

## MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

### DRAFT MINUTES

*Not yet approved by councillors*

1. The chairman, Peter Lee, welcomed councillors Tony Dawson, Kathy Ferrar, Cecil Hadingham, Jimmy Kent, Sandra King, Geoff Lane, Richard Mattocks, and Denis Pye. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. There were three members of the public and also Mid-Suffolk District councillor, Marilyn Curran and Suffolk County councillor Guy McGregor.
2. **Declarations of interest** – no councillors declared any interests.
3. **Have Your Say [Public Forum]** – firstly councillors heard a report from **PCSO Steve Long** and were pleased to hear that no crimes had been recorded in Mendham recently. However the level of rural crime in the district continued with allotments and gardens targeted. Two priorities were targeted by the local SNT – 1 – rural crime 2 – speeding. There were always complaints about the latter. The chairman thanked PCSO Long for attending.

**Marilyn Curran [Mid-Suffolk District councillor]** started her report with comments on the new planning enforcement plan and asked if we had received this. The clerk had not and Cllr. Curran said she would send this to her. The recent Suffolk Housing Survey had produced a very good response. An Emergency Plans training session was to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> March; she also gave further information on the CIL plans. Cllr Curran emphasised the need for all local food outlets to have Food Hygiene Certificates. The Rural Housing Assn has a very informative website which councillors are urged to look at with information on affordable rural housing. Cllr. Curran congratulated Mendham on their success in Suffolk Community Awards. She also told us that for family reasons she would not be standing for re-election in May – the chairman expressed the regret of all councillors and thanked her for her help over past years and for attending this evening. **Steve Keeling [Withersdale and Mendham village Hall]** asked the councillors to support the use of Section 106 [Developer's Fees] money for the planned new sheds at the hall . The clerk was asked to e-mail councillors' agreement on this. The total cost of the sheds would be approximately £8,500 and the Village Hall Committee has also bought a new ride-on mower for £2000. The Section 106 money would go towards the cost of the sheds. Concerns were also raised about the dog bin emptying and the clerk was asked to contact Mid-Suffolk District Council Waste Services to highlight this problem [complaint ref. no RIF131459]

4. **Standing Orders** – the amended version [reference 3. Meetings Generally] was amended to include the new legislation permitting filming and recording at meetings – this was agreed by all councillors.
5. **Transparency Code, new** – the clerk explained that the new Transparency Code for Smaller Councils related mostly to financial procedures which were already followed by the council; the only difference was that the draft minutes must now be put on the village website [[Mendham.org.uk](http://Mendham.org.uk)]
6. **Minutes of the previous meeting [19-01-15]** were amended in item 12 - Community Emergency Planning: to read “a scheme is not being considered”; they were then approved by councillors and signed as correct.  
*The meeting was closed at 8.10pm, to allow Suffolk County councillor, Guy McGregor to give his report which started with comments on the rolling out of Broadband services He stated that funding was available for potholes and to let him know if there were problems in the village.*  
*Council tax was remaining the same as last year; however there was a rise in the level of the police share of the tax. Cllr.McGregor highlighted the campaign to utilise Hartismere Hospital to the maximum.*  
*The pylon scheme in the Waveney Valley had been halted at present. There were further questions re potholes and the contact for the clerk is David Stiff at SCC Highways.*  
*Cllr. McGregor reverted to schools problems and stated that they were in danger of being overwhelmed by bureaucracy. He also highlighted the forthcoming meeting with EDF re the proposed Sizewell project. need to The chairman thanked Guy McGregor for attending. [Meeting opened at 8.45pm to continue the parish council meeting.]*
7. **Matters arising** - the chairman made comments on limited funding available to police and emphasised the need to report crimes
8. **Finances** – balances at 27-02-15 are as follows – c/acct: £8,490.17; sav/acct: £3,967.08 – total assets - £112,457.25. Cheques were approved as follows – no.066 to C. Cardwell for 292.30[net sal Feb/Mar]; no. 067 to Her Majesty’s Customs and Excise for 109.60 [tax to 5 Apr]; no. 068 to Six Sense for 12.00 [flyer]; no. 069 to Community Action Suffolk for 30.00 [sub.]; no. 070 to Colin Herbert for 64.99 [website domain costs]. The review of the financial regulations was deferred to May.
9. **Planning** – it was noted that the application concerning Lodge Farm, Gules lane, Fressingfield had been withdrawn.
10. **Parking opposite the school** – councillors noted that some residents had complained but pointed out that the parking bay was not restricted as to its use and had been

11. requested by the school originally. The clerk asked to respond to the residents who had complained.
12. **Elections, forthcoming** – the clerk gave out an election timetable and nomination papers – the chairman, Peter Lee said he would take completed papers into Mid-Suffolk District offices in the week before Easter –
13. **Footpath leaflet and Newsletter [taken together]** – councillors were happy to approve the newsletter plans put forward by Colin Herbert and will cover printing costs. However councillors felt that it was essential to walk and check the footpaths in the proposed leaflet and no funding could be released until their accuracy, accessibility and clarity were confirmed. Concerns were raised over Footpath 6 [opposite Withersdale and Mendham Village Hall] and the clerk was asked to contact Suffolk County Council Footpaths officer to request another sign across the field towards Hunters Lane.
14. **Litter pick [Suffolk Clean Up Your Village campaign]** – councillors had no plans to carry this out as they felt it was unnecessary in Mendham – a very tidy village and individual councillors often collected litter as they saw it.
15. **Correspondence** – received and discussed
16. **Any other business** – clerk asked to e-mail councillors' decision re Village Hall sheds to Mid-Suffolk District council Planning office. Kath Ferrar reported that the award money from the place in the Suffolk Village of the Year 2014 would be spent on a boules piste at the village hall – this was the top request from a village poll on how best to use the award money. Councillors were in favour of using Section 106 money [sports] to support this decision. The clerk was asked to e-mail Suffolk County Council Highways dept. with reference to large pothole by manhole cover at Withersdale Cross and also in Mendham lane by Chestnut Farm buildings which allowed water onto the highway and was becoming dangerous.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.