



Minutes of the Meeting of Fressingfield Parish Council held in the Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield on Tuesday 15th November 2011

Present: Prue Rush; Garry Deeks; Paul Clark; Caroline Day; Judy Fullam; Malcolm Roberts; Nick Stolls (p/t); Peter Vincent; Keith Wykes

In Attendance: Cllr Guy McGregor; District Cllr Marilyn Curran; Carol A Smy (Clerk)
13 Members of the public

The meeting was addressed by Mal Garwood of Pearce and Kemp on the subject of lighting sensors and tree lights. Some of the lights were very old and it might not be cost effective to try to fit sensors. Time switches could be affixed but would cost in the region of £120 per lamp. It might be better to install LEDs, if this were possible. Mr Garwood would undertake a survey of the street lighting in the village and report back to Clerk on any savings that might be made.

Public Forum: *following the above presentation members of the public raised issues related to parking difficulties in Sandpath. Residents were assured that the PC had been involved with MSDC and SCC in trying to promote a resolution to the problem and that a revised, less expensive scheme to the original one proposed was to be discussed. Concerns were raised about access for emergency vehicles. It was felt that the installation of one bay for blue badge holders had caused more problems than it had solved and had led to disputes and misconceptions. Other residents brought to the Council their concerns about and individual whose presence in the village had led to graffiti being painted on signs and home-made signs being erected. SCC had attended as soon as they were informed and had removed the spray paint. The other signs had been removed immediately. The Chairman and Vice Chairman stressed that this behaviour was unacceptable regardless of the perceived provocation and residents should not lay themselves open to charges of harassment. The police would be advised of the signs and the feelings of residents. A petition had been written and it was explained that the Clerk had taken advice and the Parish Council was unable, as a body, to support such a petition.*

Information on the planning application for Willow House, to be discussed later in the agenda, was brought to the attention of the Council.

11.01 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Nick Stolls who signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

11.02 Apologies for absence were received from: Philip Eastgate; Peter Davidson

11.03 Members' Declarations of Interest - Peter Vincent and Paul Clark declared a personal interest in item 11.12

11.04 Minutes of Last Meeting –20 September 2010 – were approved unanimously and signed.

11.05 To consider any Planning Matters including:

11.05.1 Applications considered at previous Planning Meetings: there were none

11.05.2 Notification of decisions reached by MSDC:

The following application was not granted planning permission:

2393/11 erection of two storey dwelling and provision of parking spaces to serve The Stores
The Stores, New Street

11.05.3 Applications for consideration:

3491/11 conversion of barn to form a 3 bedroom dwelling *Willow House, Harleston Hill*

3372/11 erection of livestock manure pad cover *Yew Tree Farm, Cratfield Road*

Approval was recommended unanimously for the two above items

11.05.4 Other Planning Matters:

11.06.4.i further to electronic planning – the Clerk suggested the purchase of an exterior hard drive that can be used solely for planning and the backup of Fressingfield's documents. This should be under £50 for an item robust enough. Judy Fullam proposed the Clerk should purchase a suitable item; seconded by Garry Deeks and agreed unanimously.

11.06 Matters of Report:

11.06.1 **Waste Bins** – the Chairman and Clerk undertook an audit of the waste bins in the village and found that little expenditure was required. The oil drum would be removed and replaced with one of the lidded bins from the children's play area (leaving two in situ). It was suggested that the bin inside the tennis courts be placed outside for emptying by MSDC. The emptying of these plus the dog waste bins will cost £80 for FY2012/13. A lidded bin should be purchased for fixing to the wall of the bus shelter and this could be emptied by Bob Stanley, if he agreed. At the same time as this audit a check on items for maintenance was made and Bob would be consulted on this work – to be paid for from the maintenance budget at his agreed hourly rate plus the cost of materials. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to action

11.06.3 **Village Christmas Tree** - one person had contacted the Clerk to register interest. She was put in contact with Lou Cook who provided the information required but nothing materialised. The PCC had taken on the project for this year and had obtained sponsorship towards the costs.

11.06.4 **Projector** – this should cost in the region of £400/500. It was unanimously agreed the Clerk should purchase this item. Clerk to action

11.07 To receive the Financial Report & Approval of Accounts for payment:

11.07.1 Cheques for approval as per information sheet distributed. A request for the discretionary grant to the PFMC was received to cover expenditure already made and forthcoming for 2012 (£1000). Malcolm Roberts proposed there should be no financial support at this time to the PFMC but this received no support. A subsequent proposal for the acceptance of the cheque was made by Ian Smith, seconded by Nick Stolls and agreed by a majority vote (1 against).

11.07.2 Quarterly figures circulated and appended to these minutes

11.07.3 Account balances at 31 October 2011 as follows:

Current Account: £15,766.66

Tracker Account: £19,753.37

There were two unrepresented cheques - £113.21; balance at 31 Oct 11 £35,406.82

11.07.4 Annual Audit had been completed. The only comment referred to Fidelity Guarantee; this had been discussed and concluded at the last meeting.

11.07.5 Following the previous discussion on the possibility of a grant to the Methodist Church towards the upkeep of their graveyard and grounds an email was received from the Secretary stating that maintenance had been undertaken in the current financial year at a cost of £300. Garry Deeks proposed this one off payment being made at the next meeting; seconded by Caroline Day and agreed unanimously.

11.07.6 Budget – following meeting of FGPWP the proposed budget was as appended to these minutes. It was agreed that donations, in addition to EAAA and, currently, BorderHoppa, would be considered on an individual basis as received and the budget was agreed unanimously.

