



# Wickham Skeith Parish Council

## MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 12 JANUARY 2015** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Chairman), H Bowes, B Kemp, K Knights, M Appleby, P Wright, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC – part of) and 3 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from Cllr Bloor, Noted from Suffolk Police

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: Cllrs Merriam and Appleby declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.3.
3. Minutes of Meeting held 10 November 2014: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. Village Forum: No issues were raised.
5. Reports:
  - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
    - Procurement Update: Following Procurement Conference, SCC have partnered with Chamber of Federation of Small Businesses (FSB). Plans for follow up events targeted towards Growth, Jobs, Skills and Improving the Environment with more purchasing going to Suffolk based companies.
    - Moving On: SCC Corporate Property have now completed exit from former Kerrison Conference and Training Centre in Thorndon, following termination of leases at end of September.
    - Keeping Warm: Suffolk Energy Action is able to offer access to free loft and cavity wall insulation (offer not restricted to income age or status) – visit [www.suffolkenergyaction.org](http://www.suffolkenergyaction.org).
    - DRT Bus Changes: Demand Responsive Transport has issued new guides following demise of BorderHoppa service – see Item 6 for more information.
  - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
    - Planning Policy Updates: Changes are being made to new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), together with changes relating to Section 106 contributions regarding planning developments.
    - 5 Year Land Supply: Councils need to be able to demonstrate a 5 year land supply and this has recently been questioned for MSDC. Despite new building of more than 150 houses, MSDC may not have adequate supply which could impair Local Plan with National Policy Planning Framework taking precedent.

Cllr Knights asked about Network Rail and Cllr Stringer advised of closure programme for small/pedestrian crossings with proposed Norwich in Ninety campaign.
  - 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:
    - Pot Holes and other highway issues raised at previous meeting covered in Item 8.
    - Parish Council of the Year Award 2014: The Chairman and members of the Lunch Club (R Elsdon, A West and J Harvey) were presented with plaque and cheque for £100 as winners of the Small Category – Support for Older People at the SALC AGM on 12.11.14. It was agreed that this money should be allocated in full to the Lunch Club.
  - 5.5. Parish Councillors:
    - Telephone Box: Cllr Knights questioned whether the Telephone Box on the Village Green was still in working order. Clerk to liaise with BT.
    - The Chair has received a request from the Village Hall Committee for consideration to be given for the erection of an Information Board on the Village Green. The possibility of reutilising the Telephone Box as an Information Board was discussed - Clerk to inquire during liaison with BT.
    - Grange Road – Cllr Knights advised that the drain on Grange Road has been upturned by heavy traffic and water is unable to flow into ditch causing road flooding. Clerk to advise Highways.

## 6. Correspondence Received:

- Bus Services: The services offered by Suffolk Links Gipping North have now been extended to include Finningham, Thwaite and Wickham Skeith, providing an overlapping service with Hoxne. Bookings can be made on 01449 616000 (copies of new leaflets available in Village Hall). In the event that requests are refused, please advise either Cllr Stringer or Parish Clerk immediately.
- Litter Bins: MSDC have advised that cost of emptying bins will increase by £5/bin from 1/4/15, which takes the cost to £25/bin (this increase has been included in 2015/16 budget by Cllr Kemp).
- All other correspondence included in Agenda items or in Circulation File.

## 7. Finance:

- 7.1. The accounts as at 31 December 2014 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £3,353.10.
- 7.2. Parish Precept: Cllr Kemp proposed that the precept grant offer of £75.83 be accepted and that the precept remain at £2,200, to which all were in agreement.
- 7.3. Locality Money: The Chairman requested that consideration be given to the allocation of any locality funding going towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall. It was agreed to put forward a request for funding towards a Projection Screen to Cllr Stringer once quotations have been sourced by Village Hall Committee.

## 8. SCC Highways: The Chairman and Parish Clerk met with Phil Wright, newly appointed Highway Engineer, on 28.11.14 when the following issues were raised: Pot Holes, Drainage (particularly at Swan House), Ditch/Hedging (possibility of footpath) on corner of Broadway before Homeleigh, Signage, Parking/Condition of Grange Road and the general increase in traffic, particularly lorries. Mr Wright kindly noted the points raised and, following this visit, pot holes and drainage issues were promptly attended to.

## 9. Planning Matters:

- 9.1. Application No 3353/14: Abbey Farm, Cotton Lane – installation of ground mounted photovoltaic panels. MSDC have advised that this second application (original No 2389/14) has been refused.
- 9.2. Application No 3774/14: Allfield Farm, Daisy Green Lane – installation of flue (on north side of barn). The Parish Council raised no objections.
- 9.3. Application No 3969/14: Hazelwood, The Street – demolition of existing cottage and erection of two-storey dwelling, store and garage, associated access and landscaping. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would support this application.

## 10. Village Green – Tree Maintenance: Working party held 13.12.14 to tidy up broken limb of willow tree on Village Green. It was agreed that follow-on working party would take place in February, together with village signs being washed/cleaned. Chairman to advise date via email.

## 11. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Internal Accounts and Audit Control Review

## 12. Next Meeting: 9 March 2015

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....

**Wickham Skeith Parish Council**

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