

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup>  
JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

District Councillor Marilyn Curran, PCSO Steve Long

2 .APOLOGIES – Mrs B. Vidion, Mr G. McEvoy, Mrs S. Glaysher. Mr T. Godbold.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

4. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November were approved and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING – It was noted that after her marriage Ms Sue Harris is now Mrs S. Glaysher.

6. REPORTS

DISTRCT COUNCILLOR MARILYN CURRAN

Mrs Curran said that after the appointment of the Police Commissioner, she was now deputy Leader of the Council and the previous deputy is now Leader of the Council. Unfortunately due to the death of his wife The Leader is on leave and Mrs Curran is acting leader for the time being.

The restructuring is continuing with the appointments of the Operational Delivery Teams. This will result in fewer jobs at this level but hopefully more focussed on need.

In answer to a request for help from the clerk to get the light at Field Close mended, Mrs Curran said she would follow this up.

PSO STEVE LONG

There were no reported crimes in Metfield and the figures were down in the area. However there have been incidents of cars being broken into (some unlocked) and also Diesel being stolen from HGV's.

Eye Police Station is now at The Lodge near the hospital.

Tim Passmore is now the elected Police Commissioner for Suffolk.

Mr Schwier told PCSO that he had seen men and lurcher dogs on the airfield and wondered if this was connected with hare coursing. Steve said if possible take registration numbers of vehicles and report them to the police as soon as possible.

There were no comments in Open Forum.

## 7. FINANCE

a. The following payments were approved. – Proposed Mr R. Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr G. McEvoy

£35 – Joey Peck – grass cutting

£200 – Donation to Harleston Town Council towards the free car parking.

£100 - Waveney Community Bus re-issue of donation

## b. BUDGET and PRECEPT

Councillors again looked at the Budget document. The Clerk had made some adjustments to allow for the cost of the Street light maintenance and electricity and the increased cost of grass cutting at the cemetery, playground and meadow. As the council is expecting a large bill for the updating of the street lights Councillors thought it was prudent to raise the precept this year.

Mr Elliott therefore proposed that the precept be raised to £5250. This was seconded by Mrs Hatchman. All Councillors were agreed on this.

The Chairman, Clerk and 2 Councillors signed the form.

## CEMETERY

It was agreed to keep the charges at the same level for the next year. However it was suggested we clarify the rules regarding former residents wanting to be buried at the cemetery.

The rules will now state that if a resident has moved away for 2 years then the fee will be the same as a non-resident. i.e. double the listed fee.

## 8. PLANNING

The Clerk reported that permission has been refused for a bungalow behind Field Close.

The application relating to the new house at Guildhall Cottage has been withdrawn as the site is being sold. The new owner may have to reapply for the changes required by the planners.

The Clerk said that the Deed of Grant for the electric cables under St John's Meadow still has not been finalised as UK Power Networks have yet to settle the costs.

## 9. TREE ON VILLAGE GREEN.

The Chairman told the meeting that Peter Cook was unable to attend the meeting but had sent an email to the clerk advising that the tree should stay. Peter Cook had consulted with David Mitchell who now thinks that it would be best to leave the Horse chestnut tree and see how it grows next year. If it becomes too diseased or unstable then it can be removed and a replacement chosen and planted.

Councillors agreed that this was the best course of action.

## 10. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

The drain by the village hall has been reported to Highways –Ref no 2923780

Mr Schwier said that some 4x4 vehicles accessing the field down Mill Lane. The field is now no longer rented out so this should not happen again.

He also asked if a 'No Through Road' sign could be placed at the junction of Metfield Road and the road to Docking Hall.

The Clerk was asked to contact Highways requesting this.

11. CORRESPONDENCE – Most was circulated among Councillors.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>  
JANUARY 2013 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

1. PRESENT – Mr R. Williams, acting Chairman, Mr P. Schwier, Mrs S. Hatchman, Mrs S. Glaysher, Mrs B. Vidion, Mr G. McEvoy.

Mr and Mrs Martin

2. APOLOGIES – Mr P. Mortimer.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS -None

4. FINANCE

A cheque for £439.62 to Suffolk County Council for electricity and Maintenance of the street lights was approved and signed. Proposed - Mr Schwier. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Williams

5. PLANNING

Application nos. 3841/12 and 3842/12 ROOKERY FARM. CHANGE OF USE AND WORKS TO CONVERT A BRICK AND RENDER STOCK BARN INTO A 2 BEDROOM DWELLING WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING

Mr Martin told the meeting that the barn is now unused and in disrepair. The intention is to make the dwelling separate from the main house with its own entrance from the drive. It is hoped a family member will live there. Mr Martin said that all the relevant studies had been completed. (Bat survey etc)

Councillors looked at the plans and noted that the finished conversion will feature weather boarding to resemble the original and the windows also will match the existing.

In answer to a question Mr Martin said that the public footpath is unaffected as this is the other side of the hedge. The hedge will stay.

Mr Schwier proposed that the council approve the application as without conversion the building will deteriorate. Mr McEvoy seconded the proposal. Councillors were all in favour.

The Clerk was asked to make our comments to Mid Suffolk saying this and noting that the conversion will keep the weather boarding and render.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT – Mr P. Mortimer, Chairman, Mr T. Godbold, Mr R. Williams, Mr G. McEvoy, Mrs S. Glaysher, Mrs B. Vidion, Mr G. Elliott.

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES – Mr P. Schwier, Mrs S. Hatchman.

1. APPLICATION 0148/13 – Erection of garage/playroom/carport to replace partly demolished outbuildings.

The Chairman invited Mr Edwards to talk about the application and show councillors the plans. He said that the building would have a low brick wall with weatherboarding above and a red pantile roof. The new building would be on the site of the old outbuildings and would not alter the drive.

Councillors looked at the plans and were in favour of the development.

The application was approved unanimously.

2. FINANCE

The Clerk told the meeting that Mid Suffolk had sent information regarding the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

This has resulted in Each Parish being awarded a grant to be given alongside the Precept. The difficulty is that it is not known if the grant will be available for the next financial year or if there will be any capping on Precept levels.

All this gives us 3 options in the calculations for the Precept.

1. Ask for £4868 + grant of £381 giving the total precept we asked for of £5250
2. Ask for £5250 + grant of £381 giving a total of £5631

3. Ask for £5250 and no grant again giving a precept of £5250

Option 2 gives protection of a higher precept level in following years if the grant is withdrawn.

Councillors discussed this complicated matter and concluded that option 2 would be best for our needs and would safeguard the precept for the future.

Mr Elliott proposed we accept Option 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr McEvoy. This was carried.