11.08 To receive reports from the County & District Councillors and the Community Beat Officer:

11.08.1 County Councillor – Cllr McGregor referred to traffic calming on Harleston Hill and said that new proposals were in the process of being drawn up for consideration. The possible 20mph along New Street was still under discussion. He also highlighted the progress of the Library consultation. Changes were to be made to the working of the Highways Department and it was planned that the maintenance work would be contracted out in conjunction with NCC. Area and Rights of Way Offices would remain. SCC had agreed to the establishment of a Heritage Centre at Stowmarket to encompass the Museum of East Anglian Life and the Archaeology, Archive and Conservation Departments. Lottery funding would be applied for. A new CEO had been appointed with effect from 19 December 2011. All councillors were encouraged to put forward comments on the forthcoming boundary change proposals even though this part of Suffolk was not affected. It was felt that the county boundary should encompass Suffolk only. Savings of £25m were planned by the county council emanating from reductions in staff costs and there being less demand from Central Government in reporting. Cllr McGregor was questioned about the state of SCC's reserves. He replied that the budget must balance and savings were still possible and would cover redundancy costs.

11.08.2 District Councillor – Cllr Curran reported, briefly, that integration with Babergh was progressing and director level recruitment was ongoing. Views put forward in the Budget Challenge consultation would be considered in the DC budget setting. Other authorities were making enquiries about joining the Joint Revenue and Benefits Department.

11.08.3 Police – it was reported that there had been no crimes in the village since the last meeting.

11.09 Parish Plan: nothing to report at this time and the subject would be removed from the agenda.

11.10 Telephone kiosk – ongoing

11.11 Jubilee Celebrations for 2012 – research had been undertaken on the supply of commemorative mugs. A style and design was chosen. Following a very lively discussion it was finally agreed that mugs should be given free to the under 16s and over 65s and a contribution would be made to the purchase of mugs for other residents. A pro forma would be in the next edition of Five Alive and on the website. Orders would be taken with payment and order form only – no mug would be ordered without a confirmed request.

11.12 Future of the Social Club – Peter Vincent and Paul Clark explained that the Social Club was beginning to function and effect changes that, it was hoped, would enable it to become a viable asset to the village in the future, as it had been in the past. It was explained that the Parish Council was a Trustee of the Playing Field; the Management Committee owned the land which would revert to the Parish Council if it folded. The interior of the building had been painted and club nights were resuming. A caretaker/manager had been appointed who would also manage bookings. It was envisaged that all residents would be members and some help might be requested to help defray costs. The PC asked to be kept informed of progress and if funds were required a plan should be submitted to the Council for consideration

11.13 Village Website – there had been some interest in taking over the website from Virginia Skoyles

11.14 The Big Tree Plant - Garry Deeks had attended a seminar on tree planting and felt this had possibilities for the village. He envisaged offering a fruit tree for every household so that a fruit swap could be instituted. Further details would be presented to the January meeting.

11.15 Correspondence

11.15.1 NALC booklet on ‘How to respond to planning applications’

11.15.2 Harleston TC – request for contributions to car parking in Harleston

11.15.3 MSDC – advising new appointments

11.15.4 Suffolk Age UK – information booklet

11.15.5 Diss, Thetford & District CAB – annual report; support requested

11.15.6 Two new directors had been appointed to MSDC

11.15.7 A somewhat intemperate email had been received by the Clerk which, by injudicious use of language, virtually accused the Chairman of being responsible for the fatality on Harleston Hill. As well as being hurtful the contents of the email were inaccurate, as the writer would know had she troubled to attend Council meetings. As had been previously stated by the Highways Department the first scheme proposed had proved to be unsafe for the location and could not proceed. The Clerk had spoken with a representative of the Highways Department and low scale work would be undertaken to improve the village gateway with higher impact warning of the bend such as high visibility chevrons. A survey was undertaken on the road and there was found to be an odd camber however, on further investigation, it showed that any alteration would only have an effect on traffic using the wrong side of the road.

11.15.2 **Tabled Items:** Flyers for Hugh Stewart’s book; Diamond Jubilee information; Suffolk ACRE Update

11.16 To Receive the Clerk’s Report

11.16.1 There had been some fly tipping near the tennis courts. This was reported to MSDC and the items would be removed.

11.16.2 There was an unfortunate outbreak of graffiti recently but to its credit SCC acted with commendable promptness and cleaned up the signs on the same day.

11.16.3 Grit heaps - the current locations will be maintained and the heaps replenished by SCC throughout the winter.

11.16.4 The Clerk was contacted by the Clerk at Withersdale Street to see if there was any interest in collaborating on Community Speedwatch. Councillors agreed this had been reviewed several times and the decision was not to proceed.

Clerk to action

11.16.5 High Sheriff’s Awards – nominations can be submitted for the various awards for volunteers (individuals and groups). Clerk has details.

11.16.6 Alan Wilson sent early Christmas and New Year greetings to the Council.

11.17 To consider Matters of Information brought by the Chairman or Members:

11.17.1 **Suffolk Hedgerow Survey** – report received. Survey recently completed and given a glowing endorsement. The report appended to these minutes. A letter of thanks had been sent to Chris Hill and Dave Notman.

11.17.2 Petition – see Public Forum.

11.17.3 It was suggested some training might be organised through SALC on the Localism Bill and Planning. **Clerk to action**

11.17.4 Ben Symonds had asked the Chairman to note his thanks to the Clerk for her assistance with effecting the road closure for the Remembrance Day Service. Thanks were also passed on to Becky Rawlings of MSDC who deals with these matters.

11.18 Date of next meeting: 17 January 2012

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.15hrs

Signed:

Chairman

17 January 2012

Closing Public Forum: weeds along the kerbs were seen by some as unsightly. SCC would be approached. Distress had been caused to some residents at Halloween. It was suggested that this occurred at other times too and the police would be informed and asked to monitor the situation.