

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th MARCH 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

1. PRESENT- Mr P Mortimer, Chairman, Mr R. Williams, Mr P. Schwier, Mrs S. Hatchman, Mr T. Godbold, Ms S. Harris, Mrs B. Vidion..

2. APOLOGIES – Mr G. Elliott, Mr G. McEvoy, PCSO Steve Long. District Councillor Mrs Curran will be late as she is attending another meeting.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Mr Mortimer –Finance, Mrs Silvester (Clerk) – Land Registry, Mrs Hatchman-Metfield Charities

4. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on 10th January 2011 were approved and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a. The planning application for the Duke William has been turned down by the planning committee. The Chairman attended the meeting and said that Mid Suffolk were still keen to have a pub in the village.

b. The playground gates have still not been adjusted. Mr Mortimer will speak to Mr Jordan again.

c. The clerk has still not received a reply about the footpath to Christmas Lane.

d. The Clerk and Chairman attended the meeting on the 19th January concerning the stream at Church Farm. It was agreed then to dredge the stream but as there are two landowners and one was not present, permission could be gained for the lower part of the stream. The Highways Dept will pursue this matter. The Chairman reported that half the stream has now been dredged.

e. The Skate board equipment has not yet been sold. Mr McEvoy will be asked to try Ebay again or Freecycle. If we don't sell it then we might have to break it up.

6. REPORTS

PCSO Steve Long sent a report by Email.

He reports that there have been no crimes this month. He had followed up the telephone scam reported at the last meeting. Police advice is to hang up

There will be demonstration of a bespoke security system for church roofs when the lead is replaced following theft. This will be at Wrentham Church on 7th April at 2pm.

There were no comments in Open Forum

7. FINANCE

The following payments were approved – proposed by Mr Williams, 2nd Mr Godbold

--£450 Clerks salary and expenses

-£100 Chairman's expenses to Mr Mortimer

It was agreed that Mr Peck be asked to continue cutting the grass at St John's Meadow but it was suggested that we increase payment to £35 per cut.

Mrs McEvoy will be asked to continue to cut the cemetery and Playground at £12 per hour.

Proposed by Mrs Hatchman. 2nd Mr Williams. This was agreed by councillors.

Mr Mortimer said that as celebrations were being planned for the Royal Wedding day perhaps the Parish Council could buy a mug for each child under 16.

After a short discussion during which a commemorative coin was suggested, it was decided that the council will do nothing at the present time.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MARILYN CURRAN joined the meeting and gave her report.

Mrs Curran said that an agent had approached Mid Suffolk council enquiring about the planning application for the Duke William. It is not known if this as regards to buying or selling.

A joint department for Benefits and Revenue has been set up between Babergh Ipswich and Mid Suffolk. This will have saving for all councils.

A Chief Executive has been appointed for Babergh and Mid Suffolk. However the name has not been released.

Following the announcement of the closure of several recycling centres in Suffolk mid Suffolk are challenging this and there will be meeting at Gislingham village hall on the 30th march at 7.30pm.

The Referendum for merger with Babergh will go ahead but not on May 5th. It will take place over a 4 week period. 50% have to be in favour for full merger to take place.

There will be Golden Age Fair on the 1st April at Woolpit in conjunction with the Coffee Caravan.

8. PLANNING

a. Removal of Yew tree at Metfield Chapel.

Councillors were divided as to whether this tree should be felled. It was decided to abide with the decision by the Council tree specialist, David Mitchell.

b. Removal of Sycamore trees at Oak house Metfield.

Councillors agreed that these should be removed as they are too near telephone box and have grown into the telephone wires.

9. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES TO METFIELD UNITED CHARITIES

Mrs Hatchman and Mrs Lee have served three years as Council representatives and it was agreed that they be appointed for a further term.

10. ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

The parish Council thought the idea of a Street Party was a good one. The Chairman will chair the committee. Mr Williams and Mr McEvoy will also attend. The first meeting of the Committee will be tomorrow night. The party will be on Friday 29th April 9am till 4pm.

The Clerk has contacted our insurance company and has been told that as the party will be Parish Council led the insurance cover will be under our existing policy, providing certain conditions are met including a Risk Assessment. Details will be passed to the committee.

The Clerk will send the forms to Mid Suffolk requesting a Road Closure order.

11. LAND REGISTRY

The Chairman said that as this matter was of general village interest the discussion would be open.

The Clerk reported that the registering of St John's Meadow and the Cemetery should be straight forward and it was agreed to go ahead with this. The Clerk will contact the Land Registry to ask if any extra fee will be payable.

As regards to the Village Green there are several problems.

- a. Firstly rights of way to the properties surrounding the green should be recorded.
- b. The gravel area is not owned by Council, householders or Highways Dept. The Clerk pointed out that if it was adopted by the council then the upkeep could be costly as it is used frequently by lorries, buses and cars and potholes form.

c. The Green is registered as a Village Green but this has no legal standing as to proof of ownership.

d. The green has been used for hundreds of years as village land with access to the houses over it and no problems have been encountered so far. Do we need to do anything now?

It was suggested that perhaps the way forward would be for the 3 householders to have a meeting and decide what they would like to happen and then report back to the Parish Council. Proposed by Mr Williams, 2nd Mrs Hatchman.

12. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

a. Land by Oak Farm driveway. – The Chairman reported that the owner has been burning rubbish brought in from Pulham St Mary. The owner also intends to fell the trees and replant with native trees.

The Chairman has investigated this matter and hopes the burning will now stop. The owner has a licence to fell the trees. However the legality of a new entrance will be monitored.

b. Village of the Year Competition – Forms will be sent out soon. It was felt that we should enter the competition again. The Clerk asked for any photographs of local events be taken and given to her for inclusion in our entry.

c. The street light at Field Close is out of order again. The Clerk will report this.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – This was circulated among Councillors.

RoSPA Inspection – The Clerk will request this again this year including a Risk Assessment.

Village Review – Suffolk Acre will help the village conduct this if requested. The cost is £534+ vat. This will be put to villages at the Annual Parish Meeting to see if this is wanted.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Monday 18th April – Annual Parish Meeting. Including the Young People’s Forum before the main meeting.

Monday 17th May AGM

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD MAY 2011 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT – Mr P. Mortimer, Mr B. Williams, Mr P. Schwier, Mr G. McEvoy, Ms S. Harris, Mrs S. Hatchman, Mrs B. Vidion

KETTLES FARM, METFIELD – Erection of 2 storey extension.

Mr Goldbold explained the plans to the councillors.

The Councillors then discussed the plans and gave their approval.