

# MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MEETING – 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016

### MINUTES [approved by councillors on 21st March 2016].

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Kathy Ferrar, Jimmy Kent, Tony Dawson and Julie Honeybourne. Apologies were received and accepted from Richard Mattocks and Mark Shortt. The chair and councillors received with great regret the resignation of Peter Lee, due to ill-health; the clerk was asked to send a letter thanking him for all his work with the council. Also present were Lavinia Hadingham [Mid-Suffolk District councillor] and Guy McGregor [Suffolk County councillor]. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. There was one member of the public present.
2. **Declarations of interest** – Tony Dawson [non-pecuniary] in item 9; noted and approved.
3. **Public Forum** – the question of flooding on the roads at Withersdale Street, near Mendham Priory and Priory Farm, was raised by a member of the public. Recent surfacing work had raised the surface level near Rook House and Mendham Lodge; the water on the road had contributed to several accidents; the chair said there was a forthcoming meeting with Josh White [Suffolk Highways] and the problem would be raised with him as a matter of urgency. There were similar problems at Dennys Hill in Mendham, [where surface water was flooding into gardens] which would also be addressed.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** [16-11-15] were approved and signed as a true record.
5. **Matters arising** – The chair had written to the planning authority but had had no reply; there is a new manager at the village hall and plans for the wild flower meadow would be followed up in March; a quote is awaited for the Church Lane tree trimming and also for the car park notice board; Studio Corner parking problems had been addressed by the chair. War Memorial additions – further information on possible grant awaited from War Memorials Trust.
6. **Finances** –
  - Balances at 30-12-15 \_c/acct: 10,545.39; sav/acct: 3,969.05; total assets – 14,514.44.
  - Cheques were approved as follows: 107 to C. Cardwell for 149.42 [net sal. Dec];\_108 to SCC for 50.00 [hire of school for 2016]; 109 to Redenhall and Harleston Town Council for £300.00 [for maintenance of car parks in Harleston as a contribution towards free parking].
  - Heelis and Lodge were appointed internal auditors.
  - The clerk gave further information on the External Audit regulations and councillors agreed to follow the Sector Led Body proposals instigated by NALC, SLCC and ADA.
  - Councillors agreed to add Julie Honeybourne to the signatories on the PC accounts and remove Peter Lee. The clerk to arrange this and inform Barclays Mandate Change Team.\_

7. **Budget and precept** for year Apr. 2016 to Mar. 2017 – Further discussion and consideration of likely expenditure led to all councillors agreeing to slightly increase the precept to £6,000. It was noted that the precept had been unchanged for the past three years.
8. **Planning** – councillors noted the information that a proposed amendment to the Housing and Planning Bill would enable local interested bodies to have a right of appeal against planning decisions. They also received information on the South Norfolk Local Plan, as a contiguous council.
9. **Car park** – The tree trimming is in hand; Jimmy Kent to source planings for potholes; the chair thanked Jimmy Kent for clearing up rubbish left as fly-tipping.

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10. **De-fibrillator plans** – Kathy Ferrar reported that the British Heart Foundation will give all the equipment, cabinet and signage. The kiosk needs cleaning before installation. A demonstration of equipment use was being sought.
11. **Vehicle Activated Sign [VAS]** – councillors agreed to meet Josh White [Suffolk Highways] at end of month; clerk to arrange. They would also raise the flooding problems on local roads at this meeting.
12. **Suffolk Police and Fire and Rescue Services** – report on re-organisation received.
13. **Newsletter** – it was agreed to publish one this Spring. The chair to co-ordinate with March issue of 6 Sense.
14. **Correspondence** – received and discussed.
15. **Reports from County, District and parish councillors** –
  - District Councillor [Lavinia Hadingham] – she started by wishing all councillors a Happy New Year and continued by briefly commenting on devolution plans and the necessity to consider local interests, the spending review would need to make cuts of 40% for 16/17 and hopefully these would be met by management and boundary reviews. She mentioned that the Friday Fun Club at Mendham and Withersdale Village Hall had had a grant of £1500 from the locality budget.
  - County Councillor Guy McGregor – gave further comments and information on the provision of broadband in rural areas and indicated that resolution of this was in the final stages. He pointed out that there would be no increase in Council Tax this coming year and the Chancellor's increased allocation of 6m. for Suffolk had been cancelled out by wages increase and newly devolved responsibility for social care. He made further comments on local schools, especially Stradbroke High School's quality. The Suffolk Energy Gateway [ie 4 villages by-pass] was also mentioned as were railways policy, problems of Abellio and the suggestion that Suffolk may not feel it was appropriate to join Norfolk in devolution plans. There were further comments on Further Education Colleges and the delays in the Fostering and Adoption Services.
  - Tony Dawson – No problems had occurred with emptying the glass recycling bins.
  - Kathy Ferrar – Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations would be celebrated by the Community Council and an event was to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> June. The PC would hopefully be able to

contribute; the village would again enter the Most Active Small Village competition in 2016 after its success last year.

16. **Any other business** – the clerk to notify the District Council of the two vacancies and put up notices for the public to apply.

17. **Next meeting** – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm