

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 17TH JULY 2017

DRAFT MINUTES [not yet approved by councillors]

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Thelma Brown, Stewart Orr, Tony Dawson, Jimmy Kent, Julie Honeybourne, Kathy Ferrar, Richard Mattocks and Mark Shortt. Mid Suffolk District Councillor, Lavinia Hadingham, attended. Apologies were received from SC councillor, Guy McGregor. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.
2. Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – none.
3. Public Forum – Sally MacKinnon is the Suffolk County tree warden for the parish and she spoke about her work, the need to involve the community in an awareness and appreciation of the local trees, any diseases, and tree support for wildlife. It was noted that there is a wild service tree in Mendham churchyard. Her contact is – sallymackinnon@btinternet.com. The chair thanked Ms. MacKinnon for speaking to the council.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting [17-05-17] were approved and signed as a true record.
5. Matters arising not on agenda – Kathy Ferrar said the website was now up and running; councillors noted the new classroom in the school ; the white van had been removed from the car park and the very large school banner had now gone.
6. Finances - **Balances at 23-06-17**
 - Sav/acct: £3,971.02
 - c/acct: £11,350.52
 - total assets - £15,321.54

Cheques approved:

- 161 to C. Cardwell for 307.50 [net sal. Jun/Jul]
- 162 to MSDC for 108.00 [bin emptying]
- 165 to C. M. Barnes for 150.00 [maintenance];

Donations [Sect. 137] approved:

- 163 to Mendham PCC for 200;
- 164 to Withersdale PCC for 200;
- 166 to M & W village hall for 1200

Councillors agreed to close the savings account with Barclays Bank and transfer the funds to the current account.

7. Planning –

- DC/17/02388: School House, Mendham – application for outline permission to build 4 bedroom house in garden – councillors discussed this, and taking into account neighbour comments, voted by a majority, not to support this application. Concerns were raised over access, lack of parking and garden space.
- DC/17/02793: Ashley, Mendham – councillors had no objection to the application to build a front extension. Clerk to inform MSDC of their decisions.
- A letter received from a prospective developer with reference to the field opposite the school, asking to give a presentation to the council, was felt to be premature as the Joint Local Plan was not yet finalised. Clerk asked to reply.

5/17

8. Electoral Review of Mid Suffolk – this was covered by the District Councillor’s report.
9. Litter pick, possible – this was discussed and it was noted that individual councillors often collected rubbish along the roads. However, the clerk asked to inquire about support from the District Council with bags etc.
10. Parish trees – see Public Forum above.
11. Traffic calming – the council has received complaints of speeding in The Street and also comments on eroded verges. The clerk asked to contact Highways.
12. Reports from District and parish councillors

Lavinia Hadingham [MSD councillor] presented a report on the forthcoming boundary changes; additional comments on the Mid Suffolk housing stock with reference to the Grenfell Tower fire in London and forthcoming safety measures; the new Joint Local Plan will be out for consultation in Sept. [full report attached]. Mid Suffolk and Babergh will be moving their HQ to Endeavour House in Ipswich with regional offices at Stowmarket and Sudbury
13. Correspondence – received and discussed.
14. Any other business – the road [B1123] would be closed near Priory Farm for bridge repairs and resurfacing. The chestnut tree in The Street had been trimmed; work on War Memorial is starting shortly; Cllr. Orr raised the question of re-instating Neighbourhood Watch [agenda for Sept]. Cllr. Shortt raised an issue with one of his customers receiving a note when the customer had parked in the lay-by – councillors noted that this was a public parking area.
15. The next meeting is on 18th Sept. 2017

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.