

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2016

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 21st November 2016].

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Jimmy Kent, Kathy Ferrar, Mark Shortt, Stewart Orr, Julie Honeybourne and Thelma Brown. There were apologies from Tony Dawson and Richard Mattocks. Lavinia Hadingham [*Mid Suffolk District councillor*] and Guy McGregor [*Suffolk County councillor*] also attended. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.
2. **Declarations of interest** and dispensations allowed – none
3. **PUBLIC FORUM** – Lavinia Hadingham [*MSD councillor*] gave a report on devolution consultation results, with further comments on the site of the possible headquarters of the merged MSDC and Babergh DC [*report attached*]. The chair thanked Lavinia Hadingham for attending.
4. **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – these were reviewed [copies had been circulated to councillors] and it was agreed that no changes were needed as they were up to date.
5. **Minutes** of previous meetings [18-07-16; 17-08-16] were agreed and signed as a true record.
6. **Matters arising** on the minutes not on agenda – Tree Preservation Orders – chair had contacted the Mid Suffolk District Council tree officer to check local trees; Vine House hedge has been cut back; Withersdale notice-board has been checked and is now in good order; the walk leaflets had been distributed to various local points and were very popular.
7. **Finances** – review of financial regulations: see 4 above.
 - Balances at 30-08-16 are - c/acct: 11,040.30; sav/acct: 3,970.03; Total assets - £15,010.33; 2nd precept of 3,000 was paid in at end of August, so assets now = approx. £18,000;
 - Cheques were approved as follows: 126 to C. Cardwell for 298.64 [net sal Aug/Sept]; 127 to HMRC for 112.00 [tax to Oct 5th]; 128 to K. Ferrar for 55.68 [paint for kiosk]; 129 to JSO Electrical for 406.12 [supply to de-fib. kiosk]; 130 to C. M. Barnes for 250.00 [maintenance] Total cheques - £1122.44
 - Clerk's contract – NALC new rates agreed by councillors; the clerk will now be paid for 5 hrs per week at £8.717 per hour from Oct. 2016.
 - External audit report from BDO: councillors received and noted this, with no matters requiring attention.
8. **Planning** –
 - 2687/16 - Hill Farm, Withersdale: side extension – councillors had no comment to make.
 - 3057/16 – Hawthorn Cottage, Hollow Lane – councillors noted Mid Suffolk District Council permission for siting of mobile home
 - Street Naming [The Greys] – councillors noted the request and the chair is to inquire further.
9. **Website, future** – Colin Herbert has to give up the management in 6 months; councillors noted that the village hall now had its own site. Councillors agreed that the present site was a valuable historical resource for the villages and the chair and Kathy Ferrar will look into possible arrangements for its continuity.

10. War Memorial – Tony Dawson had confirmed the quote with Perfitts with possibly a very slight increase; the chair and TD to meet Perfitts at the Memorial on Thursday to finalise the work needed. This should be completed in time for 11th Nov.

11. Parking in village centre – councillors discussed concerns over white van on crossroads [owner Mr. Robert Bowen] and derelict Land Rover in lay by [owner Mr. Stephen Curtis] - following parish council concerns over road safety issues and numerous complaints from local residents, the clerk was asked to write to persons concerned.

***Report** - The meeting closed at 8.12pm for Guy McGregor [Suffolk County councillor] to give a report. This included comments on Broadband, pothole repairs, progress at Fressingfield and Laxfield primary schools, which had both improved. The future of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service was causing grave concerns, especially over local cover. GM made further comments on proposed devolution plans and also on social care situation in Suffolk. The chair thanked Guy McGregor for attending.*

12. Current projects – updated

- wildflower meadow at village hall – no current progress; Kathy Ferrar to see if Suffolk Wildlife Trust grant can be used in another venue.
- car park – really only needs the one bad hole patched; the clerk produced some costs for a new noticeboard but councillors would prefer to use a local carpenter.
- De-fibrillator cabinet installed, and waiting for electricians and the kiosk to be painted. There will be a training session on 1st October at the village school; 12 people have already indicated willingness to be trained. Volunteers are needed to paint the phone box.

13. Any other business – concerns were raised over flooding on corner by War Memorial, the junction of Foxes Lane and Withersdale Road, and, as water drains down Dennys Hill into neighbouring properties – clerk asked to contact Josh White [Suffolk Highways]. A village get together is planned for 18th November at The Alfred Munnings; Stewart Orr has the PC speed gun and other speed monitoring equipment and asked if it should be on the PC insurance. Councillors agreed that it should and the clerk asked to do this. The de-fibrillator will also need insuring. Thelma Brown raised the issue of nuisance bonfires and the clerk was asked to look into possible by-laws. Jimmy Kent pointed out that the bridges on Mendham Marshes were excellent, but would like alternative gates for walkers as the large gates, if left open, would allow his cattle to get mixed up. TB to look into this.

14. Next meeting – 21st November 2016

The meeting closed at 8.45pm