

Minutes of Parish Council on 11th March 2020

Attendees, Parish Councillors; M Halliday, A Williamott, S Craig, P Rudd.
District Councillors; Karen Richardson, Marion Rushbrook and Jim Meikle.
Chris Turner (Clerk) and 1 Parishioner.

Welcome from Chair, M. Halliday.

Apologies - County Councillor Mary Evans and Parish Councillors Ted Gittins, Danny Rowe, and Rosemary Silver (unwell)

Open Forum- An e mail had been received prior to the meeting from the parishioner who was present, this had been circulated amongst the Councillors and a discussion took place on the issues brought up. The first question concerned the rise in the precept partly caused by the need for funds for the new traffic initiative on lorries being banned for through traffic between Baythorn End to Long Melford. Details were posted in the parish magazine why the precept had risen sharply, and the Parish Council felt it appropriate to pay towards the traffic initiative as there were a number of people concerned in the village. Secondly the cost of new signs on the edge of the highway by Pentlow Bridge and Water Lane was in the opinion of the parishioner unnecessary. This has not yet been agreed and is currently on a “wish list” for the future. Thirdly a question on ongoing parking problems. This is covered in the District Councillors reports.

County Council and District Councillors reports.

Mary Evans was not present but had sent a report as follows:

The last stage of the women’s cycle tour will be from Haverhill to Felixstowe in Saturday 13 June. The start time has been switched recently from 2pm to 10am to ensure TV coverage. If it goes ahead, depending on Coronavirus, it is anticipated that the event will attract plenty of spectators as this will be the last major road race for women cyclists ahead of the Olympics so many of the sport’s stars will be taking part

The A1092 is due to be surfaced this summer to Cavendish from the Glemsford section.

County Wide – SCC is launching an appeal for more foster carers. We have 900 children in care – the majority are looked after by foster families but as people retire from fostering, we look for more to come forward.

Suffolk County Council is putting £9.8m into an invest to save scheme to convert all its 60,000 streetlights to dimmable LED. The electricity bill for the lights is currently £2.67m a year and set to rise year on year. This project will reduce the council’s carbon emissions, street lighting maintenance costs and light pollution.

Suffolk is moving to a Permit system for road closures which puts more controls, backed by penalties, on the utilities working on the road which should see road works completed quicker.

Obviously, we have had very weather and the roads have suffered – so today’s budget is good news. Please report all potholes and drainage problems!

DC Marion Rushbrook explained that the rise in Council Tax from West Suffolk will be very small this year approx. an extra 14p per month. The reason is that the joining of Forest Heath with St Edmundsbury meant that the rate across the two had to be level and as Forest Heath were paying at a much lower rate the former residents had a much larger rise than former St Edmundsbury Council Taxpayers.

DC Karen Richardson informed us that there were 18 trainees that had been employed by West Suffolk to carry out “Civil Parking Enforcement”. They will be working throughout West Suffolk ensuring parking regulations are adhered to and have powers to fine those not adhering to the rules. The fines will be retained by West Suffolk. She reported that the homeless people in West Suffolk has seen a reduction of 77% leaving eight people who in the main wish to remain homeless.

DC Jim Meikle stated that in his opinion the only way to stop the traffic problem in the village was to put double yellow lines, where the bottlenecks appear. Currently cars parking on the pavement can only be ticketed if they are causing an obstruction, that is, where people can no longer continue on the pavement and have to step into the road, and the gap must allow pushchairs etc to go through. He is aware that the bottle bank steps are in need of replacement and upgrading and is willing to help towards the costs from his locality budget. He has had no luck, currently, in obtaining a post office service within the village but this is ongoing.

Meeting closed for Parish Meeting.

1. Minutes of last meeting approved by all and signed off by “the Chair”
2. The clerk gave an update of the actions taken on outstanding matters that arose from the previous meeting. The drains in Melford Road appear to have been fixed. Other matters covered by the Chair in his report.
3. Financial Report- Report to 28th February accepted and agreed with payments made in the period. Agreed by all and signed off by the “chair” A few queries answered by RFO, clerk. The renewal of the Councils Insurance policy has been received. This was looked at, and agreed that it was in order, and can be renewed under the current terms for a 5-year set period as this is set at this year’s premium for that period.
A number of quotes had been received for the re-covering of the remainder of the car park at the Memorial Hall. Cllr Halliday has been liaising with a number of contractors, a couple who would just lay new tarmac on the current surface, the others would dig out the surface before re-laying. It was thought better if the second option was done as it would be more permanent and less likely to crack. When further quotes are received the finance committee would meet and agree the way forward. The cost is likely to be in the region of £22000, which will be funded by reserved funds/possible grant from Pamela Matthews Trust/Ambrose Memorial Hall fund.
4. Planning- Two planning applications numbers. DC/20/0210/TCA and DC/20/0252/TPO; both for trees. No objection made by the Parish Council. There was an appeal against a planning decision ref AP/20/0003/HAS Kiln Farmhouse, which was allowed, we had no objection.
5. Councillors Reports-Cllr Williamott had been tasked to source a new tree in the cemetery extension which is being paid for by a local parishioner. This will be a Sorbus/Mountain Ash at a cost of approx. £50. Councillor Rudd had met with, Councillor Gittins, a representative of Dedham Vale Project to discuss the possible “wildflower” area at the bottom of Peacocks

Close. They are willing to offer assistance and some voluntary help and advice. Agreed nothing was required at the moment until the autumn. The area around the small pond will need to be tidied and cut back.

