

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WITHERSDALE ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2009, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Mr D Pye-Chair, Ms K Ferrar-Vice Chair, Mrs L Allen, Mrs M Watson, Mr C Mosse, Mr J Kent, Mr R Hayward.
Mrs M Curran – District Councillor, Mr G McGregor – County Councillor, PC Green.
10 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Mr C Hadingham

2. The Minutes:The Minutes of the 17 November '08 meeting were read, approved and duly signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- Discussions regarding the suggested tribute to Dermot Musgrove are ongoing
- Mrs Allen commented that the new Christmas lights were excellent and thanked all involved
- The Withersdale Village Hall has been sold; £28k is needed to pay off expenses
- Hedges around village green have now been cut
- SCC Highways will liaise with the school direct regarding the proposed Disabled Parking bay
- Mr Mosse reported the culvert is still blocked at rear gateway of his property.

4. Reports:

a) Chair:

-Mr Pye thanked Mr Hayward, Mr Kent and others who were able to help with the Car Park hedges and clean-up.

-He advised the new owners of Mendham Mill are preparing to carry out extensive improvements

-Repairs and maintenance at Priory Farm are in progress

-Mr Pye thanked PC Green who alerted him to the proposed party at Mundys Farm at the New Year

b) Community Council:

- Mrs Watson reported £140 had been raised from carol singing and this will be donated to 1st Responders.

c)Clerk: Nothing to report.

d)NVH Working Group:

-Mrs Whatling advised there was a meeting planned on the 24 January, to celebrate the Old Village Hall. There is still a myriad of jobs to be completed before the opening of the New Village Hall.

e)County Councillor:

- Council Tax set for 2009 is the lowest in history of SCC

- The care of young people has been surveyed and SCC is well rated. However, it was revealed that the workload per Social Worker is very high. Therefore, to avoid the kind of problems occurring, money had been found to employ more staff, thereby allowing workload to be lightened.

- All areas of SCC have been surveyed and the Archives department was also found to be understaffed. This will be remedied.

- Mr McGregor advised all that decision regarding the Local Government Review is due 13Feb.

- He reminded all that he Chairs the Regional Improvement Transport Group – they met last

Friday when it was agreed three major projects will commence in 2009. (1)The Government will provide £60 million toward the improvement of the A12/M25 to Copdock- SCC must contribute an equal amount. (2)Improvements had also been agreed for the Mildenhall - Thetford road but this project is made more costly due to the need for a pedestrian crossing in the form of a bridge. Although this will add at least another half million pounds to the bill it was accepted as to dispute the real need would delay the project, open it up to a Public Enquiry and it could be another ten years before the Government will re-offer financial support. (3)Improved transport management and pedestrianisation in central Ipswich.

f)District Councillor:

- Improved efficiency survey ongoing for housing and several other issues.
- Free swimming for under 16's and over 60's commences 1 April 2009
- MSDC is still top of the league table for 'dry' recycling. Hazardous recycling (paint tins/batteries)still being considered for later in the year. Await further information.
- MSDC voted second in the country for 'Quality of Living'
- Harleston will soon be able to issue Bus Passes for Suffolk. Mrs Curran asks that more people be encouraged to visit the Harleston Advice Centre with enquiries – the more people in, the more funding will be granted to offer this service to local people.
- The MSDC Environmental Questionnaire had a good response. Grants for energy efficiency matters are available for those on benefits.

g) PC Green: One ongoing case of harassment and one arrest for the possession of cannabis.

PC Green said the Police will try to be aware of rave parties and react as they did at the New Year. The procedures worked well.

Mr Hayward said the harassment issue had got worse and feels the Police could do more. Mr Hayward said he had had letters of harassment from an ex resident and the Police have been informed.

He also asked what his position is regarding trespass upon his property. PC Green said this was a matter outside Police responsibility and is a civil issue. Mr Hayward should seek legal advice from his solicitor. A member of the public suggested a video of the trespass/trespasser may give a stronger case.

5. Correspondence:

- MSDC correspondence regarding Council Tax banding
- A letter confirming the Waste Core Strategy – Strategic Site Consultative period now extended to 30 January '09.
- A letter confirming the Financial Case for the suggested Unitary proposal had been considered safe.
- A letter sent to SCC, copied to the Parish Council from Mr Farmer, Knights Farm Barn, Peggs Hill, concerning flood water, had been received. Mr Hayward said SCC had piped the ditch some time ago but the pipe was not big enough therefore not effective. He also reported a digger had been in the lane digging out a private water main.

