

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th JULY 2012 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

District Councillor Marilyn Curran

2. APOLOGIES –Mr G. McEvoy, PCSO Steve Long

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

4. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were approved and signed.

5. There were no MATTERS ARISING

6. REPORTS

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MARILYN CURRAN

Mrs Curran said that all the tier 4 appointments for the district council had now been made.

The Strategic Focus report has found that Fressingfield Ward has an aging population and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most deprived ward in Mid Suffolk with the most households in fuel poverty. This could be as there is no gas here and a high proportion of old properties.

The Health and Wellbeing Board are trying to link agencies to give a more co-ordinated approach to care.

The Information Bus is to visit Council tenants and to visit Metfield tomorrow.

In answer to questions, Mrs Curran said that no real progress had been made as regards to the pub but the council were now looking into dual use but keeping part as a public house. There is no news about the house at Guildhall Cottage.

Mrs Curran will ask the housing department why Mr Buggs' wall has not been finished.

PCSO STEVE LONG (by email)

There were no reported crimes in Metfield since the last meeting. However a number of outbuildings have been broken into in the area many of which have not been locked. Please remind friends and relatives that opportunists are about.

People in Suffolk can find out how crimes have been dealt with on the website- Police.uk. This gives 'justice outcomes' as well as crime data.

The website- [www.onlinefive.co.uk](http://www.onlinefive.co.uk)- is an online forum where PCSO Long occasionally posts up to date information under 'constable's corner'.

There will be a Safer Neighbourhood Team Forum meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at the Old School at Horham at 7.30pm

There were no comments in Open Forum

7. FINANCE

a. The council has a total of £4870.18 with £3775.53 in the current account.

The following payments were approved. Proposed – Mr Elliott, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Williams.  
£105- Mr H. W. Peck (issued June 11<sup>th</sup>)  
£144 – Terry Scholey –maintenance  
£144 – Terry Horton -Maintenance  
£144 – BDO -Audit Fee

b. Approval of Audit Document

The Council's Annual Return has been audited and the document returned. This was noted and approved by the Council. Proposed Mrs Vidion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Williams.

8. ADOPTION OF THE NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clerk told Councillors that a new Suffolk Code of Conduct has been produced and is presented to the Council for adoption. The Parish Council can amend this but it is not recommended.

As a result of the new code Councillors are required to fill in a new Register of Interests. This now includes some information of Spouses or partners with whom they live.

There was much discussion over this point as some councillors felt that this information had no relevance to their position as Parish Councillor and was an invasion of privacy especially as the Parish Council has to publish these forms on the District Council's website

The Clerk and district Councillor said that it was a Legal Requirement to give the information. The form must be filled in within 28 days. It is a Criminal offence to not declare a pecuniary or non-pecuniary local interest at meetings where relevant.

Parish Councils can now give dispensation to a councillor to take part in discussions if the dispensation is discussed at the beginning of the meeting after Declarations of Interests are given.

Somewhat reluctantly it was agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct. Proposed Mr Schwier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Elliott. There was one abstention.

9. PLANNING

The Clerk reported that the application for the Nut Tree Farm Holiday Let has been granted.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

The Chairman said that a mobile home had been sited at Hattens Farm. It was not known if it was occupied.

11. CORRESPONDENCE – This was circulated among Councillors.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012

The meeting closed at 8.20pm