

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 23RD JANUARY 2017

DRAFT MINUTES [not yet approved by councillors]

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Kathy Ferrar, Tony Dawson, Jimmy Kent, Julie Honeybourne, Stewart Orr, Thelma Brown, and Richard Mattocks. Apologies were received from Cllr. Mark Shortt and Guy McGregor [Suffolk County councillor]. Lavinia Hadingham [Mid Suffolk District councillor] attended. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.
2. **Declarations of interest** and dispensations allowed – none
3. **PUBLIC FORUM** – no members of public present.
4. **Minutes** of previous meetings [21-11-16; 29-11-16] were approved and signed as a true record.
5. **Matters arising** not on agenda – the clerk was asked to contact Highways re a disabled parking space at Studio Corner; trimming of the chestnut tree in The Street should be done by 1st March; The chair did e-mail Highways re possible chevrons on the bend on the B1123 - the clerk asked to follow this up a with copy to Guy McGregor [Suffolk County councillor] and also contact him about numerous potholes needing attention.
6. **Finances** – balances at 30-12-16 as follows – c/acct: 11,547.52; sav. acct: 3,971.02. Total assets £15,518.54. Cheques approved to C. Cardwell for 302.14 [net sal dec/jan] and to Mendham Primary School for 10.00 [hire]. Councillors agreed to appoint Heelis and Lodge as internal auditors for year 16/17. The clerk detailed the new external audit arrangements starting in Apr. 2018.
7. **Budget** for year Apr. 2017 to Mar. 2018 – this was further discussed and amended and taking into consideration forthcoming spending councillors agreed to precept for **£6,000**. Future extra spending included grants to Village Hall for management of the field, work on the car park and a new noticeboard for Mendham car park
8. **Website** – councillors agreed that the present site should be archived, and that a new site should be established for the Parish Council with *suffolkcloud*. This will cost up to £100 per annum, plus a one-off cost for transfer of up to £75, which councillors agreed to. Kathy Ferrar to progress this. As the present parish Facebook page was being discontinued, councillors agreed to set up a new Facebook page
9. **Village Plan** – updating discussed and councillors agreed that there was a need to formulate a new plan after consultation with local residents – this could take place starting with a feature at the Annual Village Meeting in May. It was noted that the original software was still available and that ring-fenced funds were held of about £700/£800 in the council reserves.
10. **Reports** from Councillors – Lavinia Hadingham [Mid Suffolk District councillor] gave a report on the adoption by Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Councils of a cabinet/leader governance system and the re-location of the joint HQ to Endeavour House in Ipswich.
11. **Correspondence** – correspondence discussed;
12. **Any other business** – a query was raised re current use of the waste paper recycling bin in the car park; some tyres had been flytipped in the car park, and then removed by MSDC waste services; the clerk was asked to circulate meeting dates; Richard Mattocks queried a projected costing in the budget; there were some comments about the lack of control of the hounds during a recent local meeting of the Waveney Harriers hunt.
13. **The next meeting** is 20th March 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm