

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

Present: Mr C Mosse-Chair, Ms K Ferrar, Mrs M Watson, Mr D Pye, Mrs L Allen, Mr G Lane, Mr J Kent, Mr C Hadingham .
Mrs M Curran – District Councillor , Mr G McGregor-County Councillor.
Steve Long - Community Police Support Officer (later)
Mrs Hudson, Mr Fox, Mrs S Whatling, Mrs D Musgrove (all members of the public)

1. Apologies: Mr R Hayward

2. The Minutes: The Minutes of the 21 September '09 meeting were read, approved and duly signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- The Cherry tree on the Green: The Clerk reported the matter had been progressed yet again via CSD. The representative confirmed there had been no updated report from the individual responsible for the scheduling of tree lopping etc, which was very disappointing. The representative offered to progress the subject on our behalf. However, after discussion, Mr Hadingham offered to undertake the removal of the Cherry tree.
- 'No Diving' sign for Mendham Bridge: The Clerk had progressed this again with SCC. The Engineer advised the sign was being stored until next Spring before affixing, the assumption being that the diving season had passed and the new sign may be removed before it becomes relevant again. It was agreed that this was a good plan and the Clerk to confirm agreement to SCC.
- Mendham Bus Shelter repairs: These are now complete and all were happy with the quality of the work.
- Traffic/roadwork issues at Withersdale: The Clerk had progressed SCC regarding the outstanding work to the Traffic Calming measures. Mr Warne at SCC said that they had done all that had been agreed and requested Mr Mosse to contact him regarding this.
- The over-hanging hedge at The Old Vicarage had not been cut back as the Clerk had misunderstood the actual location of the problem. This will now be rectified.

4. Reports:

a) Chair: Nothing to report.

b) Community Council:

Carol Singing is planned for the 14 December the proceeds of which will be donated to the Air Ambulance and First Responders; the Community Council's next meeting is 23 November when next years events will be discussed; the village Get-together held on the 9 October was not as well attended as hoped. Only 35 people attended but it was quite a successful evening.

c)Clerk:

The Clerk reported monies earned from the Recycling Centre in the Car Park is confirmed at £185.10 for the half-year March - September '09.

d) NVH Working Group:

Mr Fox confirmed he had received a Buildings Inspection Certificate which allows the opening of the New Village Hall. Flyers regarding bookings etc are to come from the new Hall Manager. Celebrations to be arranged in the New Year. He also confirmed one Planning Application approved but the P.A. for the footpath had been 'put on ice' for the present. He asked if the Parish Council could arrange for a formal direction sign for the village hall. It was agreed that a white sign simply stating 'Village Hall' . The Clerk will contact MSDC accordingly. Mr Pye offered congratulations to the NVH Committee and all present concurred.

e)County Councillor:

- The Waste Core Strategy is being reviewed. Waste (trade and domestic) currently totals 600 tonnes per annum. Measures have to be found to handle this volume. Sites at Eye and Gt Blakenham have been considered for an Incinerator.
- Budgets for 2010/2011 are currently being finalised
- 2011 onward will be tough financially – we must, as a country, spend less on public spending. SCC is making plans in preparation for this.
- Withersdale Street HGV traffic is being reviewed.

Mrs Allen asked what progress had been made regarding the safety of children using the School Bus at Withersdale Street – her comments at the May 2009 meeting refer. Mr McGregor said the person to contact is Ian Gray – Public Transport Section at SCC.

f)District Councillor: Mrs Curran also offered the NVH Committee her congratulations.

- The Local Government Rating is unknown as the budget is still being worked upon.
- Pest Control Service continue to offer a 50% discount to Key Card holders. However, it should be noted that this department is in danger of closure.
- Harleston Information Plus is now the 'gateway' for Home Choice.
- New trade waste services and other Recycling projects are going well.

g) PC Green: CPSO Steve Long attended the meeting in the absence of CPO Tim Green, who is on long term sick leave. He confirmed the last recorded crime was in August but had attended specifically tonight to advise of a telephone Scam. He handed the Parish Council a report from the Compliance and Authorities Bureau which explains the Scam in detail. A copy of this report will be put on Notice Boards and attached to Minutes.

