



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2016** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs N Merriam, B Kemp, B Bloor, K Knight, H Bowes, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC) and 2 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from Cllrs Appleby and Wright, noted from Suffolk Police

1. Chair's Welcome: The Vice-Chair opened the meeting, welcoming everyone in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
3. Minutes of Meeting held 9 November 2015: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Vice-Chair.
4. Village Forum: The re-occurring pothole on the corner of Broadway, opposite No 1 Kitchen Close, was mentioned, together with drainage issues outside Brookside on The Street – Clerk to report to SCC Highways.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. SCC: Cllr Stringer
 - Winter Weather: SCC has released advice regarding Staying Well this Winter. Helpful hints are available at www.nhs.uk/staywell. For pharmacy opening times visit www.nhs.uk or dial Freephone 111.
 - Broadband: SCC has announced second round of Superfast Broadband has started ahead of schedule (with new cabinet in Eye being first to be delivered). Details of planned coverage can be found at www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com. SCC has also announced launch of Basic Broadband Service to fulfil Government's commitment that everyone should have option of access to a broadband service of at least 2Mbps by end 2015. Those eligible can now apply for a voucher to cover initial installation and commissioning cost of satellite broadband receiver at www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com.
 - Suffolk Devolution: Norfolk and Suffolk's leaders have met to consider proposals before final version sent to Government, with dialogue also with Cambridgeshire Councils. Survey of larger businesses in Norfolk/Suffolk showed over half of respondents support more local control over infrastructure, economic development and skills.
 - 5.2. MSDC: Cllr Stringer
 - Education Partnership: MSDC has launched new area of work in helping upper schools to link career programmes to information available regarding needs of local businesses.
 - Housing Development Proposals: Following announcement that MSDC no longer held a 5 year land supply, they have been subjected to an increase in number of speculative housing applications, which now fall under National Planning Policy Framework.
 - Financial Reserves: MSDC has confirmed that Transformation Budget (£6.7m and rising by £2m) is a Reserve.
 - Litter pick: Possible dates for 2016 litter pick to be emailed to Cllr Stringer.
 - Grange Road: Cllr Knights advised that new resident having difficulties using driveway – noted by Cllr Stringer.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police: Report received and read by Parish Clerk
 - Reported Crimes: There have been no reported crimes in the village since last report.
 - SNT priorities remain the same for Youth Engagement.
 - 5.3.1 Suffolk Constabulary has written regarding opportunity for Parish Councils to fund (wholly or in part) Match Funded Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in financial year of 2016/17.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk:
 - Footpath 46: Mr P Davidson had advised that the bridge on Footpath 46 was damaged. The Clerk had advised Rights of Way Team who put an emergency closure on the bridge, with a replacement scheduled.
 - Litter Bins: MSDC have advised that there will be another £5 increase in the cost of emptying litter bins, making the cost per bin £35.00.
 - First Aid Training: The Clerk and Mrs S Merriam are scheduled to attend free certified course in Hadleigh on 14/01/16.

5.5. Parish Councillors:

- HM The Queen's 90th Birthday - 11/12 June 2016: Discussions held regarding possible street party style event. It was agreed to include in newsletter to gauge interest.
- Footpath 21: Residents of Willow Lodge had advised that footpath would be temporarily closed in early January due to tree works.
- Rose Lane: The Vice-Chair gave thanks to Mr J Mullinger for clearing the ditch.
- Village Website: The Chair had asked for the website to be mentioned - Mr S McKie is currently updating and including some gallery pages and is appealing for copies of photographs of village events for inclusion on the website.

6. Correspondence Received:

- Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – Integration Plan. Consultation is currently on-going until 22/02/16. Any views/comments can be made via questionnaire at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/emergency-and-rescue/fire-service-redesign/>.

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 December 2015 were presented by Cllr Kemp and showed a balance of £3,408.90.
- 7.2. External Audit: The Audit Commission ceased to exist on 01.04.15 and Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd has been created to take over appointment of external auditors for smaller authorities from 2017. This company will formally appoint external auditors automatically unless the Parish Council decides to opt out. Cllr Kemp recommended not opting out and all were in agreement.
- 7.3. Parish Precept: Cllr Kemp presented projected budgets for 2015/16 and 2016/17, proposing Precept could be maintained at £2,200, which was seconded by Cllr Knights. Clerk to submit Precept Forms.
- 7.4. The following invoices were authorised for payment:

Website Training – Mr S McKie	£24.00 inc VAT
M S Downard - Village Green Grass Cutting	£600.00 inc VAT
Community Action Suffolk – Insurance	£172.37 inc VAT

8. Planning Matters:

- 8.1. Application No: 3628/15 - MSDC raised no objection to tree works at 124 The Green.
- 8.2. Application No: 3602/15 - Summerseat, The Street – Permission has been granted for erection of two bay cartlodge and greenhouse.
- 8.3. Application No 4142/15: Summerseat, The Street – Application for creation of bathroom on first floor landing. The Parish Council had not raised any objections to application.

9. Village Green/Working Party: Working party held in December cleared ash saplings/bramble from west end of The Grimmer with follow-on working party scheduled for end of January to clear bramble etc near The Old Post Office.

10. Locality Budget: The Clerk has completed and submitted application, in liaison with Cllr Stringer, requesting funding be given consideration for replacement range/cooker in the kitchen of Village Hall.

11. Emergency Plan: The Emergency Plan had been reviewed by the Clerk and Vice-Chair and circulated for approval prior to meeting. It was agreed that the revised plan could be adopted and included in the next edition of newsletter and uploaded to website.

12. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Village Green/Grimmer Working Party, Internal Accounts and Audit Control Review.

13. Next Meeting: 14 March 2016

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed:
Chair

Date: