



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held **MONDAY, 14 JULY 2014** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Chairman), B Bloor, H Bowes, B Kemp, K Knights, M Appleby, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 8 members of the public

Apologies: None Received

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 May 2014: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum:
 - Youth Club: An update of the Youth Club was provided by T Lawson. Events will be held every other Friday during the summer (Cllr Appleby requested regular updates for inclusion in the newsletter). Clerk to make enquiries regarding requirements of Film Licence. Chair to liaise with Village Hall Committee regarding promised donation of £50 towards the Youth Club. A request was received for the provision of a climbing frame for the younger children in the village – to be included as Agenda item at next meeting (possible funding may be available from Cllr Stringer). A request was also made for more adult helpers to volunteer/assist.
 - It was reported that the A-Frame and flag pole outside the village hall had been broken.
 - Thanks were given to the person who kindly cut the verges at the junction of Broadway/Wickham Road.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
 - Public Transport: SCC has produced a report providing 12 recommendations on how to meet the needs of public transport. All but one recommendation has been approved by the Cabinet.
 - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
 - Rent Level Conversations: MSDC given power to build "council houses" again with help from Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). This condition of funding is only available with MSDC converting some of existing affordable housing stock to "affordable rent tenure" which would mean an increase in rent. Conversations will only take place as houses become empty so that existing tenants do not incur rent increase.
 - Waste Collection Calendar: Due to lack of publication last winter, different methods of communication were promised, however, MSDC's contractor, Serco, are to pay Royal Mail to deliver these this winter, which has caused distrust.
 - MRF Contract: New Materials Recycling Facility contract due to start 01.11.14 and communications campaign informing residents will be launched.
 - Cllr Knights enquired about Stoke Ash School. Cllr Stringer advised that the catchment area will be greater for the remaining schools and transport will be available. There has also been a lot of interest for the future of the site to remain as a "community use".
 - Cllr Bowes asked for an update on Better Broadband. Cllr Stringer advised that Mendlesham has now been upgraded, with Wickham Skeith being included in the Autumn schedule.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police: (report received and read by Clerk)
 - Reported Crimes: There has been one crime in the parish since last report; an outbuilding was broken into and power tools taken.
 - Current SNT priorities include preserving security of school premises during summer holiday period, 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:
 - Suffolk Village of the Year 2014: Following decision to enter this competition at May's meeting, the amount of work involved prior to deadline was not going to be possible. It was therefore agreed to consider entry the next time "small villages" is the category selection.
 - Vehicle Activated Speed Signs: The Clerk approached Mendlesham Parish Council with a view to sharing costs/equipment for such a project, but they have declined.
 - Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan: The Clerk attended the presentation on 3 July 2014 where Terry Moore, Chairman, and other Parish Council members presented how they had set about preparing their Neighbourhood Plan for submission to MSDC. Notes received included in Circulation File.

5.5. Parish Councillors:

- As Tree Warden, Cllr Appleby received invite to attend Dieback Disease (*Chalara fraxinea*) presentation on 12 August 2014 but is unable to attend. The Chair volunteered to attend.
- The Chair also commented on the generosity of the person who had cut the verges and questioned whether local farmers would consider maintaining other verges in the village when maintaining their own land.

6. Correspondence Received:

- Communities Teams: MSDC have sent information pack on new Communities Teams and the roles that they play. The teams consist of Arts, Countryside, Enabling, Funding, Grants, Health and Well-being, Safe, Locality Leeds – details of which included in the Circulation File.
- Code of Conduct: SALC have revised the Suffolk Code of Conduct and have requested that Councils adopt this revision. Revisions include decisions on dispensation being extended and enable applications to be made right up to start of meetings, guidance on Disclosable Pecuniary Interests regarding precept setting and Councillors to disclose arrears of two months or more Council Tax at start of any meeting discussing precept/budgetary matters. It was agreed that the Parish Council would adopt these revisions.
- Fix My Street: MSDC have advised of a facility to report problems, ie potholes, footpaths, fly tipping.
- Road Closure: Wickham Road (50 m either side of Railway Bridge) will be closed from 28 July – 9 August 2014 for construction of priority traffic system.
- All other correspondence included in Agenda items or in Circulation File.

7. Finance:

- 7.1. The accounts as at 30 June 2014 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £2,684.51.
- 7.2. Annual Return: The Internal Audit has been completed by R Basset and the Annual Return has now been submitted to External Auditors. Thanks were given to R Basset.
- 7.3. The following invoice was agreed for payment: Village Hall Hire (March meeting) @ £20.00.

8. Planning Matters:

- 8.1. Application No 1418/14: Homeleigh, The Broadway – Following withdrawal of original application, No 0576/14, revised application submitted for erection of 3 bay cart lodge with wing to be used as garage/workshop with home office above. Permission has been granted for this application.
- 8.2. Application No 1053/14: Skeith House, The Entry – Permission has been granted for the erection of cartlodge building.

9. Parish Councillor Vacancy: Item to be included in Agenda for September's meeting.

10. Emergency Plan: The Clerk had circulated revised plan to all Parish Councillors and members of the Care Group following review and update of Care Group areas. It was agreed to adopt revised version and circulate to residents in September's edition of the village newsletter (so as not to conflict with Produce Show).

11. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Play Area, Village Green: Tree Maintenance, Parish Councillor Vacancy.

12. Next Meeting: 8 September 2014

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: