

# **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT MENDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MONDAY 20 JULY 2009, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.**

Present: Mr C Mosse-Chair, Mr R Hayward-Vice Chair, Mr D Pye, Mrs M Watson, Mr G Lane, Ms K Ferrar, Mr C Hadingham  
Mrs M Curran – District Councillor, 3 members of the Public, Mr B Symonds – Chair of the Royal British Legion – Fressingfield Branch

**1. Apologies:** Mrs L Allen, Mr J Kent

## **2.The Minutes:**

After clarifying two items, the Minutes of the 18 May meeting were read, approved and signed.

## **3.Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

- Ark Hill – groundworks have now been completed and the railings re-aligned but not yet painted
- The Cherry tree on the Green – the subject has been progressed twice in the past 4 weeks but work is still outstanding. The Clerk to pursue.
- The overgrown vines at the rear of Mendham Hall, encroaching the car park/recycling area, have now been removed by Councillors.
- Mr Pye commented that the Minutes – item 8 – were misleading regarding the Village of the year Competition. He had not meant the response from the village had been negative. He meant the response to the invite to enter had been 'a negative' this year but maybe a positive in future.
- Mr Mosse requested the matter of an alternative meeting place be raised again when the New Village Hall is available i.e. the possibility to hold 3 meetings per year at the New Village Hall and the other three meetings in Mendham, at the school.

## **4. Reports:**

a) Chair:

- Mr Mosse reported the Open Gardens event had been very successful and thanked Ms Ferrar, Mr Hadingham and everyone else who had helped
- There had been an accident on the sharp bend in Withersdale Street resulting in vehicle crashing through the boundary hedge of his property.
- He has spoken to the landlady of the Sir Alfred Munnings regarding the removal of very young people congregating outside the pub. Mr Mosse said she was willing to work with the Parish Council to resolve the issue.

b) Community Council:

-Mrs Watson (in the absence of Mr Hayward) reported a very successful village picnic with more people attending than ever before. There was lots of entertainment which resulted in a very good day.

c)Clerk: Nothing to report

d) NVH Working Group: Nothing to report

e)County Councillor: Absent and no report available

f)District Councillor:

- Mrs Curran reported the New Village Hall representatives meeting with MSDC Officers, who were very impressed with the project, went well.
- She had visited the new website and thought it very good

- The MSDC advise vacancies for Sheltered Housing. Also a 'Choice Based' new letting scheme for council housing. Applicants can only get on the list for consideration by 'bidding' This must be done in writing or on the internet. She is hoping to have the Harleston Information Centre set up as an assistance point for housing bids.
- MSDC has had to reduce its target for Affordable Housing due to the current economic climate. Plans to reduce to 75 properties but even this may reduce.
- MSDC has created a 'Score on the Door' system for food businesses i.e. a star rating system. She accompanied the Health & Safety Officer to a village Hall to ensure all correct paperwork in place and also a reported incident at a factory. She thought all was very thorough and very fair.
- There will be Food Hygiene courses in schools for Key Stage II children
- Enforcement measures are being upgraded – Planning Control will include this in its responsibilities.
- Recycling measured at 41%, Garden Waste collections are now made at 5300 homes and new trade waste arrangements will be in place in September. Refuse collection routes are being re-organised and this will become effective from Sept/October this year.
- There may be additional funding toward Parish Plans.

g) PC Green: absent – no report available.

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

- **Mr Symonds**, representing the Royal British Legion, had attended to explain the rationale for the Remembrance Day Service being held at Fressingfield and not at Mendham as was previously indicated. He said Revd. David Finch had decided that services should be held at St Peter & St Paul's Church Fressingfield but this should be reconsidered and held at other village churches able to house a congregation of nearly 300 on Remembrance Day. Even Fressingfield, considered one of the larger churches, ran out of seating and many people had to stand through the service. Additionally, most of the youth groups come from Fressingfield. RBL is trying to keep people across seven villages happy as well as visitors from other counties, towns and villages. Mr Symonds stressed that the venue is not his decision. There were long discussions with Revd. Loxton before the decision was made to return the service to Fressingfield.

**Mrs Watson** thanked Mr Symonds for explaining the situation so well. Mr Symonds left the meeting.

- **Mr Colin Herbert** advise the website was up and running. He would like to add Councillors photo's, contact numbers and the Parish Council Minutes and was looking for Parish Council support. The fact that Minutes do not get approved and signed until the next meeting ie. a two month delay, was discussed at some length. Finally it was suggested the Clerk will type up the Minutes and send to the Chair to vet. When he is happy with their content he will inform the Clerk who will then send the 'Draft' Minutes by e.mail to Mr Herbert. The status of these Minutes will be changed to 'Approved' when this actually occurs at the next meeting. There is a limited but approved team who are permitted to change items on the website. Councillors were asked for their vote to this proposed procedure which resulted in 6 for and 1 against. Therefore the suggested procedure was carried.

