: Cllr Kemp presented the Treasurer's Annual Report, together with the end of year Accounts and Accounts as at 31 March 2014, which showed a balance of £1,866.60.

6.1.1 2013/14 Annual Return: All Councillors were in agreement to approve the end of year Accounts for adoption. The Annual Return will be passed to R Bassett who has kindly agreed to carry out the Internal Audit.

6.1.2 Annual Governance Statement: All Councillors were in agreement to adopt the proposed Statement.

6.1.3 The following invoices were approved for payment:

MSDC: Emptying of Litter Bins (3 bins @ £20) + VAT	£72.00
SALC: Subscription	£170.00
Community Action Suffolk (previously Suffolk ACRE): Subscription	£30.00
HMRC (Balancing PAYE 2013/14)	£4.80

6.2. MSDC: Annual Report presented by Cllr Stringer

• Housing:

- Flexible Tenancy Arrangements: The Localism Act has allowed Councils to move away from offering secure tenancies. The Housing Board recommended adoption of Flexible Tenancy Scheme for new tenants, commencing June 2014. The minimum period of tenancy will be 5 years, however, sheltered accommodation tenants or those with disabilities will be exempt.
- Changes to Succession Rights: The law now restricts entitlement of an occupier taking over a deceased tenants' home to spouses and civil partners, although MSDC have discretionary rights.
- Tenant Involvement: All tenants/leaseholders received STAR survey in February 2014 to advise on satisfaction of Housing Services.

• Communities:

- Working with Schools: MSDC invited high school students to offices at Needham Market to observe Planning Committee during a real case with discussion following, encouraging them to get involved and to vote in the future.
- Shared Revenues Partnership (SRP): MSDC and Babergh continue to develop partnership and are working with Department of Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus to ensure a joined up approach with Benefits/Rents/Council Tax.
- Grant Schemes: Community grants issued during financial year included Hartismere High School, Debenham Swimming Pool, Play Area at Beyton, Eye Town Hall and Norton Village Hall.
- Car Parks: Customers to MSDC car parks in Stowmarket now able to pay by phone using credit/debit cards (RingGo).
- Customer Support: CSD contract will end in June 2014. Contact Centre to be based in Hadleigh, with face-to-face service at Needham Market.

• Economy and Environment:

- Community Led Planning: The Localism Act has seen parishes take opportunity to shape their environment using Neighbourhood Plans (Mendlesham have initiated their Neighbourhood Plan).
- Development Management: National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) brought into full effect with appeals and other decisions.
- Economic Development and Tourism: MSDC have project managed growth schemes in Stowmarket with Town Centre Partnerships supported in Stowmarket, Sudbury and Hadleigh. Heart of Suffolk website launched promoting visitor information to tourists.

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- Spatial Planning Policy: Members Strategic Planning Policy Work Group has been set up to oversee agreement of future programme of planning policy relating work.
- Licensing and Gambling: Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 brings new powers for Police/Local Authority Officers in bid to tackle metal theft. For Taxi Services, on-line registers now complete enabling public/police to check whether an operator is licensed.
- Food and Safety: National Food Hygiene Rating System adopted in April 2013 giving consumers access to ratings: <http://ratings.food.gov.uk/>.
- Fly-Tipping: DEFRA funded national pilot project creating resources for landowners, businesses and householders, promoting Duty of Care legal responsibility.

6.3. SCC: Annual Report presented by Cllr Stringer

- Highways Contract: SCC outsourced entire highways contract during 2013/14 to consortium of May Guemey and Kier. This contract had to be scrutinised as some jobs overlooked/outstanding.
- Broadband: The Better Broadband project commenced this year with number of green boxes becoming “live” within communities. However, existing cables could not cope with demand and coverage fell short of BT’s estimates. SCC secured further funding to enable communities to benefit from fibre based broadband. Old Newton’s upgrade provided 50mbps to many households.
- Education: With the closures of Badwell Ash and Stoke Ash Primary Schools, Ofsted found the internal service of SCC “ineffective”, dramatically effecting efforts of Educational Scrutiny Committee. SCC now reviewing interest of community use for building of Stoke Ash Primary School.
- Proposed A14 Toll: SCC this year successfully rejected toll proposal for section of A14 in Cambridgeshire as unfair to local businesses and freight companies.
Cllr Appleby questioned the development at Eye Airfield – See Item 8.5.

6.4. Suffolk Police: See Addendum.

6.5. Parish Clerk

- Emergency Plan: The Care Group have submitted a list of members/areas covered and this will be incorporated in revised edition.
- All other matters raised at Annual Parish Meeting or in Agenda items.

6.6. Parish Councillors

- None Received

7. Correspondence Received:

- 7.1. Suffolk Village of the Year 2014. It was agreed that Wickham Skeith would enter this competition and the Chair will complete application.
 - 7.2. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VAS): It was agreed that this was a good method of reducing speeding, however, the costs are high. Therefore, the Clerk will approach other local Parish Councils with a view to sharing costs of a sign. Cllr Stringer also added that funding could be available.
- All other correspondence dealt with during Agenda or included in Circulation File.

8. Planning Matters:

- 8.1. Application No 0576/14: Homeleigh, The Broadway – Application for erection of 3 bay cart lodge has been withdrawn.
- 8.2. Application No 2145/13: Hazelwood, The Street – Following an appeal, application to demolish existing cottage and erect new bungalow was granted (subject to schedule of conditions).
- 8.3. Application No 0672/14: 13 Grange Road – Application to demolish boiler room/porch and erect 2 storey extension has been approved.
- 8.4. Application 1053/14: Skeith House, The Entry – Application received for the erection of cartlodge. The Parish Council submitted a comment of No Objections.
- 8.5. Eye Airfield: An Order Granting Developing Conscent for proposed power station and related electrical/gas infrastructure has been accepted by The Planning Inspectorate. Details available at www.progresspower.co.uk.

9. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Emergency Plan, Parish Councillor Vacancy (it was noted that Cllr Erett had tendered his resignation as Councillor due to work commitments following March’s meeting).

10. Next Meeting: 14 July 2014

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

Addendum: Report from Suffolk Constabulary – received following meeting

- Reported Crimes: During 2013/14 there was one reported crime in the parish; one theft from a motor vehicle.
- CAT Converters: Marking opportunities at Evergreen Garage, Crowfield on 17 May 2014, 9 am – 12 noon and Lamberts Garage, Bacton on 7 June 2014, 9 am – 12 noon.
- Community Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 30 June 2014 at 7.00 pm at Dove Cottage, High Street, Debenham – all welcome.