6. Chair's report/update- Councillor Halliday started with the Memorial Hall, and was pleased to report that the porch roof had now been repaired and the final work had been carried out by Marjoram (Builders). The exterior of the porch now required re-painting and we have requested a quote for the work. The outside windows have now been cleaned and new locks have been provided for the doors under the stage A new larger broom for the hall had been needed and has been purchased. A quote received for the steps to the bottle bank costing £430, this was accepted and can now proceed. The issue with The Waver has reached an impasse and will be referred to Suffolk County Council.

7. Policies of Council- The Council reaffirmed the appointment of SAL as our internal auditor. They also confirmed the continued appointment of the clerk as the RFO (Responsible Financial Officer).

8. End of financial year requirements- We went through the Asset Register for 2019/20, we will continue to use the insurance valuation for 2017/18 and add any additional assets purchased in the year. The cost of the new speed sign purchased has been added. All in agreement, Register signed by Chairman and RFO-Clerk. (1) We also completed the Financial Risk Assessment which again was signed by the Chair and RFO. (2) Finally, we completed the Internal Control statement for 2019/20.

9. Correspondence/Other etc.- We have a number of old red chairs which are used annually for the Community Council fete. These are taking up room in storage in both the store cupboard and on stage. It was agreed that if possible, these be handed over to CCC for them to keep and use. It was also confirmed that the request for the use of the village green by the CCC was acceptable. We have some old deeds at the home of the Parish Clerk which need to be registered with the Land Registry and we can use Steed and Steed Solicitors of Sudbury to do the necessary work. We have been advised that the Speedwatch team have continued with their success resulting in Cavendish being second in West Suffolk for speeding convictions. We received a number of further communications, from Parishioners, one asking why we had reinstated the access to The Greys, on the Village Green. This access had been granted many years ago and needed maintenance. As its part of the village green it is our responsibility, however we were able to recover 50% of the cost, from the house owner. This correspondent also mentioned a neighbour's CCTV which not only records his own property but neighbouring public space. It is believed this is not allowed under the Data Protection Act and can be reported to the Data Protection Office who could fine the guilty party. Another correspondent mentioned the flagpole from the Church and whether it could sit on the village green near the War Memorial. As a Council we did not consider this a good idea and politely refused the offer. Another question was about traffic issues in the village, which is the responsibility of the County Council, and partly is covered by comments above. Comment also from a further villager was about the trees overhanging the grass opposite Church Farm. This land and the trees are not owned by the Parish Council and is the responsibility of the landowner. Mention was made of the Coronavirus problem and people need to be aware of whether they can help with vulnerable people by running chores etc.

10. Finbow-Ambrose Trust - A request to release the remaining income received in 2019/20 was received from the Treasurer of the Sports Club as additional expenditure had been incurred this year for tree work required under the lease. Additionally, there is a need to re-roof the flat roof costing £2500. The remaining funds totalled £386.13 and this can be released, as agreed

by the Councillors present.

Next PC meeting on at 7.30 Memorial Hall on 6th May (NB Change of date) This will include the Councils Annual General Meeting. Annual Parish Meeting date 21st May 2019. (PLEASE NOTE THESE MEETINGS ARE LIKELY TO BE CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS, UPDATES WILL BE ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK IN ADDITION TO THE NOTICEBOARD)

C R Turner-Clerk

Payments made in period from 1/1/20 to 28/2/20

01/01/20	Chubb re Hall	d/d	19.74
02/01/20	D Kirkman Invs 8/9	810	178.60
08/01/20	Speedwatch re jackets	811	24.00
ditto	Marjoram re Hall repairs	812	588.00
13/01/20	W Suffolk DC re Waste hall	d/d	46.42
	ditto re allotments	d/d	23.21
19/01/20	Haven Power re hall	d/d	177.88
20/01/20	D Kirkman Invs 10/11	813	154.90
ditto	Chubb re callout	814	237.72
ditto	Stamps 100 x 2nd	815	61.00
ditto	C Turner Jan 2020	816	456.30
28/01/20	Chubb re hall	d/d	19.74
01/02/20	J Murcott Hall Cleaning 1/20	817	91.25
ditto	W Suffolk DC re Dinner	818	60.00
ditto	Marjoram re Hall repairs	819	4841.16
ditto	D Kirkman Inv 12/13	820	202.29
20/02/20	Haven Power re hall-actual	d/d	714.60
ditto	D Kirkman Inv 14-16	821	362.64
ditto	C Turner Feb 2020	822	456.50
ditto	Microsoft Office Ann fee	823	79.99
ditto	P Crawford Ltd re Green access	824	1361.40
27/01/20	Chubb re hall	d/d	19.74
29/01/20	J Murcott Hall Cleaning 2/20	825	100.08
ditto	P Crawford Ltd re Car Park	826	210.00
	B Pettit re Hall windows	827	60.00