



# Wickham Skeith Parish Council

## MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (AGM) held MONDAY, 11 MAY 2015 at WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies: Accepted from Cllr Wright

1. Election of Chairman: The Clerk opened the meeting by thanking Cllr Merriam on behalf of the Parish Council for his term of office as Chairman and for the great contribution he had made during this time. Nominations were then invited from Councillors for the position of Chairman. Cllr Merriam proposed Cllr Appleby, seconded by Cllr Kemp. Cllr Appleby accepted the position of Chair and signed the Acceptance of Office.
2. Election of Officers: The Chair invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Merriam, seconded by Cllr Knights. Cllr Merriam accepted the position of Vice-Chair. For the position of Treasurer, the Chair proposed Cllr Kemp, seconded by Cllr Merriam. 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 9 March 2015: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.
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 2015, which showed a balance of £3,527.49.
    - 6.1.1 2014/15 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:

SALC: Subscription	£174.00
Community Action Suffolk (previously Suffolk ACRE): Subscription	£30.00
Village Hall (March Meeting)	£20.00
  - 6.2. SCC: Cllr Stringer (The Chair congratulated Cllr Stringer on his re-election)
    - Public Transport: During the past year Councillors and Officers have worked to bring forward report on how best to meet future needs of public transport users. The delivered report has 12 recommendations for development/implementation.
    - Highways: A frustrating year with backlogs on highway works. The majority of pot holes and repairs have now been rectified along with white line works.
    - Level Crossings: Network Rail have released consultation on their plans for "Norwich in Ninety", [www.networkrail.co.uk/long-term-planning-process/anglia-area-route-study-draft-for-consultation.pdf](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/long-term-planning-process/anglia-area-route-study-draft-for-consultation.pdf) which aims to cut journey times between Norwich and London to 90 minutes (currently 104-115 minutes). Level crossing closures could have a devastating effect locally.
    - Broadband: Cllr Stringer has been invited to join group tasked with addressing gaps in roll out of Suffolk Better Broadband. Next upgrade due between Jun-Sep 2015.
    - A14 Highways Agency Meeting: Meeting of Highways Agency, Harleston Parish Council and Cllr Otton learned that A14 concrete sections 'explode' on annual basis. Highways Agency have budget to test road during 2015.
    - Stoke Ash School Closure: Following collapse in pupil numbers, closure orders were submitted for Stoke Ash School, which has now been transferred to Guide Movement as educational facility.
  - 6.3. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
    - **Economy:**

Apprenticeships: In 2014 MSDC had 13 Apprenticeships, 4 Internships and offered 5 work experience placements.

Planning: MSDC's target for new homes per annum is 440. In May 2014 Councillors were assured of adequate Five Year Land Supply but by December were informed that actual figure was under target. This leaves MSDC at risk of developments which would not normally be approved.

G&R Planning Application: After much time, this application has now been given outline approval for 56 dwellings but now delivering 6 affordable houses for Mendlesham residents together with package payments for Education and Local Community Infrastructure.
    - **Communities:**

Grants and Funding: MSDC now has an active grants programme to help community organisations and groups.

- Neighbourhood Plans: Mendlesham will be the first parish to finalise a Neighbourhood Plan in Mid Suffolk if all goes well following public consultation.
- **Housing:**  
 Tenant Involvement: Joint Housing Board set up in 2012 continues to set the future direction of Housing Services Scrutiny Panel due to be set up in 2015 giving tenants opportunity to “call in” any area of the housing service.  
 Tenant Satisfaction: 2014 survey scored a rating of 88% Satisfaction. Less well scored areas, such as Financial and Money Advice Sessions with CAB, have had improvements put in place.  
 Housing Needs Survey: MSDC participated in county-wide survey providing evidence of need/demand for housing of different tenures to help influence right balance of housing across district.
- **Environment:**  
 Solar PV Scheme: Installation of solar panels to over 2,150 Mid-Suffolk homes continues, reducing tenants’ fuel bills, resulting in £7.5m new income from Government’s feed-in tariff over next 20 years.  
 Recycling: Household waste currently recycled is at 42%. Renewed contract with Viridor, Great Blakenham means additional items such as tetra packs, empty aerosols, metal pots/pans, books etc, can now be placed in green bins.  
 Trade Waste: Following MSDC’s introduction of trade waste recycling service, amount of recycling has risen from 26 tonnes per annum at start of scheme to over 200 tonnes in 2014.

6.5. Suffolk Police: Report presented by PC Clare Wayman

- Reported Crimes: There have been no reported crimes recorded in the parish since last report (from May 2014-2015 there were 2 crimes, both burglary/other buildings, compared to only one crime during May 2013-2014).
- SNT priorities: Preventing and detecting burglaries, Rural crime.
- Community Priority Setting Meeting: The next meeting is on 27 July 2015 at Eye Police Station (by Hospital), 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm, all welcome.

6.6. Parish Clerk:

- Register of Interests for Councillors: Following the elections, the forms will now be submitted online and we will receive further instructions shortly.
- Transparency Code: Following the newly elected officers, the Clerk will update the necessary documentation for uploading to village website to conform with new legislation.

6.7. Parish Councillors:

- Cllr Merriam advised that the Village Hall Committee would like model boats to be on the Grimmer during the June Fete and requested permission to clean out some floating plants on 06.06.15. It was agreed that an area on the north side of the Grimmer could be cleaned out, with caution given to any birds still nesting. Further Village Green/Grimmer working party to be scheduled for the Autumn.

7. Correspondence Received:

- Thorndon School: We have received a letter asking for support in their dealings with local authority as they wish to install temporary portacabin as additional learning space. Cllr Knights to review/follow up.
- Website: Roy Arthey has advised that due to house sale, he will need to relinquish position as Website Co-Ordinator. Roy was thanked for his involvement with maintaining such an efficient website and it was agreed that this position would be advertised in the newsletter.
- All other correspondence included in Agenda items or in Circulation File.

8. Planning Matters

- 8.1. No 0775/15: 135 Grange Road – Application received for the erection of porch, construction of vehicle access and parking area, retention of window in side gable wall and retention of roof light in side roof slope. It had been agreed that the Parish Council had no objections.
- 8.2. No 0295/15: Abbey Farm, Cotton Lane – The third application has now been granted for the installation of ground mounted photovoltaic panels (previously Application Nos 2389/14 and 3353/14).

9. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Village Green/Grimmer Working Party. With their impending move, the Chair gave thanks to both Margaret and Roy Arthey for all that they have done for the village, such stalwarts in their support over the years – they will be missed.

10. Next Meeting: 13 July 2015

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed: .....  
Chair

Date: .....

**Wickham Skeith Parish Council**

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