

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

1. PRESENT- Mr P Mortimer, Chairman, Mrs S. Hatchman, Mrs B. Vidion, Mr G. Elliott, Mr P. Schwier Mr T. Godbold, Mr B. Williams.

District Councillor Marilyn Curran and 1 member of the public

2. APOLOGIES – Ms S. Harris, Mr G. McEvoy. PCSO S. Long

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

4. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 were approved and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Street Lights – There has been no progress on the transfer to the SCC Scheme. The clerk will pursue this.

Footpath – This has now resurfaced with tarmac. Thanks were given to Tessa Harding who had arranged with the footpath dept for this to coincide with the resurfacing of her drive.

Duke William – There has been no news on this.

Beacon – The Chairman has spoken to the new owners of Captains Farm. They are happy for the Beacon to remain on their land and for it to be lit on the Jubilee weekend.

6. REPORTS

PCSO Steve Long (by email)

There has been one crime. A car had the tyres slashed. The investigation is still going on for this.

## DISTRCT COUNCILLOR MARILYN CURRAN

The Boundary changes do not affect Mid Suffolk greatly. The exception being 3 parishes which it is proposed will be transferred to Thetford Ward from Bury St Edmunds. This proposal is being looked into.

Budget – There were a few replies to the questionnaire asking for suggestions as to how the council could best manage a reduced budget. All ideas will be considered.

Interviews are being held for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier management posts.

Broadband – There has been more grant funding made available in rural areas to improve the broadband speeds.

There are still no details of how the relaxation of the planning laws will affect our area.

Mrs Curran made the meeting aware of a postal scam where a non-delivery notice is left for householders. They are then told to ring a premium number which could result in very high charges. The Crime Stoppers website gives details of who to report this to if you are affected.

## 7. PHONE BOX MAPS

Councillors looked at the maps produced by Peter cook and Andrew Smithers showing the footpaths around Metfield. The footpaths are now coloured red and show up well. The councillors felt that the smaller map was clearer.

Mr Silvester is working on a street map for the village showing street names and places of interest. This will go alongside the other map. Gordon Lee has made the board and can finish this when the maps are complete.

There were no comments in Open Forum.

## 9. FINANCE

The following payments were approved. Proposed Mr Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Schwier.

£70 – Joey Peck for grass cutting

£20 – Lotteries Licence

£120 – Mrs McEvoy for grass cutting and maintenance

£200 – Harleston Town Council –donation towards upkeep of car-parks.

Budget – The Clerk introduced the budget document and the main items of expenditure and donations for the next year. She suggested that total should be within the precept we had in the current year so there need not be an increase.

One suggestion made was that we make a donation to Harleston Information Plus rather than the CAB in Diss. This was felt to be a good idea.

The Chairman said that as we had not reviewed the contracts for maintaining the cemetery and children’s playground for at least 2 years perhaps we should ask for tenders for the year 2012/13. This was agreed. The clerk will put an advert in 5Alive and on the notice boards.

The budget can then be decided at the next meeting in January.

## 10. PLANNING

Pear tree Cottage – The application for retention of garden land has been granted.

## 11. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Mrs Curran was asked what the situation was regarding the land on Withersdale Road where trees are being felled and other items stored. Mrs Curran said she had not yet heard the outcome from the enforcement dept. but would find out.

The Clerk said that booklets written by Victor Peskett and Evelyn Whiting had now been printed and were on sale in aid of church funds.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE – Most was circulated among Councillors.

Polling Places – The venue for Metfield is unchanged.

The Clerk has received more information on lighting a beacon for the Diamond jubilee. We can register this nearer the time.

There was an advert for a company which carries out safety inspections for playgrounds. This will be kept on file and looked at next year when the inspections are due.

Grit Bins – The council will top these up but it is hoped that villagers will spread the grit when necessary.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012

The meeting closed at 8.15pm