

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

1. PRESENT- Mr P Mortimer, Chairman, Mr R. Williams, Mr G. McEvoy, Mr P. Schwier, Mrs S .Hatchman,

District Councillor Marilyn Curran and PCSO Steve Long

2 members of the public

2., APOLOGIES – Ms S. Harris, Mrs B. Vidion, Mr T. Godbold

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS –None

4. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were approved and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a. Steve Jordan has promised to adjust the playground gates this week.

b. The stile on Christmas Lane has now been removed much to our surprise as we had had no further word from the footpath dept. Councillors felt that although better in some ways there should be some barrier, perhaps a sliding bar, to stop children running onto the road.

The Clerk will contact the footpath dept to see what can be done. The land owner has been traced to the Old Vicarage and is not too happy.

c. The headstone for Albert Barley has now been agreed. It will now have no picture or words on the back of the stone. It will be installed soon and the Clerk has asked for the grave to be filled in level with the surrounding grass.

d. The Clerk and Chairman attended the meeting about flooding on the B - road by Church Farm. A follow up meeting is to be held Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan when costs and an action plan will be put forward.

## 6. REPORTS

### PCSO STEVE LONG

Fressingfield ward is in the top 10 for the safest place to live. There is a meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> at Eye Community Centre at 7.30 pm, to decide the Tasking Issues for the next 3 months. Anyone is welcome to attend.

In answer to a question from the Chairman about a call asking for money for advertising on a flyer, PCSO long said that cold calling scams were often made. This one to raise money for a police charity may be genuine but may not, as no contact name or number was given. He will ask if any such scheme exists.

Asked about fuel theft PCSO Long said being vigilant is the best deterrent all the year round and to be aware of strange pick up trucks or transit like vans in the area.

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MARILYN CURRAN

Mrs Curran said that the Council office in Eye is closing but that there may be clinics set up in libraries.

There will be an 18.5% reduction in grant aid from the government to Mid Suffolk. The council will try not to implement any redundancies but they are not filling any vacancies.

There will be a joint Benefit Service between Mid Suffolk, Babergh and Ipswich which will start soon.

The full merger with Babergh is now due in 2013 with a referendum to be held in May. The savings potential after merger is good.

Mrs Curran reported the planning application for the Duke William is to go to the committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> January. The Chairman might attend.

There has been no news on the Guildhall Cottage site

(The meeting was closed for Open Forum)

In response to a request for ideas for uses of the telephone box, Ray put forward the idea of having a Defibrillator based there. As a 'First Responder' he has had training and said the device was easy to use as instructions were given. He said that the device could be locked into the box and a code only given when 999 was called in the case of a heart attack.

The cost is over £1000 and £250 for the box to house it.

The Parish Council thanked him for his idea which was felt to be worth looking into. Fund raising for this could be community led. The Annual Parish meeting might be the place to discuss it.

Connected to this idea it was suggested that a map of the village be displayed in the box with roads and house names on it. This would be useful in emergency but also for visitors.

(The meeting was re-opened)

## 7. FINANCE –

a. A cheque previously issued to Mr Joey Peck for grass cutting was formally approved. This was the last cut of 2010.

b. A cheque for £200 to Redenhall and Harleston Town Council was approved. Proposed Mr Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Hatchman.  
This is a donation to help keep the car parking free in Harleston.

c. The Clerk reported that Zurich Insurance are keen to quote for our insurance cover. They will ring back in April to compare their premium with that of our present insurers, Allianz.

## d. PRECEPT.

The Clerk told the meeting that if we met election costs out of our savings we could keep the precept at the same level as this year-£4750. At the worst case the election could cost us £696 and this can be easily covered by money in hand.

After a short discussion it was unanimously decided to keep the Precept at £4750. The Chairman, 2 councillors and the Clerk signed the form for return to Mid Suffolk.

## 8. PLANNING-

The Chairman read out a letter from Mrs Wareham concerning the application relating to the Duke William. A copy has been sent to Mid Suffolk so will be discussed at the Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> January

## 9. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

LAND REGISTRY – The Clerk now has all the forms and can proceed once all the documents have been gathered. The Deeds have to be retrieved from the solicitors in Diss. A letter will be sent giving authorisation for the Clerk to collect them.

The land to be registered is a, The Knoll (village green)  
b, playing field and playground  
c, cemetery and extension

The Clerk will try to establish ownership of the triangle by the church and get together all the information needed to fill out the forms.

SKATE PARK - The equipment has not yet been removed. It was agreed last year that it will be stored for 12 months.

After some discussion it was decided that it would be best to try and sell the items. Mr McEvoy agreed to put them on Ebay.

The Chairman asked councillors if we should enter the Village of the Year competition again this year. The feeling was we should.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk has received details of ‘The Great Poppy Party Weekend’ on 10/12<sup>th</sup> June.

Metfield Parish Council

Other correspondence was passed around councillors.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011

The meeting closed at 8.40pm