

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

8 members of the public and District Councillor Marilyn Curran and PC Jacqui Thomas

2. APOLOGIES – Mrs S. Hatchman

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

4. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 9th July 2012 were approved and signed.

5. There were no MATTERS ARISING

6. PLANNING

a. APPLICATION NO.2404/12. CHANGE OF USE OF PART OF RESTAURANT AND ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION TO 5 HOLIDAY LETS.

The Chairman closed the meeting for comments from the public.

Mr Twiss said that although he had no objection to forming 4 holiday lets from the restaurant he felt that 5 were too many. He also said that the real concern was that if a retail unit was opened it would be in competition with the shop and could make the community shop liable for Business rates.

Mr Duggan said that as the entrances were from the outside comings and goings could disturb neighbours. He also felt that the Café area was too small to be viable and that a pub needs to serve food nowadays to make money.

Mr Williams said that there was no need for any more Holiday Lets in this area but a pub/bar was needed.

Mr Schwier was against the proposed extension and concerned that there was no guarantee that the Bar would open.

The Chairman then reopened the meeting and asked Parish Councillors for their views.

All Councillors were against the proposal and agreed with the comments in open forum in that

a. no more holiday lets were needed, (one recently gained permission and chalets are agreed for Grove Farm)

b. As there was bad feeling in the village over the closure of the pub this venture may not be successful.

c. The Café/shop would be in competition with the Community Shop and would be of no benefit to the village.

d. The proposed café/restaurant area was too small to be viable.

After more discussion a vote was taken and all councillors voted to **reject** the application for the following reasons.

1. The proposed café/restaurant area is too small to be viable. There is no guarantee that a licensed bar will open. The Parish Council would like to see this in the first stage of the development.
2. The development of retail space could affect the existing shop and possibly make it liable for business rates affecting trading margins.
3. The extension at the rear with the associated entrances, will affect the privacy of the neighbouring houses. - H16
4. There is no proven need for more holiday lets. Permission exists for Holiday Chalets at Grove Farm, Linstead (granted by Suffolk Coastal) and there are

several more 'holiday lets' in the village and its surrounds.

5. The proposed holiday units are very small and not self contained (i.e. no cooking facilities)

The Clerk will email these comments to Mid Suffolk tomorrow.

b. APPLICATION NO. 0027/12. CONTINUED USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR KEEPING HORSES, RETENTION OF POLYTUNNEL, CONSTRUCTION OF HARDSTANDING AND ECECTION OF STABLES/STORE BUILDING.

Again the Chairman closed the meeting for comments from the public.

There was much discussion and all agreed that the character of the land was changed and would be more 'urban' if a hard standing and stables were allowed. To be constructed. There was also worry that the ground would be compacted causing 'run off' and could cause nitrogen pollution. It was felt that the area fenced off for vegetables and stabling was too large.

The Chairman then reopened the meeting for discussion amongst Parish Councillors.

It was decided to OBJECT to the application for the reasons:-

1. The whole development with associated lighting, fences, polytunnel and hard standing will change the character of the former agricultural field giving a 'domestic' feel.
2. There is concern over compacting of the ground and the danger of 'run off' onto the road including nitrogen pollution.
3. The proposed stables/store is too large.
4. The hard standing is proposed to cover too large an area.

The Clerk will submit these comments to Mid Suffolk.

c. A tree in the Churchyard on the boundary with Church Cottage needs reducing. David Mitchell of the planning office has been consulted. Councillors have no objections to this work.

d. ELECTRICITY SUB STATION AND WAYLEAVE FOR CABLES.

Eastern Power Networks Uk has approached the Parish Council with a view to getting a Deed of Grant for the cables beneath part of St John's Meadow and for the Right of Way over land to the doors of the substation. The substation will be brought into use soon and Power Networks require the Deed to be in place. Steeles Law will be acting for the Parish Council and the cost will be met by Eastern Power networks.

The Chairman asked Councillors for the Authority to go ahead with this. This was agreed.

7. REPORTS

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MARILYN CURRAN

Mrs Curran said that Broome recycling centre had now reopened. The cost will be £5 per car for non-recyclable rubbish but that recyclable rubbish will be free. It will be closed on Wednesdays.

On October 4th there will be an event at Wingfield Barns as part of the Community Engagement process. The times will be 2-5pm and 6-9 pm.

There is an online questionnaire about Council tax and benefits.

The owner of the new house at Guildhall Cottage is now in pre-application discussions. So it is hoped there will be progress soon.

PC JACQUI THOMAS

There have been no crimes reported in Metfield since the last meeting. (a total of 4 so far in 2012)

A prolific burglar who has targeted property in the area has been sentenced to 33 months in prison.

