

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT MENDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2009, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.

Present: Mr C Mosse-Chair, Mr R Hayward-Vice Chair, Mr C Hadingham, Mrs M Watson, Mr J Kent, Mr D Pye, Mr G Lane, Mrs L Allen.

Mrs M Curran-District Councillor, Mr G McGregor-County Councillor, 8 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Ms K Ferrar

2.The Minutes: The Minutes of the 20 July meeting were read, approved and duly signed

3.Matters Arising from the Minutes:

-The Cherry tree on the Green – Parish Councillors now want to cut down the tree and not wait any longer for MSDC. The Clerk to progress MSDC once more.

-Item 12 – Fixed Asset Issues. Mr Mosse confirmed all items in good order with the exception of the Picnic Table, which needed a couple of new bolts; he will attend to this and the Bus Shelter roof. The Clerk advised she had contacted John Wall Construction at Weybread, asking for a quotation for the work on the Bus Shelter. Mr Wall had advised approximately £300. Councillors considered this a fair price and agreed Mr Wall should carry out the work as soon as possible. The Clerk will contact Mr Wall immediately.

-Item 13 – The hedge around The Old Vicarage garden. This has now become seriously overgrown. The Clerk to contact SCC Highways to ask if it can be cut back.

-The new, replacement sign for Mendham Bridge was delivered to SCC last week. The Engineer will now arrange for the scheduling of the work to refit the sign.

4. Reports:

a) Chair:

Mr Mosse had visited the Sir Alfred Munnings regarding under-aged drinking issues. Munnings advised they have in fact joined the Under Aged Drinking Scheme. This will allow youngsters into the pub but only with a consenting adult. There is concern regarding the number of children in the village who have nowhere to go or play. This should be looked at in the Parish Plan and Ms Ferrar has been asked to do this.

Mr Mosse also reported that Mr Brian Holden asked if street name plates could be erected. After some discussion it was agreed that street name plates would be requested for Mundy's Lane and Hunter's Lane only at this time. The Clerk was asked to approach MSDC/SCC accordingly.

Mr Mosse informed all that Mendham Bridge was to be closed for a period to give BT the opportunity to install new, additional telephone lines. The Clerk advised there had been no formal notification from BT therefore times and dates were uncertain.

b) Community Council:

Mrs Watson confirmed the village Get-together was now being held at the pub on 9 October commencing 7.30pm -ticket £3.00 each. She mentioned that Raffle Prizes are required.

All other projects ie Sports and Village of the Year competition are on track.

c)Clerk: Nothing further to report

d) NVH Working Group:

Mr Mosse asked Mr Fox, representing the NVH, to bring all present up to date regarding progress and recent Planning issues.

Mr Fox said i) the NVH Committee would like the Parish Council to approve a brown 'place of interest/direction' sign. ii) he advised Planning Notices had appeared on the gateway today. There

will now be a three week consultation period – Mr Fox handed the Clerk a copy of the plan and iii) a second planning application for a link footpath needs to be filed. At this point he handed everyone present a document showing two options for consideration - Option A describing a 210metre long footpath running within the playing-field and Option B describing a shorter footpath of 150 metres terminating at the bus shelter then continuing as a hard pavement on the roadside linking with the Cross. SCC will fund the hard pavement, reducing the overall cost by £2000. The NVH Committee would like the Parish Council to be the applicant for this second P.A. and would prefer Option B. Mr Fox explained the benefits of getting Mr Goodyear, a Highways Pavements Officer, on board. Mr Pye confirmed Mr Goodyear had been extremely helpful.

At this point the the Parish Council Meeting was closed to allow for public discussion:

-Mr Naunton said a footpath has always been needed but he did not agree with Option B. In his opinion the traffic measures recently implemented have not improved speeding traffic and the proposed opening up of the Withersdale Cross will only give more opportunity for speeding traffic.

-A resident living at Kiln House said the option of breaking a footpath at the bus stop will not be practical

-Mrs Hudson confirmed that when the original P.A. was submitted many years ago, traffic was nowhere near as heavy and as fast as it is today and a footpath to the proposed NVH was not within the NVH Committee's remit. Now things have changed and they have to consider what is best.

There were no further comments from the public, therefore the Parish Council meeting was resumed:

After discussion and consideration a unanimous decision amongst Councillors could not be reached, therefore, Mr Mosse asked the Clerk to action a secret ballot. This was done, the Clerk counted the votes and confirmed the majority voted for Option B and the Parish Council to be named the applicant. Mr Fox, on behalf of the NVH Committee, thanked the Parish Council.

e)County Councillor:

-A '20's Plenty' scheme for Mendham is still on his local budget agenda

-Exam results in Suffolk were disappointing. There were exceptions and these were of no surprise but many schools only achieved an average result and this was considered not good enough. There is insufficient personalised learning being offered and this must be addressed.

