

# **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT MENDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 2009, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.**

Present: Mr D Pye-Chair, Ms K Ferrar-Vice Chair, Mr C Mosse, Mrs L Allen, Mrs M Watson,  
Mr R Hayward  
Mrs M Curran- District Councillor, Mr G McGregor – County Councillor. (later)

**1. Apologies:** Mr C Hadingham, Mr J Kent, PC T Green.

## **2.The Minutes:**

The Minutes were read and one minor typographical error and one misinterpreted paragraph regarding the Old Village Hall expenses were noted. It was agreed these could be amended immediately therefore the Minutes were duly signed.

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

- Mr Mosse highlighted an error in the Minutes regarding monies for the Old Village Hall which should have read, '£12k is needed to pay off expenses-£28k to New Village Hall. The Minutes had been amended accordingly.
- The Dermot Musgrove tribute still pending discussion – when landscaping decided. A tree with a plaque suggested.
- 1st Responders thanked the Community Council for their donation
- Mr Mosse said Mr McGregor needs to be reminded about the question of a 7.5t restriction in Withersdale
- It had been suggested that the 2009-2010 grant for the Youth & Football Club, included in the new budget, be given to the NVH to pass on. The NVH Committee asked that this grant be given to the Football Club direct.

## **4. Reports:**

- a) Chair: Mr Pye thanked Mr Hayward for improvements made around the Withersdale Bus Shelter.
- b) Community Council: Nothing to report
- c)Clerk: Nothing to report
- d) NVH Working Group: Nothing to report
- e)County Councillor:
  - the traffic calming scheme in Withersdale to commence this month
  - there is a change to methodology in the allocation of Locality Budgets. It is proposed that '20's Plenty' signage is to be erected near Mendham Primary School and there are other schemes around Metfield and the parish.
  - Following an audit assessment, SCC are still rated a 4 Star locality and delivering the services people need
  - Mr Pye asked what progress had been made regarding the 7.5t restriction in Withersdale. Mr McGregor said he will get Mike Manning to reply. He apologised for the delay.
  - Mr Pye asked if SCC was definitely increasing its number of Social Workers. Mr McGregor says the large case-load does justify an increase in staff in the wake of the Haringay case.
  - Mrs Watson commented that she had read that Social Workers spend less time with cases and more time on paperwork. Mr McGregor said efforts are made to create systems to reduce this situation He agreed this is not an ideal situation and is a real concern.

f) District Councillor:

- Mrs Curran confirmed the Council Tax increase is to be 3.5% which represents 10p in the £ for a Band D property. MSDC is still the most cash efficient council in the UK but there are losses in the budget on Planning Applications.

- Wingfield Barns events are ongoing
- Recycling is at 40% and Garden Waste recycling is increasing. Fly-tipping Enforcement is increasing
- Mid Suffolk is 7<sup>th</sup> in the county for cleanliness and tidiness
- She handed a 'Vulnerable People' leaflet to Councillors
- She confirmed Hartismere work is due to start in November
- Bus passes now available in Harleston
- She reminded all that free swimming for under 16's and over 60's commences 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Mr Pye asked if MSDC is to provide a fly-tipping pick-up service as in S. Norfolk . Mrs Curran will check.

g) PC Green: Via the Clerk, PC Green confirms there is nothing to report this month.

#### **5. Correspondence:**

CALOR 'Village of the Year' Competition application forms had been received. Mrs Curran encouraged Councillors to consider entry. Mr Pye said he will complete the forms.

*There were no members of the Public present, therefore the meeting was not suspended for Public Speaking and Questions.*

**6. Traffic Calming:** No further action at present.

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

#### **8. Finance Report:**

a) Balances at Banks

Community Account (HSBC) = £1,862.09\*

Business Premium Account (Barclays) = £3,941.82

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

c) to note and agree expenditure and to sign cheques to the value £ 337.73

Proposed: Mr Mosse

Seconded: Mr Hayward

\*Includes £500 being held on behalf of the Parish Plan Steering Group

**9. Parish Plan:** Ms Ferrar updated the project as follows-

- The Steering Group have established aims and objectives
- Have adopted a Constitution
- Completed a Stakeholders Analysis

- Plan Public meetings to agree progress
- Completed applications for grants.

She also confirmed the Committee consisted of : Martin Aylett – Chair, Liz Aylett – Treasurer, Jeremy Walford – Secretary, Val Lindsell – Publicity, Kathy Ferrar – Events Co-ordinator.

They are working with a budget of £5,169 which will cover costs involved of eventual data entry of Questionnaires, which will be delivered to all household in the village, meetings and general administration.

Their next meeting is planned for 25 March.

**10. Any Other Business:**

- Mr Hayward said his father had contacted SCC requesting the cutting of hedgerows between Withersdale and Weybread lakes. However, the hedge opposite Mendham Priory, around Rook House, had not been cut to date. The Clerk said she would contact SCC regarding this section.
- Mr Hayward offered to help with the roof repairs to the Mendham bus stop shelter.
- Mrs Allen commented that the Remembrance Day service would be held at Mendham this year.
- Mrs Allen also commented that the FOMSA notice board is still on the Studio Landia green and needs removing.
- Ms Ferrar confirmed Waveney Valley has £3million towards projects. She will pursue this for opportunities for Mendham.

**11. Next Meeting: MONDAY 18 MAY at MENDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL – to commence at 7pm with the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ,followed immediately by the Parish Council Meeting**

There being no further business for discussion, the Meeting was declared closed at 8.42pm

Signed.....

Date.....