



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2017 at WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL

- Present: Cllrs N Merriam (Vice-Chair), B Kemp, K Knights, H Bowes, M Blair, T Thorogood, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (MSDC and SCC), and 5 members of public
- Apologies: Accepted from P Wright (Chair) and M Appleby (Tree Warden)
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 10 July 2017: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Vice-Chair. Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held 14 August 2017: The Minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Vice-Chair.
 4. Village Forum: No items raised.
 5. Reports:
 - 5.1. Cllr Stringer (SCC)
 - Highways Changes: New Customer Service Team of SCC integrated with Kier staff launched on 04.09.17, consisting Customer Co-Ordinators, Community Wardens and Community Engineers. First point of contact remains as <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> or 0345 606 6171.
 - School Transport: SCC consulting on revising services of school transport, suggesting only funding pupils that attend nearest school, as opposed to catchment. Reformed school bus service will also take paying general public on routes. Ambiguity of policy is causing great concern to parents.
 - Bus Route Rethink: Recent change to 113 Service about turned by SCC due to confusion of villages served. Bus companies naturally wary of publishing potential changes due to competition. Services to be reviewed in next 6 months.
 - 5.2. Cllr Stringer (MSDC)
 - Mid Suffolk on the Move: Majority of Mid Suffolk services about to migrate to Endeavour House, Ipswich, leaving presence in Stowmarket, as well as "touch down point" in Eye.
 - Local Plan: Joint Local Plan of Babergh and Mid Suffolk now at public consultation stage, which will allocate housing sites for next 20 years. Adoption of new plan will trigger reset of lack of 5-year supply (information on Parish Meeting to be included in next Newsletter).
 - Boundary Review: Now in hands of Boundary Commission (with plans to keep Wickham Skeith Mendlesham and Cotton together, including either Wetheringsett or Finningham).
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police (via Parish Clerk): No crimes were reported within Wickham Skeith on website.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk:
 - Village Signs: Sign along Wickham Road towards Thornham Magna now restored, however, still awaiting repairs to sign on junction of Wickham Road/Broadway (originally logged in March 2017 – Parish Clerk/Cllr Stringer still chasing).
 - SALC inviting entries for Newsletter and Website of the Year. It was agreed not to enter either.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors:
 - Cllr Knights queried who had trimmed Willow on Village Green, as debris not cleared. No-one knew who was responsible.
 - Cllr Blair advised that recent hedge/ditch maintenance had left branches on electricity wires along Grange Road. Cllr Blair to contact UK Power Networks.
 - Grange Road/Oak Farm Lane: Ditch has been dug out, pipe should be visible for drainage.
 6. Correspondence Received:
 - 6.1. Daisy Green Lane: Parish Council have been approached by developer regarding plot of land possibly for sale. In view of Local Plan consultation, it was agreed to defer until November meeting.
 - 6.2. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): EU regulation will come into force on 25.05.18 and SALC have advised that this will have direct effect and Councils should begin to prepare for compliance and appoint a Data Protection Officer. It was agreed that Parish Clerk would take this position and attend Training Session, together with Cllr Kemp (Treasurer).
 - 6.3. Local Plan: Joint Local Plan of Babergh/Mid Suffolk for consultation has been received. Cllr Blair and Parish Clerk to attend Parish Briefing Meeting at Rickinghall (information on Parish Meeting to be included in next Newsletter).
 - 6.4. 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 August 2017 were presented by Cllr Kemp showing a balance of £2,389.38.
 - 7.2. External Audit: Cllr Kemp advised that External Audit had been completed (last one to be undertaken by BDO LLP). Notice of Conclusion has been posted on Village Notice Board and Website. Vice-Chair gave thanks to Cllr Kemp for his work as Treasurer during financial year.
 - 7.3. Broadband Funding: With fees now over £500, funding has been applied for via Cllr Stringer, as agreed at meetings of 12.09.16 and 13.03.17.
 - 7.4. The following invoices were agreed for payment:
 - Village Hall Hire (May/July meetings) @ £24.00
 - 121 Computer Services Ltd @ £717.95 (Laptop/Printer/Scanner achieved via Transparency Funds)
- 8. Planning Matters:
 - 8.1. DC/17/03518: Spring Cottage, Rose Lane - Application received for tree works. No concerns were raised by Parish Council. MSDC also raised no objections.
 - 8.2. 4161/16: 1-3 Abbey Farmhouse, Cotton Lane - Application for Listed Building Consent for removal of cement render and replastering with lime render/painting. No concerns were raised by Parish Council and Listed Building Consent has now been granted.
- 9. Working Party Update
 - 9.1. Community Speed Watch: Cllrs Merriam and Knights completed Site Suitability Checklists for Speed Indicator Device (SID). These were handed to Cllr Stringer at the meeting, who advised of two companies; Westcotec Ltd, Dereham and Radarlux GmbH, Germany (with data capture model favoured). The provision of Village Gateways was also discussed as addition to slowing down motorists.
 - 9.2. Defibrillator: Discussions continue with British Heart Foundation grant offer not favoured due to conditions of offer. R Elsdon suggested contacting St John's Ambulance and village fundraiser. Cllr Stringer advised VHF Model not favoured as parts expensive.
 - 9.3. Transparency Funding: Parish Clerk now furnished with Laptop and Printer/Scanner. Insurance provider has been advised with confirmation that there will be no additional premium.
- 10. Locality Funding: In consultation with Cllr Stringer, it was agreed to submit draft application circulated to Councillors for funding towards Projector Equipment for Village Hall.
- 11. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Community Speed Watch, Defibrillator, Parish Councillor Topics, Parish Precept, 2018/19 Budget, Village Green Working Parties. Separate Parish Meeting to be held regarding Joint Local Plan.
- 12. Next Meeting:

Working Party	25 September 2017
Parish Meeting	TBA
Parish Council Meeting	13 November 2017

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed:
Chair

Date:

Wickham Skeith Parish Council

Chair:	Paul Wright	07921 292233	Parish Councillors:	Kevin Knights	01449 767708
Vice Chair:	Nigel Merriam	01449 766222		Harriet Bowes	01449 766708
Treasurer:	Barry Kemp	01449 766813		Michael Blair	01449 766640
Parish Clerk:	Tara Goodacre	01449 768696		T Thorogood	01449 766757