-Government money is not being spent wisely, in many cases unproductively.

-Lowestoft requested £13million for funding but this was not approved. College bids are not being honoured. The next 3 years will be a test for SCC and its ability to serve the County.

Mr Hayward asked Mr McGregor if the 7½Ton limit at Withersdale Street was likely to be approved. Mr McGregor replied there was insufficient throughput of heavy traffic to approve a ban.

Mr Mosse asked if the present Safety Scheme will be monitored. Mr McGregor confirmed S.I.D. checks will be made and two-way traffic monitors across the road will be installed.

Mrs Allen reminded Mr McGregor about the unsafe conditions for children crossing the road to board the School Bus at Withersdale Street. Mr McGregor confirmed it was noted and will be followed up.

f)District Councillor:

- Mrs Curran confirmed MSDC were vote top in the Recycling tables again- Well done everyone!

-Choice Based Letting will be included on the next Parish Liaison Meeting agenda. Harleston Information Centre will be trained to assist people in the procedure required to be included on the bidding list. Interested people can also call MSDC on 01449 724762 for assistance.

- Bus Pass/Key Card holders can obtain a 50% reduction for MSDC Pest Control fees
- For those wishing to dispose of unwanted paint pots, advice can be sought from Customer Service Direct on 0845 606 6045. Battery disposal/recycling containers still being looked at.
- No information available regarding Local Government Rating at present.
- g) PC Green: No report available from the CPO.

5. Correspondence:

- MSDC letter regarding land for Allotments was passed to Mr Fox
- Gambling Act Regulation Consultation – passed to Mrs Whatling to check the NVH Licence.
- Gypsy & Traveller Site documentation – no action required.
- East Anglia Times letter from the Editor asking for more news items.
- Letter from The Vicar, Susan Loxton, also asking for more news items and a new Editor for Five Alive
- MSDC letter advising a seminar on Affordable Housing to be held 9 October.

Public Speaking and Questions. - No further issues from members of the public therefore the Parish Council meeting was continued.

6. Traffic Calming: Mr Mosse confirmed the signs on the gateways are still missing and the red tarmac, which was to be removed, is still in place. The Clerk was asked to progress these matters with SCC.

7. Planning Issues:

Planning Applic. Ref. 2318/09 extension to existing building for cattle cover at Croft View.

Planning Applic. Ref. 2340/09 “ “ at Chestnut Farm.

Mr Kent declared an interest and withdrew from discussion regarding these applications. After consideration it was agreed unanimously that there were no objections to either application. Comments to this effect will be sent to MSDC Planning Control Department.

8. Finance Report:

a) Balances at Banks

Community Account (HSBC)	=	£1,918.49
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Business Premium Account (Barclays)	=	£3,946.28
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b) to note expenditure to date against budget – see Spreadsheet

c) to note and agree expenditure and to sign cheques to the value	£ 880.60
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Proposed: Mr R Hayward

Seconded: Mr D Pye

9. Parish Plan: Ms Ferrar had sent a brief report via the Clerk:-

There had been no progress as no funding had been forthcoming. Funding is necessary to pay for training courses which will ensure progress. Ms Ferrar will follow this up and report at the next

meeting.

10. Village of the Year:

Mr Pye confirmed that the categories required to satisfy the competition criteria were mostly in place. The Welcome Pack is now complete and is on the village website. He thanked the Community Council for their help and enthusiasm

11. Tree & Hedge planting:

A report had been received from Mrs Pye and Mrs Thistlethwaite which identified areas most needing replanting and general attention. The Clerk advised the representative from Waveney Countryside Partnership was unable to attend this evenings meeting but he offered to survey the area if required and will inform, via the Clerk, what grants are available.

Mrs Thistlethwaite gave a brief presentation on seriously damaged areas of hedgerow and trees. This matter to be progressed

12. Any Other Business:

- Mrs Watson wanted to clarify, on behalf of the Chair of the Football Club, the issue of insurance. Comments had been made that the Football Club was not covered by insurance. This is incorrect and the current insurance policy is valid from 1.9.09
- Mr Kent mentioned that the trees in Church Lane are very overgrown. He asked if the Clerk could contact SCC Highways requesting them to cut these back.
- Mrs Allen asked who will lay the Remembrance Day wreath on the 8 November. Mr Mosse offered to call Kevin Loame, whose grandfather is mentioned on the Memorial.
- Mrs Allen also mentioned complains about late night rabbit shooting ie after midnight. Mr Mosse confirmed Police do not approve of shooting with shot-guns after 11pm. Mr Hadingham said rifles make less noise and the rabbit population must be controlled.
- Mr Mosse apologised to Mr Hayward as he had omitted to note his apologies at the NVH meeting.

13. Next Meeting: MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER commencing 7.30pm at Mendham Primary School

There being no further business for discussion, the Meeting was declared closed at 9.10 pm

Signed.....

Date.....