

Minutes of Parish Council and Annual Meeting on 17th May 2018

Meeting in Memorial Hall, on 17th May at 7.30

Attendees, Parish Councillors Malcolm Halliday, Shannon Craig, Rosemary Silver, Ted Gittins, Danny Rowe and Annette Williamott. Chris Turner(Clerk)

Member of the public and 3 Applicants for Parish Councillor

The three applicants gave a short presentation to the Councillors before leaving the meeting in order that the Councillors could discuss the appointment. A vote was taken, following the discussion, by the Councillors, clerk is to advise the successful candidate, Mrs Trish Rudd, and also the unsuccessful applicants of their decision. Mrs Rudd will be formally introduced at our next meeting.

Chairman for the Council was confirmed as Malcolm Halliday with Shannon Craig as vice chairman (elected at meeting in March), Changes in Councillors responsibilities, these are now: Finance Committee, Cllrs Williamott, Craig and Halliday, and RFO Clerk, Mem Hall Ctee Representative, Cllr Halliday, Playarea, Cllr Craig, Emergency Plan, Cllrs Williamott and Rowe, Footpaths, Cllr Silver, Allotments and Cemetery, Cllr Rowe, Planning, Cllrs Halliday and Gittins, Highways, Cllr Rudd (to be confirmed)

Apologies- County Councillor Mary Evans and Borough Councillor Peter Stevens.

County Councillors report; Mary had sent a written report that the clerk read out.

- New chief executive appointed at Suffolk CC., Matthew Hicks. Mary has been appointed his deputy. Potholes have been a major problem due to the long, cold and wet weather, which has meant not only poor roads but an inability to fix them. With the better weather SCC are trying to catch up using new techniques and equipment. The government have given £2.5M to go towards this, SCC have also borrowed £21m to surface dress 1000 miles of their 4000 mile road network. In education Suffolk has risen 59 places in national rankings for GCSE attainment in English and maths.87% of schools are now rated good or outstanding and childrens services were also rated good. Nicola Beech has been appointed Chief Executive of Suffolk CC and will take up her role later this year. A number of parents are not claiming free school meals to which their children are entitled. Not only do the families suffer but funding to the school is enhanced, which enables them to help with other costs.

Open Forum- The school sign in Nether Road is very rusty and needs replacing. Potholes have been reported, see County Councillors report above.

Meeting closed for Parish Council agenda.

1. Minutes of meeting of the 14th March 2018. These were accepted as a true record, proposed Cllr Craig, Seconded Cllr Williamott. All in favour.

2. Matters Arising- The key register for holders of keys to the Memorial Hall has still to be arranged. Heating to the ladies toilets in the Memorial hall still to be agreed. Our electrician has been in touch with his recommendation, Cllrs Halliday and Craig will discuss and re-contact Jerry Maynard. Deeds registration quote, for costs, received from Steed and Steed. We are to contact Holmes and Hills for a quote, both for the Memorial Hall and allotments.

3. Financial- i) Report for 2 months to 30th April agreed, Proposed Cllr Craig. Seconded Cllr Rowe. ii) Employee Remuneration- The local government rate for SCP 24 has increased marginally and it was agreed this should be the rate for the clerk. Letter received from our self-employed Street Cleaner with new rates which were agreed. No change to hall cleaning rates. iii) The Annual Return to 31st March 2018 needed to be signed. This has been completed and was presented to the Council, who were in agreement. Part 3 Section 1 was completed and signed. The charity accounts should be sent to the internal auditors. iv) Section 2 was then completed and approved by all, signed by RFO and chairman, M. Halliday. The Return will be lodged with the Internal Auditors at the beginning of June and should be with Ext. auditor by 11th June. v) We have received a number of requests for funding from charities which are to be referred to the finance committee. vi) A letter had been received from St. Marys church asking for financial assistance from the Council, for the Church Clock. Our budget for the year to 31st March 2019 had been set in Nov/Dec 2017, and had been very tight, as we have major expenditure to incur on the Memorial Hall. As such it was felt that we could make only a small donation equivalent to 10% of the cost. Clerk to advise Church Warden.

4. Memorial Hall update- Cllr Halliday gave an account of the recent meeting of the Management Hall Committee. Don Parker continues as chairman. He is arranging for the floor to be sanded. There are a number of jobs that need completing urgently, outside rendering needs repair/replacement and painting, mainly on the front gable end the guttering. Wooden barge boards are in need of repair where they are rotten. Around the main door needs attention as does the guttering. At the back /side of the Jubilee Room, where access is no longer used, the edge of the roof needs work as does the wall, drains, car park. We are obtaining quotes for the work and have seen a contractor in the week. We would like a few more able volunteers to join the committee hopefully hall users would be welcome. We have had a request for use of the hall at 7am, for a small group of people in an exercise class. This would be for 2 mornings a week. Our licence needs to be updated if this is to proceed, clerk has the relevant form. It was felt that a short trial/pilot should take place before proceeding with agreement.

5. Councillors Reports-None

6. Chairman's Report- This was given at the Annual Parish meeting a few weeks earlier, details on those minutes. There has been a request about a new gate for The Orchard. George Hardy is dealing with this.

7. Data Protection- We all need to be aware of the new legislation effective from 25th May. It seems likely that Parish Councils will not need to appoint a Data Protection Officer, this was passed in the House of Commons this week but needs to be ratified by the House of Lords. We are to retain the services of LCPAS this year as advisor even if the legislation changes, at this late hour. We have been told that we needed to appoint an officer, for the last 12 months, and now it appears this is unnecessary.

8. Correspondence- e mail from the police about being part of a group to receive Police Connect messages, confirmed we should be involved. Another e mail from Community First Responders, clerk to contact them for more information as to benefits.

9. AOB- Suggestion that a sign depicting an Orchard should be placed on the Nether Road street sign, to contact Isobel Clarke. The pond has a lot of floating scum, which seems to emanate from the bottom, to ask "Stour Valley" for help.

Next meeting Parish Council meeting on 11th July. Following meeting will be on 19th September not 12th.

C R Turner-Clerk