

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THE NEW VILLAGE HALL, WITHERSDALE ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2010, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Mr C Mosse-Chair, Mr R Hayward-Vice Chair, Ms K Ferrar, Mrs L Allen, Mrs M Watson, Mr J Kent, Mr C Hadingham, Mr G Lane, Mr Pye .
Mrs M Curran-District Councillor, 3 members of the Public, CSO S Long, PC Roach.

1. Apologies: None

2. The Minutes: The Minutes of the 16 November '09 meeting were read, approved and duly signed

Mr Pye arrived at 7.40pm

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- hedge at the Old Vicarage. The Clerk to progress
- With regard to item 4(c), Mrs Watson asked if residents could be encouraged to recycle more to accrue funds to pay the Car Park Rates.
- Mr Mosse advised the street signs not in place yet but are in progress.
- Canoe Boom. Mr Mosse will discuss this matter further with the Environmental Agency
- The Cherry tree on the Green. Mr Mosse thanked Mr Hadingham and Mr Thurston for their efforts in cutting the tree down.

4. Reports:

a) Chair: Mr Mosse reported :

- i) he had attended a Public Transport Passenger Services Focus Group organised by SCC on the 14 January. The meeting gave the public an opportunity to express their needs and requirements from transport services. SCC will produce a survey/questionnaire for every household. This to be included in the February edition of Five Alive and completion is requested by early March.
- ii) parking has become a problem in The Street outside the car park and council houses and on the crossroads Mendham. He has met with CSO Long to discuss the matter.
- iii) sadly, Percy Caley died on 12 January.

b) Community Council: Mrs Watson reported:

- i) Carol Singing was held in the New Village Hall in December, hoping to encourage many people to attend the singing and an event in the NVH. Unfortunately, few people attended and only £65 was raised in comparison with £142 the previous year. There will be a re-think for December 2010.
- ii) There were two Christmas trees displayed in the villages and the Community Council had paid for the lights on the NVH tree.

c) Clerk:

Mr R Naunton had called her at home this afternoon (18 January) to say the Parish Council Minutes for September had not reflected his comments correctly. He also said Mr McGregor had been mentioned as 'present' when in fact he was not. Mr Naunton was advised that Mr McGregor had arrived late. Mr Naunton commented that the Minutes should have noted this. He will write a note to the Chair. Mr Mosse was already aware of this complaint and had asked Mr Naunton to confirm his comments in writing.

d) NVH Working Group:

- i) Mr Fox handed a confirmatory letter to the Chair regarding the nomination of a representative of

the Parish Council to join the NVH Committee. Other village organisations should also nominate representatives to support the new entity. This will be a communications link to the parish and NVH Working Group.

Mr Mosse asked for a volunteer from the Parish Council. There was no volunteer forthcoming at this time.

ii) Mr Fox confirmed a formal opening day ceremony is planned for the 17 April. Debbie Knight of the 'Opera Babes' will cut the ribbon. They are looking at innovative ideas to bring people in.

iii) He also confirmed Jan and Denis Pye have arranged tree planting which will continue asap, weather permitting.

iv) The footpath issue is still on hold. He had received an e.mail from John Goodyear (SCC) asking if funds for the footpath will be requested in this financial year.

v) There are tentative bookings to use the hall as a Polling Station.

vi) Mrs Whatling advised there will be a Coffee Morning on 20 February and the AGM on the 1 March.

e) County Councillor: No report available.

f) District Councillor:

i) Mrs Curran took the opportunity to congratulate the NVH Committee and those involved in the Car Park and planting. She thought the appearance very impressive.

ii) She also commented that the village 'Welcome Park' is excellent.

iii) The Boundary Committee – decisions are in the pipeline and we expect to hear very soon.

vi) MSDC looking very carefully at the budget and working with Babergh and other authorities to pursue shared savings.

v) There will be a meeting soon regarding the affordable housing in Fressingfield. She will advise the date via the Clerk. More empty houses are being sought to house people.

vi) MSDC Refuse Collection dates are soon to be changed but not sure which areas are to be involved.

Mr Pye thanked Mrs Curran for her help before Christmas regarding bin collections.

g) CSO Long: CSO Long reported :

i) One crime of criminal damage - this is being dealt with.

ii) PC Tim Green returned to work on a part-time basis today.

iii) with regard to the parking issues – he will have a letter sent to residents around The Street, pub etc reminding drivers to park safely. If this is not successful he will take the matter further but will not use enforcement in the first instance .

iv) Regarding the letter handed to the Clerk/Chair before Christmas – there should be no further action taken. *Mr Mosse advised other Councillors that the letter referred to a domestic issue and is not relevant to Parish Council business.*

v) There will be monthly 'Tasking Meetings' in villages to enable residents to attend and share their concerns and issues. Await further information.

