



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held **MONDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2016** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs P Wright (Chair), N Merriam, B Kemp, B Bloor, K Knights, H Bowes, M Blair, T Goodacre (Clerk) and 6 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC)

1. Chair's Welcome: The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
3. Minutes of Meeting held 11 July 2016: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.
4. Village Forum:
 - Hedges/Verges/Road Signs: The poor condition of overgrown hedges/verges and visible road signs was raised, together with the condition of The Grimmer (see Item 9). It was generally felt that maintenance obligations of some property owners were not being undertaken on a regular basis, as well as a reduction of services by SCC (it was noted that other areas of the village are being included in the maintenance services provided by Mr M Downard). It was agreed to include in village newsletter, liaise with Cllr Stringer regarding funding availability (see Item 5.1) and for the border outside of Village Hall to be trimmed.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. Cllr Stringer (report submitted and read by Parish Clerk)
 - On-line Highways Reporting Tool Changes: To avoid confusion of current marking system, SCC are working on amending Reporting Tool so that category of work can be displayed to give timescale, pin colours will only to change to green upon completion and for informative email updates.
 - Devolution means "Brexit"? By October, there should be content for the second devolution deal for Suffolk/Norfolk should the first progress, which could include Suffolk/Norfolk receiving slice of CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) payments.
 - Hedges and Verges: SCC has received numerous correspondences regarding lack of services maintaining hedges/verges. Cllr Stringer has asked for clearer information to be available and has advised that a budget may be available for communities maintaining hedges/verges.
 - 5.2. Suffolk Police (via Parish Clerk):
 - As part of Stowmarket's SNT, September newsletter mentions criminal damage to headstones and anti-social behaviour (including those as a result of mental health issues).
 - Crime reduction advice covers church lead theft, bogus callers and managing anti-social behaviour.
 - Stowmarket Police Cadets start again on 10.09.16 at Stowmarket High School.
 - The next Public Meeting is on 20 September 2016 at The Cedars Hotel, Stowmarket at 6.30 pm.
 - Further information can be obtained via stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk.
 - 5.3. Parish Clerk:
 - Conservation Area/Listed Buildings: Following Mr Trincherio's presentation at the last meeting, Cllr Knights requested information on the Conservation Area/Listed Buildings in the village, details of which were circulated to Councillors on 03.08.16.
 - Pot Holes – Thwaite Road: Following the reporting of pot holes along Thwaite Road, SCC have advised that these will be attended to within next 3 weeks.
 - Pot Holes – Road surrounding The Grimmer: SCC has advised that the level of usage does not warrant action at this time. Following points raised during Village Forum, it was felt that Parish Clerk should challenge decision.
 - 5.4. Parish Councillors:
 - Cllr Knights mentioned the condition of the Kissing Gates at the entrance to Footpath 11 near Hall Farm. Clerk to investigate costs for steel replacement.
 - Cllr Bloor mentioned that recent hot weather conditions had seemed to encourage visitors to park near the pond (see Item 11 - Parking Review).
6. Correspondence Received:
 - 150 National Number: On 06.09.16 national phone number of 105 launched for the reporting of power cuts (regardless of power supplier). For further information visit <http://www.powercut105.com/>.
 - Website Host: From 01.11.16 SCC will cease to be onesuffolk website provider and Community Action Suffolk (CAS) will become new provider, with an annual charge of £50.00 to Parish Councils introduced. Mr McKie, Website Co-Ordinator, had kindly submitted options available, which were discussed. It was agreed to initially remain with the onesuffolk website supported by CAS.
 - All other correspondence which has not been circulated via email is included within Agenda Items or in Circulation File.

7. Finance:
- 7.1. The accounts as at 31 August 2016 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £2,286.42.
 - 7.2. Cllr Kemp advised that the second Precept instalment had been received.
 - 7.3. External Audit: Cllr Kemp advised that External Audit has been completed and Annual Accounts returned, with copies uploaded on village website.
 - 7.4. The following invoice was agreed for payment: Village Hall Hire (May/Jun/Jul) @ £36.00. It was also noted that, following approval of deposit payment of £1,859.00 for Village Hall replacement cooker, balance of £482.30 was settled on 13/07/16 following e-mail approval from all Councillors (Locality Grant Funded).
 - 7.5. Banking Mandate/Online Banking: Cllr Kemp advised that, following change of Chair, the necessary forms were ready for Cllr Wright to be added as bank signatory and that Barclays were now able to offer On-line Banking.
8. Planning Matters: Application No: 1849/16 – Kisumu, The Street – Permission has been granted for conversion of barn from storage to annexe accommodation.
9. Village Green/Working Party: Cllrs Merriam and Knights advised on action plan for Grimmer verge to be cut, south side of pond to remain clear, ash trees suffering from Chalara to be removed (following consultation with Tree Warden), dogwood to be pruned and ivy removed where necessary, with dates for working parties to be set at November meeting.
10. Broadband for Village Hall: Following liaison with Cllr Stringer, Village Hall Broadband to be installed on 14.09.16 (Unlimited Infinity @ £31/month, less Summer discount of £17/mth for 24 mths, Business PSTN Service @ £15.90/mth with initial connection charge of £120.00). Cllr Stringer has advised that funding up to £500 will be available from SCC and, once installed, controls etc to be agreed/set up. Thanks were given to the Chair for organising and setting up BT contract.
11. Parking Review: Much discussion again was held on resident/fisherman parking on Village Green. It was agreed that two signs be erected requesting “No Parking on Village Green, Please Park at Village Hall” (costings/wording yet to be agreed).
12. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Village Green/Grimmer Working Party, Parking Review, Village Hall Broadband, Parish Precept
13. Next Meeting: 14 November 2016

Meeting closed at 9.22 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