The police are warning businesses of a scam asking for Donations towards a Book of Remembrance for the police Federation. The police do not have a book of this kind so be aware of this.
Station will be moving to Castleton Way hospital site soon to the building known as The Lodge.

8. FINANCE

The following payments were approved. Proposed Mr Elliott, 2nd Mr McEvoy.

£105 - Joey Peck- grass cutting
£300 – Terry Scholey -maintenance
£300 – Terry Horton – maintenance
£320 - Lesley Silvester –Clerks Salary
£80- HMRC – PAYE

STREET LIGHTS – The clerk has been in touch with Suffolk County Council and has been assured that the work will be completed by the end of September. We will also be billed for maintenance and electricity at that time too.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY COUCILLORS

Mr Williams said that the notice asking for dogs to be kept out of the Children’s playground is no longer there. The Clerk said she would get it replaced.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – This was circulated among Councillors.

There will be a Harvest Lunch on 7th October. This is joint event between the Allotment Assoc and the Church.

The dates of meetings in 2013 were provisionally set at

7th January
4th March
8th April – Annual Parish Meeting
13th May- AGM
8th July
16th September
11th November

The meeting closed 9pm
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2012 AT 7PM IN
THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT – Mr P. Mortimer, Chairman. Mr P. Schwier, Mr R. Williams, Mr T. Godbold, Mrs S. Hatchman,
Mr G. Elliott.

Mr and Mrs Hood.

APOLOGIES – Mrs B. Vidion, Mr G. McEvoy.

APPLICATION NO. 2885/12 – THE PERCH, FRESSINGFIELD ROAD. – Erection of a single storey replacement dwelling.

The Chairman asked Mr and Mrs Hood to introduce the application.

Mr Hood said that they hoped to replace the existing run down bungalow with another single storey building which it was hoped would fit in with the neighbouring bungalows.

He said that the footprint would be of the same size but set a metre nearer the road. A double garage would be accessed from the shared drive to the side of the property.

Councillors then looked at the plans and agreed that the proposed bungalow would enhance the site. Provided the materials matched those used in the neighbouring properties then councillors approved the proposal.

Mr Williams proposed the council approve the application. Mr Elliott 2nd.

Councillors all agreed to approve the application.

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.15PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT – Mr P. Mortimer, Chairman. Mr R. Williams, Mr P. Schwier, Mrs B. Vidion, Mrs S. Hatchman.

7 members of the public

APOLOGIES – Ms S. Harris, Mr G. McEvoy, Mr T. Godbold. Mr G. Elliott.

The Chairman closed the meeting for

1. APPLICATION NO. 2707/12 – Land to the rear of Guildhall Cottage Metfield – Retention and completion of one and a half storey detached house (revised scheme)

The Chairman introduced the application and some background information. He then closed the meeting for

OPEN FORUM

Mrs Wareham asked if the house as built was the right height and in the correct place.

The Chairman said that as this has not been queried by the planners and by councillors looking at the plans we have to assume it is ok.

Miss Harvey commented that all neighbouring buildings had wooden windows and were required to do so as it was a conservation area, then the owner should be forced to comply with the original plans.

Mrs Austin agreed that wooden windows should be installed and that the house should be rendered with black barge boards and fascias. This was important so as to be in keeping with other buildings nearby. She was anxious that the house should be finished and the site tidy but with traditional materials.

The Chairman then reopened the meeting.

The Parish Councillors were all in agreement that we need the house finished but that the owner should be made to comply with the original permission for wooden windows and rendered walls and black barge boards, fascias and guttering. Other home owners in the Conservation area have to comply with the regulations and are happy to do so to keep the character.

Although the footprint has been slightly changed and different tiles used on the roof, Councillors felt these points were acceptable.

It was agreed to Object to the application. This was proposed by Mrs Hatchman. 2nd Mr Schwier.

The comments to Mid Suffolk will be

1. The walls be rendered over a black painted plinth.
2. The windows be of painted wood.
3. Barge boards, fascia boards and guttering should be black.

We will add a comment that the dispute with the village hall over the joint boundary should be looked into before a decision made.

The Clerk will send these comments to Mid Suffolk

2. APPLICATION NO. 2666/12- Land adjacent to Corner Cottage, Fressingfield, - Erection of single storey dwelling and detached garage.

The Chairman told the meeting that this application had been amended and resubmitted. Councillors looked at the amended plans for this bungalow.

The bungalow has been slightly re-sited and the garage is now a carport and positioned on the boundary with the Field Close bungalows so that it no longer obstructs the public footpath. He said that the access was acceptable to planners as it was an existing gateway even though unused for many years.

After a short discussion it was decided to support the application but comment that the roof of the carport appeared to be too high especially as it was near the other bungalows.

The Clerk will send this to Mid Suffolk.