The Clerk asked CPSO Long his badge and contact numbers, should we have need to call him.

He can be contacted via the central switchboard at Martlesham on 01473 613500 for emergencies.

He can also be contacted on 01284 774100

His badge number is 3172, which should be mentioned when making contact with him.

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

Mrs Musgrove, representing the Waveney Community Bus Company, expressed concerns regarding the rising costs of fuel and maintenance. Annual donations are gratefully accepted and the bus is run by volunteers. However, money is not accruing to fund the next bus. She requested an increase in the Parish Council's donation. Councillors said this would be considered.

Mr Hadingham asked for passenger numbers. Mrs Musgrove could not offer an exact figure but confirmed a greater portion were from Mendham and Withersdale. She also advised the arrival of a new Treasurer had caused some billing delays but this would soon to be corrected. She left a copy of her report for the convenience of the Clerk.

There being no further issues from members of the public, the Parish Council Meeting was resumed

5. Correspondence:

- Following discussions at the September meeting, the Clerk contacted MSDC requesting street name plates be erected at Mundy's Lane and Hunter's Lane. However, a letter and three maps had been received asking for confirmation of this request. The Clerk will complete the map references and reply.

- The Chair asked if any correspondence had been received regarding a canoe boom which has been erected at Mendham Mill. The residents there informed the Chair of this work. The Clerk confirmed no correspondence had been received.

6. Traffic Calming:

- Signage and tarmac at Withersdale Street still an issue. Mr Mosse asked Mr McGregor to progress at SCC.

- Withersdale residents asked, via the Chair, if the Bus Shelter could be moved to the centre of the village – near the telephone box site. The Chair and Mr McGregor had discussed this earlier during the day. Mrs Musgrove said the current Bus Shelter site is the only place in Withersdale where the Community bus can put down passengers and turn the bus around, This would not be possible if the Bus Shelter were re-sited to the telephone box position in the lay-by in the centre of the village. This point was noted. Generally the suggestion to move the Bus Shelter was not well received by Councillor's or members of the public. Mr Mosse said it is necessary to get all the facts together and have Ian Gray from SCC Public Transport Division survey buses and stopping places.

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

8. Finance Report:

a) Balances at Banks

Community Account (HSBC) = £3,462.89

Business Premium Account (Barclays) = £3,946.77

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

c) to note and agree expenditure and to sign cheques = £573.07

d) The Precept needs to be finalised at the January meeting. Councillor's were given a 'first look' budget sheet for consideration and it was agreed that the matter would be discussed further at the next meeting. Mr Pye had compiled a list of actual and likely expenditure to be considered.

9. Parish Plan:

Ms Ferrar advised there had been no progress as the Course Leader had gone on long-term sick leave. Grant applications were outstanding and there were communication complications. Therefore it would be necessary to reapply for grants next March.

10. Village of the Year preparation:

Mr Pye is planning publicity in the Spring, requesting volunteers to help get the village ready for 2011.

11. Hedge and Tree planting:

Denis and Jan Pye are now progressing this matter and the initial project is to obtain Hawthorns for planting around the Car Park. Also the NVH is being considered for a planting scheme – a copse between the Football field and the NVH. Mrs Musgrove suggested a memorial site of flowering trees. Mr Mosse asked if the Parish Council is in favour of progressing this work and all agreed.

12. Any Other Business:

- Mr Pye advised the School Governors have commenced a partnership with St. Edmund's Primary School at Hoxne. It is working well and plans to combine sports' teams.

- Mr Lane reported that he had collected a bag full of bottles and other litter item left on the pitch by

football clubs.

-Mr Mosse said he had failed to get the last Minutes approved to enable them to be displayed on the website, for which he apologised. The Clerk will now transmit the September Minutes to Mr Herbert.

- The Clerk had been asked by Mr Herbert if the Agenda could also be submitted for publication on the website. There were no objections to this therefore, the Clerk will transmit this to Mr Herbert as soon as it is finalised prior to each meeting.

13 . Next Meeting: MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2010 commencing 7.30pm. This meeting will be held at the New Village Hall, Withersdale.

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

Signed.....

Date.....

APPROVED