- **A new Planning Application** for the New Village Hall ( 2 amendments) is being prepared. The Parish Council were asked if the application could be raised in the Parish Council's name and the rationale for this was to reduce application costs. After some discussion the proposal was agreed unanimously.

*There being no further matters for discussion by the Public, the Parish Council Meeting was resumed:*

## **5. Correspondence:**

- A copy of the New MSDC Enforcement & Compliance Policy had been received. This will be kept by the Clerk until required.

- P.A. Ref 1789/09 -The Eyrie, Hunters Lane, Mendham. -see item 7 – Planning issues.

## 6. Traffic Calming:

Work completion to be completed – remove red tarmac and replace village signs. Clerk to action. Mr Bryce (member of the Public) said a flashing 30mph sign, solar powered, would have resolved all traffic issues.

## 7. Planning Issues:

P.A. Ref.1789/09 – demolish existing dwelling and garage. Construct new dwelling and garage at The Eyrie, Hunters Lane, Mendham.

Councillors recalled the applicants attended a previous Parish Council meeting at the pre-planning stage and demonstrated by way of a model and plans their proposals for the changes. The plans received with this formal application were reviewed and all agreed there were no objections. Comments to this effect will be sent to MSDC Planning Control Department.

## 8. Finance Report:

### a) Balances at Banks

Community Account (HSBC)	=	£2,488.47
Business Premium Account (Barclays)	=	£3,946.28

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

c) to note and agree expenditure and to sign cheques to the value £ 570.32

Proposed: Ms Ferrar

Seconded: Mr Pye

d) The Clerk requested the signatures of 2 Councillors on forms downloaded from the Computershare service. This will enable the Clerk to commence procedures to get the very small amount of Stock investments converted into a cheque which will be banked with other financial holdings. Mr Mosse and Mr Hadingham signed the form.

## 9. Parish Plan:

Ms Ferrar reported there had been opportunities to share information about the Parish Plan – at the Open Gardens weekend, the Fete, at the Church and a Cheese & Wine event. Response was good.

More training is planned regarding formulation of the questionnaire. The course is likely being held in September or October, depending upon number of interested parties.

Funding has been received from several sources and more funding is anticipated.

## 10. Village of the Year Competition:

Mr Pye confirmed the next Competition for villages the size of Mendham will not take place until 2011. He read a list of the criteria.

Ms Ferrar reminded all that the inter-village sports event will be hosted by Mendham in 2011.

Mr Pye said he will continue to progress this subject.

## 11. Village tree & hedge plan:

There did not seem to be any ideas of what trees or hedges needed planting therefore it was

suggested the Clerk approach Waveney Valley Countryside Partnership and ask them to survey the area, advise the way forward and also advise what grants were available.

**12 Fixed Asset Insurance issues:**

As indicated by Mr Mosse at the last meeting this item was on the Agenda to ensure it was not overlooked. The items termed as fixed assets e.g. bus shelters, signs, seating etc were discussed and it was agreed that the bus shelter at Mendham was in need of roof repairs. The Clerk was asked to find someone to quote for this work.

Mr Mosse will check the seat on the green, the picnic bench and the Withersdale bus shelter.

**13. Any Other Business:**

- Mrs Watson asked if the Parish Council Insurance policy covers the New Village Hall. The Clerk and Mr Pye both replied 'No'.

-Mr Hayward said that although he had offered to become the Parish Council's representative on the Community Council, when he attended the last meeting there were already three Parish Councillor's present and did not see the need for him to be there also. Ms Ferrar said she was at the meeting in her capacity as Secretary and the other members were there in an official capacity. However,

Mr Hayward said he wished to resign as the Parish Councillor representative and this was accepted. Mrs Watson was asked to stand in and she agreed.

- It was generally agreed that the hedge at the Old Vicarage garden is very overgrown. Some serious cutting back required.

- Ms Ferrar said she had received an e.mail about Rural Affordable Housing. The Parish Plan will include the need for these, starter homes and housing suitable for the elderly in the village – so that people do not have to move away. Mr Mosse asked Ms Ferrar to reply that the issues will be dealt with in the Parish Plan preparation.

- Mrs Whatling (member of the Public) asked if the Parish Plan status will be updated on the website. Ms Ferrar said it would.

**14. Next Meeting: Monday 21 September 2009 commencing at 7,30pm. Meeting to be held at Mendham Primary School.**

There being no further business for discussion, the Meeting was declared closed at 9 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....