



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 7TH MARCH 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Present: David Oxley
Simon Bagnall
Mandy Parker
Jan Pledger
Peter Sapsed

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm in the absence of the Chairman.

1. To Receive Any Apologies for Absence

Cllr Marchant.

2. To Receive any Personal or prejudicial Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Cllr Bagnall – Planning Application at Stagestruck – enlargement and resurfacing of the car park.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2016

Following no changes and a unanimous vote that the minutes were correct, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2016 were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

A question from the minutes was raised: could an internet connection and screen be provided at the Village Hall from the Transparency Fund Grant that was received, clerk to investigate.

4. Adjournment for PCSO Update

PCSO Amanda Higham has moved to Sawbridgeworth and PCSO David Miller is now responsible for the Villages. Clerk will request a report from PCSO Miller.

5. Adjournment for Public Comments

None present.

6. Planning Applications / Decision Notices

6.1 Planning Application Ref. 3/16/0433/FUL Enlargement and resurfacing of the car park at Stagestruck, Flint Hall has been received. The full plans will be circulated when received. The Chairman has viewed the plans in detail and writes 'I have no objections to this as it appears that the surfacing and screening will not be visually detrimental to the surrounding area and/or neighbours. Plus, the employment that the business provides should receive local support for limited expansion such as this'.

It will allow 46 spaces and the car park will be within the grounds of the existing car park. There will be low level lighting rather than a large overhead light.
Comments due by 29th March.

7. Finance

7.1 The Finance Report was approved.

It was noted that under items to approve : Payments in April 2016 it should read:
Caroline Jones April – Salary £108.36 and David Moule £60.
Internet payment is the second payment of the year £50.

There was discussion regarding the Clerk's salary and it was agreed that this will be discussed at the May meeting with a full Parish Council attendance.

7.2 The Financial and Risk Assessment for 2015-16 was agreed and approved. It was RESOLVED to accept the Financial and Risk Assessments. Clerk to check on combined insurance for the Village Hall and the Parish Council to see if there were any financial savings to be made.

7.3 Payments for March and April 2016 were approved and cheques signed at the end of meeting.



7.4 It was agreed that Mr Thompson would be approached to undertake the internal audit.

8. Highways

8.1 There was no update on the flooding on Silver Street/ Snow End and it was agreed that councillors and parishioners should continue to report the fault in icy conditions. Details will be included in the Newsletter.

The verges on the bridge by the Playing Field was ongoing and the clerk had written to Highways. It was worst opposite the gate where the ditch is full and not exhausting into the river – this is still a problem. There should have been a pipe under the walkway which may be blocked. The ditch needs digging out to allow water into the brook.

8.2 No overhanging vegetation was highlighted. Mike Johnson has cut a section of the village. Cllr Oxley reported that parking at the corner by the church was still problematic, if someone is coming up the hill overtaking parked cars, they are on the wrong side of the road and it is still a concern. The school have been parking down the bottom or at the Village Hall. There was a footpath walk recently and the Village Hall car park was full and they parked all the way up to the corner by the church.

8.3 Fly Tipping – there had been no reported incidents for the past 2 months.

9. Playing Field

The new shackles for the climbing train have been received.

The ramp is being well used. The anti-bird deterrent seems to be working, the swings are clean.

10. Village Litter Pick

It was agreed that no village clean was required in preparation for Her Majesty's 90th birthday and this will be reviewed again at the AGM in April. The village is very clean and Mr Moule is doing a fantastic job of keeping the village tidy.

It was agreed that the village would like to commemorate the Queen's Birthday and it could be held at the pub or the Village Hall. It was suggested that it should be called a Street Party and a grant application will be completed by the deadline of 15th April. Details of this will be included in the Newsletter with a request for ideas for the celebration.

11. Village Clock Repairs

The clock has been repaired and they are waiting for good weather to put it up.

12. To Receive Correspondence Sent and Received.

A report was received.

12.1 It was agreed that the clerk will keep a close check on the Minerals Planning Call for Sites.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 It has been reported that Silkmead Farm have been burning plastic – there seems to be a permanent bonfire there, some items may have melamine coating. The Clerk will look into it.

13.2 There was a very successful Quiz Night held at the Village Hall last Saturday attended by nearly 80 people. There are two Quizzes per year. It was the first time the new cooker was used to provide food, a casserole and jacket potatoes. There are events planned for May and June. Further information will be included in the Newsletter together with a Forever Active questionnaire requesting ideas of what activities parishioners would be interested in attending. There is an opportunity for funding for activities for the over 50's.

14. Date of Next Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting – AGM 18th April 2016 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____