After some general discussion it was agreed the Clerk would again report the matter to Mr Clarke at SCC and have him contact Mr Farmer and Mr Hayward direct, with regard to on-site information and a resolve. Telephone numbers were checked to pass on to Mr Clarke.

The meeting was suspended at this point to allow for public speaking particularly concerning Traffic Calming in the village:

Mr Mosse commenced by saying he had tried to call on all houses in Withersdale on the 18 January. A proposal map had been received from Brian Lomax at SCC and was shown to members of the public present. Mr Mossed talked through the proposals.

Extra signage was suggested and white lines at the side of the road rather than in the centre. Again HGV Report forms were identified.

Mr Pye said we should accept what has been offered or Withersdale will get nothing.

Mr Orr says it is OK to warn new traffic about speeding restrictions but how to cope with people who live locally but still insist on speeding.

Mrs Hudson asked why wouldn't SCC extend the 30mph out further at Harleston end of the village. Mr Mosse said they (SCC) did not think this would make any difference to the issue. Suggestions for chicanes, sleeping policemen and camera signs were all raised again.

Mr Orr asked Mr McGregor why Withersdale cannot have a 7.5t weight restriction on vehicles coming through the village. Mr McGregor said he would reply formally to the Parish Council.

It was commented that there are now 25 children in the village – 8 or 10 of them walking to the school bus pick-up point each day. The village had to be made safer.

Mr McGregor said these plans had been a long time in the making and this was a difficult issue to resolve. The plan had been raised by experienced and senior officers and engineers – it is hoped it will make a difference. SCC are convince that education is essential and are carrying out training of young drivers to that effect.

Speed restrictions are reviewed on a 5 year cycle.

HGV's should have a purpose for being on the B1123 so it is essential that Report Forms are used to be investigated by SCC.

He also advised the footway order (leading to the new village hall) and extended 30mph signage will expire 13 February, therefore, if there are objections from the finance committee, work will commence immediately thereafter.

There being no further questions or comments from the public the Parish Council meeting was resumed.

6. Traffic Calming: Mr Pye asked Councillors to approve the SCC proposals. All Councillor's agreed with the exception of Mr Hayward, who abstained.

7. Planning Issues: There were no planning issues for discussion.

8. Finance Report:

a) Balances at Banks

Community Account (HSBC)	=	£1,732.24
Business Premium Account (Barclays)	=	£3,944.82

b) to note expenditure to date against budget – see Spreadsheet

c) to note and agree expenditure and to sign cheques to the value of £377.32

Proposed : Mr Kent

Seconded : Mrs Allen

d) the budget for 2009/2010 was discussed at a pre meeting by Ms Ferrar, Mrs Allen and Mr Mosse with the Clerk taking notes. Certain changes were proposed and presented to the Parish Council, namely:

- decrease the donation to Five Alive from £75.00 to £25.00

- cease the donation of £50.00 to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service in favour of new beneficiary, 1st Responders
- increase the grant to Waveney Community Bus from £50.00 to £75.00*
- consider payment made to the Football Club for grass cutting as a grant. Therefore £150 will be offered in 2009. This grant to be reduced to £100 in 2010 but will be discussed during the appropriate budget meeting prior to 1 April 2010.

These proposals were agreed and the increase to Waveney Community Bus was approved by Mrs Watson, seconded by Mrs Allen.

These changes will become effective 1 April 2009.

A final figure of £4700 was agreed for the Precept – the Clerk will now complete the request forms accordingly.

9. Parish Plan:

Ms Ferrar reported there were now 6 members of a committee – 2 Parish Councillors and 4 members of the public; a training workshop was planned for 31 January; forms to obtain a grant had been completed.

Mrs Curran will ask MSDC if a grant can be offered to save the Parish Council £500.

10. Any Other Business:

- Mrs Watson said the pothole outside 4 South View had still not been repaired*
- Mr Mosse mention the culvert at rear of his property again*
- Mrs Allen mentioned Five Alive had printed incorrect dates for Mendham Parish Council meetings – Clerk to contact Malcolm Annis.
- Mr Kent reported the railings at Ark Hill now completely rotted and very dangerous*
- Ms Ferrar asked what the new village hall will be called- no one knew the answer.
- Mr Hayward thanked the Clerk for efforts to get the Highways issues resolved.

* The Clerk will contact SCC/ Mr Clarke regarding these repeat and new issues.

11. Next Meeting:

MONDAY 16 MARCH 2009, commencing 7.30pm at MENDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

There being no further business for discussion, the Meeting was declared closed at 9.35pm

Signed.....

Date.....