



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019 at WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs T Thorogood (Chair), H Bowes (Vice-Chair), B Kemp (Treasurer), R Palmer, M Blair, K Knights, T Goodacre (Clerk), Cllr Stringer (SCC), Cllr Warboys (MSDC) and 8 members of public

Apologies: Accepted from Cllr Freeman and M Appleby

1. Chair's Welcome: The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming those in attendance.
2. Declaration of Interest: None received.
3. Minutes of Meeting:
 - Minutes of Meeting held 9 September 2019 were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.
 - Minutes of Extra-Ordinary Meeting held 30 September 2019 were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.
4. Village Forum: Road Signs - Newly erected sign for Dove Lane on junction to Wickham Road obscures vision to motorists negotiating junction. Parish Clerk to write to MSDC. Correspondence also received following erection of Dove Lane signs requesting consideration be given to signs for The Street.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. Cllr Stringer (SCC):
 - Health Visitors: SCC have cut 35% of Health Visitors resulting in only 3 of 5 health checks for pregnant mothers/babies being carried out by specially trained Health Visitors; Staff Nurses carrying out other 2 checks lacking in continuity.
 - School Transport: Review of new policy confirmed. Since introduction, large increase of appeals.
 - 5.2. Cllr Warboys (MSDC):
 - New Corporate Plan: Joint Strategic Plan refreshed by Cabinet members and includes Vision and Mission Statement, summarised with graphic representation. Green Group proposed amendment to include all-encompassing theme of environmental sustainability, which was rejected.
 - Environment Task Group: Cross party group of Councillors now formed and agreed programme of meetings to address Climate Emergency.
 - Housing: MSDC delivering two completely affordable housing developments on middle school sites in Needham Market and Stowmarket to include homes for affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership.
 - Neighbourhood Plans: Thurston completed Neighbourhood Plan, now adopted by MSDC and forms part of statutory planning policy. Haughley's Neighbourhood Plan also adopted by MSDC.
 - West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP): Statutory body of organisations working together to reduce crime and disorder. Members of group include representatives from District Councils, County Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service and Clinical Commissioning. Priorities are Hate Crime, County Lines, Domestic Abuse and Homicide. Work of WSCSP to be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November.
 - SUFFOLK HOW ARE YOU: County Wide Campaign to help people eat healthily and move more. For more information visit www.suffolhowareyou.co.uk.
 - Council Tax: Proposed to be held at 2% for 2020/21.
 - Stowmarket Innovation Hub (Gateway 14): Launch aims to make Stowmarket most innovative technologically advanced town in UK. Funded by BMSDC through NewAnglia (also relies on 50% EU funding). Estimated 35,000 new jobs in IT sector.
 - 5.3. Suffolk Police (via Parish Clerk): One burglary on Grange Road during September reported on Website. No upcoming events publicised. Partner Funded PCSOs continue to be encouraged.
 - 5.4. Parish Clerk: Damaged National Speed Limit Sign on Wickham Road (Finningham) reported, Ref 00258269. Report also requested for Speed Indicator Post to be checked for correct distance as SID obscured by sign when in use. All other items raised within Agenda.
 - 5.5. Parish Councillors: No matters raised.
 - 5.5.1. Community Speed Watch: Cllr Knights advised that SID Instruction Manual, spare battery and CD now in his possession and volunteer-based Rota to be circulated. SID brightness now increased to 100%, with possible consideration to be given to a hood, should this not increase brightness.
 - 5.5.2. GDPR: No update to report.
 - 5.5.3. Community Emergency Plan: No update to report.
 - 5.5.4. Defibrillator: No update to report.

6. Correspondence Received:
- Meeting Times: Village Hall Bookings asked for consideration to be given to starting Parish Council Meetings at 8.15 pm on certain Mondays to allow for additional Village Hall booking. It was agreed to uphold Parish Council's Standing Orders and continue to start all meetings at 8.00 pm.
 - Tree for Life: BMSDC promoting scheme offering parents free tree to mark arrival of newborn or newly adopted child. Visit www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/tree-for-life for more information.
- All other correspondence which has not been circulated via email included within Agenda or in Circulation File.
7. Finance
- 7.1. Accounts as at 31.10.19 presented by Cllr Kemp (Treasurer), showing balance of £6,580.14.
- 7.2. 2020/21 Budget: Cllr Kemp presented draft budget for 2020/21.
- 7.3. Parish Precept: In view of new role of Parish Clerk/RFO, Cllr Kemp proposed 2020/21 Parish Precept of £3,500, an increase of £500 (16%) – to be finally agreed at January 2020 meeting.
- 7.4. The following invoices were agreement for payment:
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| Village Hall Hire (Jul + 2 x Sep) | £36.00 |
| MSDC - Litter/Dog Bin Emptying (additional charge due to clerical error) | £18.00 |
| Parish Clerk Expenses | £81.31 |
- 7.5. Care Group: Requested release of £150 from their fund for donation to Food Bank. Formal agreement given by all Councillors.
- 7.6. Gift Voucher: All Councillors in agreement for Cllr Kemp to personally purchase and be reimbursed in lieu of Village Green Maintenance.
- 7.7. Bank Mandate: Preparations for update to commence with new role of Parish Clerk/RFO.
- 7.8. Workplace Pensions: Re-enrolment due in 2020 - reminder to update with new role of Parish Clerk/RFO.
8. Planning Matters:
- 8.1. DC/19/04251 – Knoll Farm, Daisy Green Lane: MSDC have granted permission for conversion of existing barn and stable block to form residential dwelling.
- 8.2. DC/19/04338 – 1 Grange Road: MSDC have granted permission for outline planning – erection of 2 detached dwellings with garages.
- 8.3. DC/19/04388 – Land adjacent to Bumbledown, Grange Road: MSDC have granted permission for outline planning – erection of 2 detached dwellings.
- 8.4. DC/19/04958 (formerly DC/19/02223) - Land south of The Grange, Grange Road: Full planning application received for 2 detached dwellings with garages and construction of new access. Councillors raised no objections to proposed development, however, distance of development from existing watercourse questioned.
- 8.5. Cllr Blair raised possible allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in view of new developments within village. Parish Clerk to contact Infrastructure Team.
- 8.6. Occold Parish Council holding Planning Training Q&A Session on 25.11.19, inviting Parish Councils to attend/share costs.
9. Village Green:
- 9.1. Working Parties: Cllr Knights to circulate dates for working parties following wind damage to Willows on Village Green.
- 9.2. Grimmer Fishing: Cllr Knights advised of undetermined findings on legal position. Village resident in support of fishing keen to work with Parish Council to retain.
10. Parish Clerk/RFO Vacancy: Contract of Employment agreed with H Roberts (who was in attendance and introduced), with start date of 1 December 2019.
11. Matters for next Agenda and Any Other Business: Parish Precept, 2020/21 Budget. The meeting concluded with a presentation to both Parish Clerk and Treasurer, thanking them for their contribution to the Parish Council during their time in office.
12. Next Meeting: 13 January 2020

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed:

Chair

Wickham Skeith Parish Council

Chair:	T Thorogood	01449 766757	Parish Councillors:	Kevin Knights	01449 767708
Vice Chair:	Harriet Bowes	01449 766708		Michael Blair	01449 766640
Treasurer:	Barry Kemp	01449 766813		Margarita Freeman	01449 767009
Parish Clerk:	Tara Goodacre	01449 768696		Richard Palmer	07376 142447

Date:

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