



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2017** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs P Wright (Chair), N Merriam, B Kemp, B Bloor, M Blair, K Knights, H Bowes, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr A Stringer (MSDC and SCC (part of)) and 5 members of the public

Apologies: None received.

1. Chair's Welcome: The Chair opened the meeting, wishing everyone a Happy New Year.
2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
3. Minutes of Meeting held 14 November 2016: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.
4. Village Forum: No matters raised.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. Cllr Stringer (SCC) – read by Parish Clerk
 - Trading Standards Success: Suffolk Trading Standards surveillance team work to intercept unsafe products at the border and, whilst most products are imported by traders based outside of Suffolk, 4 consignments incepted in the last 3 months were being imported by Suffolk based traders. Every year, many deaths and injuries are caused by faulty electrics/electrical equipment.
 - Highways Issues: Cllr Stringer has investigated difficulties experienced in bringing forward Highways works using the local highways budget. Part of the budget remains uncommitted/unallocated and it may become harder to get works done when County Council are proposing to shrink highways budget by a further £300,000 in next year's budget.
 - Seasonal Update: Winter Service Plan is in full swing with gritting team already treating many roads - 50,000 miles have been gritted and 2,500 tonnes of salt mix used (last year, over 9,000 tonnes of salt mix were used). For daily updates on gritting follow @Suffolk_Highways on Twitter or visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/gritting. Salt bins and grit heaps are also being checked/restocked to assist local communities.
 - 5.2. Cllr Stringer (MSDC) – read by Parish Clerk
 - Location Location: The saga continues for the location of MSDC/Babergh. Last month's meeting agreed to move entire workforce to Endeavour House, Ipswich, however, groups have argued that a joint "back office" should also be located to allow improved public access.
 - Investment Strategy: As reported previously, MSDC's investment strategy moving forward with both Mid Suffolk and Babergh borrowing £25m each to invest in commercial properties, however, investment areas have not been agreed.
 - Governance Structure: Mid Suffolk agreed to move from committee based governance model to leader cabinet model, ie members making policy decisions appointed by leader of Council and from one political group instead of current model where an Executive is made up of elected members.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police (via Parish Clerk): One crime reported in the village since last report, which was logged on/near Rose Lane in Nov 2016 as theft/interference with a vehicle (the same incident is also logged on Wickham Road, heading into Thwaite).
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk:
 - Kissing Gate: Following initial research into cost of replacement galvanised kissing gate on Footpath 11 (near Hall Farm), M Downard has kindly agreed to repair existing gate. All Councillors in agreement with this offer.
 - Village Website: Stephen McKie, Website Co-Ordinator, has advised that website in process of moving to suffolk.cloud with pages currently being redesigned/updated.
 - Broadband for Village Hall: Once installation costs and regular payments have been made to BT, full details will be forward to Cllr Stringer for achievable funding.
 - Working Together to Reduce Speeding: All Councillors were in favour of looking further into options available to combat problem of speeding. It was agreed that Cllr Merriam would head-up this task.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors:
 - The Chair advised that he was not in position to head- up hedge syndicate – enquiries can be made direct to M Downard on 07887 752267.
 - Cllr Merriam advised of recent hare-coursing convictions following incidents in nearby villages and of new phone app aiding farmers experiencing problems.

6. Correspondence Received: All correspondence which has not been circulated via email included within Agenda Items or in Circulation File.
7. Finance:
 - 7.1. Accounts as at 31 December 2016 were presented by Cllr Kemp showing a balance of £3,219.76.
 - Broadband: Cllr Kemp advised that BT installation charges of £234.79 had been settled, as agreed at September meeting (Item 10), following e-mail approval by Councillors in order to meet payment deadline.
 - The following invoice was agreed for payment: Village Hall Hire (Aug/Nov Meetings) @ £24.00.
 - 7.2. Parish Precept: Cllr Kemp presented 2016/17 and 2017/18 projected budgets and, following initial proposal at November's meeting, confirmed proposed Precept of £2,400 (an increase of £200). Proposal seconded by Cllr Merriam and agreed by all other Councillors. Completed paperwork to be submitted by Parish Clerk.
8. Planning Matters: Application No: 4611/16 – Rose Lane Cottage, Rose Lane. Application received to demolish rear single storey extension, erect rear single and two-storey extensions with new window opening to side elevation. No objections were raised by Councillors and MSDC have now granted permission.
9. Village Green/Working Party: Cllrs Merriam and Knights have carried out initial works with M Downard scheduled to assist over next fortnight. Working party dates have been agreed for 11/02/17 and 25/02/17, commencing at 10.00 am.
10. Parking Review: Following months of debate, the Chair resolved that this sensitive issue will always be encountered and that parking on the green should continue to be monitored.
11. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Internal Accounts and Audit Control Review.
12. Next Meeting: 13 March 2017

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed:
Chair

Date:

Wickham Skeith Parish Council

Chair:	Paul Wright	07921 292233	Parish Councillors:	Kevin Knights	01449 767708
Treasurer:	Barry Kemp	01449 766813		Brian Bloor	01449 766633
Vice Chair:	Nigel Merriam	01449 766222		Harriet Bowes	01449 766708
Parish Clerk:	Tara Goodacre	01449 768696		Michael Blair	01449 766640