



# Wickham Skeith Parish Council

## **MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (AGM)** held **MONDAY, 8 MAY 2017** at **WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs P Wright, N Merriam, B Kemp, K Knights, H Bowes, M Blair, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC), and 9 members of the public

Apologies: Accepted from Cllr B Bloor

1. Election of Chair: The Clerk opened the meeting by thanking Cllr Wright on behalf of the Parish Council for his year in office as Chair. Nominations were then invited from Councillors for the position of Chair. Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Bowes. Cllr Wright accepted the position of Chair and signed the Acceptance of Office.
2. Election of Officers: The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Merriam, seconded by Cllr Blair. Cllr Merriam accepted the position of Vice-Chair. For the position of Treasurer, Cllr Merriam proposed Cllr Kemp, seconded by Cllr Bowes. Cllr Kemp agreed to continue in role of Treasurer.

The Clerk sadly announced the resignation of Cllr B Bloor (who was not able to attend and his apologies accepted). Thanks were given to Cllr Bloor for his term in office and the vacancy of Parish Councillor to be advertised in the newsletter.

With elections concluded, the Clerk invited Cllr Wright to continue with the opening of the AGM.

3. Chair's Welcome: Cllr Wright opened the AGM, which followed on from the Annual Parish Meeting.
4. Declaration of Interest: None Received.
5. Minutes of Meeting held 13 March 2017: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.
6. Reports:
  - 6.1. Treasurer's Report 2016/17: Cllr Kemp presented the Treasurer's Annual Report.
    - 6.1.1. Internal Accounts Audit & Control Review 2016/17 Update: Cllr Kemp advised that R Bassett, Internal Auditor, had approved/signed Review, with no recommendations suggested.
    - 6.1.2. Annual Governance Statement 2016/17: Cllr Kemp presented proposed Statement. All Councillors were in agreement to adopt proposed Statement, which was then signed by Chair and Clerk.
    - 6.1.3. Final Accounts Approval 2016/17: Cllr Kemp presented end of year Accounts as at 31 March 2017, which showed a balance of £2,126.64. All Councillors were in agreement to adopt Final Accounts.
    - 6.1.4. Accounting Statements 2016/17: Cllr Kemp presented Cross Check for Audit Statements alongside Accounting Statements. All Councillors were in agreement to adopt, which were then signed by Chair and Treasurer.
  - 6.2. The following invoices were approved for payment:

SALC: Subscriptions	£180.00
Village Hall (Jan/Mar Meetings)	£24.00
SuffolkBiz (Website Hosting 01/04/17-31/03/18)	£100.00
  - 6.3. SCC: Cllr Stringer
    - 6.3.1. Speed Indicator Devices (SID): SID have been deployed this year in Old Newton, Cotton, Bacton, Haughley, Thorndon and Wetheringsett and have been very useful in capturing data. Once all villages interested in taking part are up and running, a meeting of operators will be arranged for experiences/best practices to be discussed.
    - 6.3.2. Devolution: Following inordinate amount of time, no deals were secured with Councils voting against proposals.
    - 6.3.3. Budget: SCC have agreed Annual Capital and Revenue Budgets, with identifying savings a challenge.
    - 6.3.4. Broadband: SCC have worked through second contract with BT in delivering high speed broadband.
    - 6.3.5. Housing Company: SCC formed Housing Company to help with future land uses which has caused tension with MSDC over New Homes Bonus.
    - 6.3.6. Highways: Delays in highway maintenance have been brought into focus, with Highways Reporting Tool used extensively.

## 6.4. MSDC: Cllr Stringer

- 6.4.1. Mid Suffolk Leisure: Mid Suffolk secured 3 redevelopment sites from SCC; Needham Market and Stowmarket Middle Schools and Paddock House in Eye. Funds were used from Reserves that have built up to over £10m (not from £25m Borrowing for Profit for Purpose initiative).
- 6.4.2. MSDC Budgets: Net budget of £9.958m agreed, with no cuts in services (similar to last year's). Transformation Fund has increased to £9.2m with majority of funds coming from New Homes Bonus (payable per new home built, or empty dwelling brought back into use). Council House Rents reduced by 1% (in line with Government policy) with increases in Garage Rents and Sheltered Housing Charges.
- 6.4.3. Neighbourhood Plans: Mendlesham's Neighbourhood Plan was the first plan in Mid Suffolk to pass public referendum. Housing Needs Survey and Allocations Policy may be required if plan to carry weight hoped for at inception 4 years ago.
- 6.4.4. Change in Governance: This year, Mid Suffolk agreed to move from Committee Based Governance Model to Leader Cabinet, Boundary Commission reviewing Mid Suffolk's Parliamentary Boundaries and a review of number of Councillors (15% cut recommended). Mid Suffolk also agreed to move Head Quarters and back office from Needham Market to Endeavour House, Ipswich, with promised presence in Stowmarket.

Cllr Stringer concluded by thanking all members of the Parish Council for their support during the year.

- 6.5. Suffolk Police: No crimes have been reported since last report. Parish/Town Meetings to be held at Stowmarket Police Station on 29/06/17 and 11/07/17 at 10.00 am.
- 6.6. Parish Clerk:
  - 6.6.1. Community Action Suffolk (CAS) Membership: Membership has just been renewed, which is now a free subscription, CAS1068/17 refers.
  - 6.6.2. Transparency Funding: SALC have advised that bid for funding was successful with funds of £850 secured.
  - 6.6.3. Community Orchard: Interest has been shown in this project, with residents offering to sponsor a tree. Further interest to be directed to Clerk at clerk.wspc@btconnect.com.
  - 6.6.4. Good Councillor Guide 2017: It was agreed to purchase 5 copies of the new edition at £3.10+PP+VAT.
- 6.7. Parish Councillors: No matters raised.

## 7. Correspondence Received:

- 7.1. Anglia Level Crossings: Having communicated with Network Rail that no objections to proposals of closure FP22, complete application has been received and was available to view at meeting.
- 7.2. Tour of Britain Cycle Race 2017: S McKie has advised that Stage 6 of the race will be coming through The Street of Wickham Skeith and a link will be added to the website.
- 7.3. Defibrillator (AED): Correspondence received from village resident requesting for consideration be given to the installation of an AED. This subject has been briefly mentioned previously and it was agreed that the Parish Council would look further into an installation.

All other correspondence included in Agenda items or in Circulation File.

- 8. Planning Matters: No applications received.
- 9. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Emergency Plan Review
- 10. Next Meeting: 10 July 2017

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed: .....  
Chair

Date: .....

### Wickham Skeith Parish Council

<b>Chair:</b>	Paul Wright	07921 292233	<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		Michael Blair	01449 766640