The Meeting was suspended at this point to allow for Public Speaking:

Mrs Whatling said the School Bus issue at Withersdale Street had still not been resolved. Mr Mosse

said he had contacted Ian Grey at SCC. Mr Mosse said he will attend the area at the appropriate time to see the problem himself then contact Mr Grey again. Mr Hayward said he wanted something done immediately; the matter is very urgent. Mr Mosse asked Mr Hayward if he was prepared to take up the matter with Mr Grey direct – Mr Hayward confirmed he would. Mr Hayward also offered to review the possibility of having the bus shelter moved to the centre of the village . He would consult Withersdale residents by way of a simple questionnaire regarding movement of the bus shelter. The Clerk was asked to contact 'Buses to School's' department.

There being no further questions or issues from members of the Public, the Meeting was resumed:

5. Correspondence:

- a letter from the NVH Committee asking for a representative from the Parish Council.
- MSDC Budget proposal for the period 2010/2011. Mrs Curran was asked to have the Planning Control budget explained as it had been hugely increased. Mrs Curran was asked to report back to Mr Mosse direct.

6. Planning Issues: There were no Planning issues for discussion

7. Finance Report:

a) Balances at Banks

Community Account (HSBC)	=	£3,039.92
Business Premium Account (Barclays)	=	£3,947.26

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

c) to note and agree expenditure and to sign cheques to the value £320.32

d) to discuss and decide the 2010/2011 budget/Precept:

Mr Mosse said Mrs Kent had suggested the resurrection of the Youth Club and asked the Parish Council for its financial support. It was suggested by Mr Hayward and Mr Hadingham that equipment would be needed. After discussion it was agreed that a gift of up to £1000 would be given to the New Village Hall to purchase equipment which could be used by the Youth Club and any other organisation hiring the Hall. This was proposed by Mr Hayward, seconded by Mr Hadingham and unanimously agreed.

The Harleston car park donation was also discussed. The Clerk was asked to write to Redenhall & Harleston Town Council to ask if the car parks would remain free .

8. Risk Assessment:

This matter was discussed as before, to establish the running of the Parish Council in case of multiple resignation or the demise of Councillors/Clerk and the same conclusions were reached as before. The Clerk will also review the Council's insurance cover to ensure no risk issues. This matter has been duly raised to comply with Audit requirements.

9. Canoe Boom:

Mr Mosse has put the subject on hold until the matter has been further discussed with the residents at Mendham Mill, who are contesting the Boom, and the Environmental Agency.

10. Parish Plan:

Ms Ferrar reported the project is on track again as the Committee have insisted the necessary training is continued and no further time is lost. Software has been purchased and the subject is once more 'on going'. Ms Ferrar thanked Mrs Curran for her intervention and assistance .

11. Village of the Year:

Mr Pye confirmed the subject is moving gently along but will publish the event in the March edition of Five Alive. Mrs Curran said the sponsors had pulled out but a new one is hoped for soon.

12. Village tree and hedge plan:

Mr Pye said the inclement weather conditions of late had held up the project but this will, hopefully, be resolved within the next two weeks. Help has been received from the Waveney Valley team.

13. Youth Activities:

Mr Mosse said there is an urgent need to find some activities for youngsters in and around The Street, Mendham. There were no suggestions forthcoming but he asked that the subject is given some thought.

14. Any Other Business:

- Mrs Watson asked who had arranged for the rubbish to be removed from outside Mendham Hall. The rubbish had been left by occupants renting the holiday let over the Christmas period. Nobody present had arranged for the collection.

- Mr Hayward announced that G.O.S.H need sponsors for the 'Big Wax Off' fund raiser. This for information only.

- Mrs Allen asked if Norfolk County Council could be asked to grit Mendham Hill up to the A143 at times of severe snow and ice. The hill is very dangerous. The Clerk will write to SNCC and ask the question.

- Mr Pye also asked if Mendham village could be gritted.

- Mr Mosse said there were pot holes everywhere including Mill Lane and outside The Red House Withersdale Street. The Clerk will report these to SCC but the subject is of national issue at present so we may have to wait for action.

11 . Next Meeting: MONDAY 15 MARCH 2010 at the NVH commencing 7.30pm.

There being no further business for discussion, the Meeting was declared closed at 9.02pm.

Signed.....

Date.....