

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING – 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015

MINUTES

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Kathy Ferrar, Peter Lee, Jasmine Honeybourne, Jimmy Kent and Mark Shortt. Apologies were received from Tony Dawson and Richard mattocks. Two members of the public were present, also Lavinia Hadingham [MSD councillor] and Guy McGregor [SC councillor]. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.
2. **Declarations of interest** – none
3. **Have Your Say** [Public Forum- 7.31pm] –*Colin Herbert said the new History book was finished and very successful; the footpath leaflet would go ahead for release in the Spring; the chair thanked Colin for all his hard work. A report from Lavinia Hadingham [MSD councillor] informed councillors of MSD Council's new monitoring officer, and of the intention to generate additional revenue with capital investment. LH is chair of the Traveller Group and Home start; there will be a statement on broad plans for devolution and also plans to assist with the Syrian refugee crisis – please note the "rucksack for a refugee" centre in Beccles. The chair thanked Lavinia Hadingham for attending.*
4. **Minutes** of the previous meeting [27-07-15] were approved and signed as a true record.
5. **Matters arising** - there is a delay in obtaining quotes from Perfitts. The clerk asked to again contact MSDC Waste Services re emptying of dog bins.
6. **Finances** - *Balances* at 28 August 2015 - c/acct: £8,850.02; sav/acct: £3,968.07; Total: £12,818.09 – add precept £2,850 = £15,668.09; *Cheques* were approved as follows: 095 to HMRC for £112.00 [tax to 5 Oct];096 to C. Cardwell for £444.82 [net salary Jun/Aug/Sept]; 097 to J. R. Kent for £144 [road verge trimming]
7. **Clerk's training** – approval was given for the clerk to attend a course on updating financial regulations.
8. **Footpath leaflet** – to be published in Spring.
9. **War memorial** – waiting for Perfitt's quote for additional names.
10. **Village Hall field** - there will be a meeting with Suffolk Wildlife Trust for advice on establishing the wildflower meadow.
11. **Withersdale Street** – speed sign malfunction ; info. given to Guy McGregor.

12. Phone Box – suggested use favours a defibrillator station – clerk to research sources and costs.

13. Community Emergency Planning – no council interest at present.

14. Correspondence – received and discussed; Denis Pye to reply with concerns over cuts in Suffolk Police and the effect in rural areas.

15. Any other business - it was noted with regret that Tracey Thompson was leaving the Youth Club and her contribution and efforts were greatly valued; donors' labels in the Village Hall orchard had been lost; the PC notice board in Withersdale Street needed oiling. There will be a village get-together in November at the Alfred Munnings Hotel; the plans for a boules piste are waiting for the sheds to be demolished; there is a new book by the Art Trail

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Collective and the council was asked if it could assist with production costs. The clerk suggested that the PC might like to join the Local Council Award Scheme [Foundation Level] and was asked to get more details.

8.10pm – Guy McGregor arrived and gave a report including information on broadband coverage plans for Suffolk There is a new SCC Highways director and it is hoped for an improvement in the effectiveness of the contracts. He also spoke briefly on devolution plans, the proposed reduction of magistrates' courts in Suffolk to one at Ipswich and the problems that would pose in accessing justice in rural areas. Councillors raised the possibility of a "speed awareness sign" [there is one at Hoxne] and he said he would try to help. The chair thanked him for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm