

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 20TH NOVEMBER 2017

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 15-01-18].

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Tony Dawson, Mark Shortt, Jimmy Kent, Kathy Ferrar and Stewart Orr. Apologies were received from Thelma Brown and Richard Mattocks and also Guy McGregor [Suffolk County councillor]. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.
2. Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – Stewart Orr declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 – planning.
3. Councillor vacancy – Steve Keeling applied for the position and councillors agreed that he should fill the vacancy. Steve Keeling signed the acceptance form and joined the council; clerk to arrange his register of interests with MSDC.
4. ***PUBLIC FORUM [meeting closed at 7.35pm] – 2 members of the public opened a discussion about the parking problems in the village, largely connected with school parking. Various causes and options were discussed with car sharing, white lining the car park, and public parking provision to be included in future developments. Councillors felt that liaising with Suffolk County Highways would be productive. [The meeting opened at 7.50pm]***
5. Reports from County, District and parish councillors –
 - Lavinia Hadingham [MSD councillors] presented a report covering HQ move to Ipswich, continuing merger plans between Mid Suffolk and Babergh and forthcoming developments in Weybread and Fressingfield. The chair thanked Lavinia Hadingham for her attendance.
 - Stewart Orr gave a report on a local SNT meeting and highlighted the various and onerous duties of local police, with reducing budgets. He emphasised the need to inform the police of the smallest suspicious event; the police are very supportive of Neighbourhood Watch schemes. The chair thanked Stewart Orr for attending the police meeting on the council's behalf.
6. Minutes of previous meetings [18-09-17; 18-10-17] were approved and signed as a true record with one amendment in the Sept. minutes.
7. Matters arising not on agenda – possible VAS [vehicle activated sign] – clerk to contact Weybread with view to sharing; Kathy Ferrar reported that Mendham had again won the Suffolk Most Active Village in the Small Villages Category and John Brownfield had attended the presentation at the SALC AGM.
8. Village parking concerns – councillors agreed that the PC should actively engage with the inhabitants of Mendham to try and resolve these problems. Cllrs. Pye and Ferrar to start.

9. Finances

- Community Account balance at 30-10-17£15,586.94
- Cheques for approval
 - 175 to Chris Barnes for 150.00 [hedges, maintenance]
 - 176 to Royal British Legion for 35.00 [wreath]
 - 177 to Anthony Eden for 50.00 [tidying War Memorial]
 - 178 to H. L. Perfitt for 1920.00 [War Memorial renovation]
 - 179 to Consortium Multi Academy Trust for 20.00 [hire of school]

- 180 to C. Cardwell for 307.50 [net sal Oct/Nov]
 - 181 to HMRC for 115.40 [tax to 5 Jan 18]
 - 182 to C. Cardwell for 235.30 [expenses from Nov. 16 to Nov. 17]
 - 183 to SALC for 10.00 [buffet lunch at AGM]
 - Total cheques..... £2843.20
- Financial regulations reviewed, and altered to include the public contract regs and authority to spend clauses – signed by the chair.
 - External audit [BDO] report received and comments noted; no major issues.
 - The clerk asked councillors to approve the yearly NALC increase for this year – SCP 15 now 8.873 per hr. this was agreed.
10. Budget for year Apr. 2018 to Mar 2019 – preliminary figures discussed and clerk to circulate to councillors; the precept figure to be finalised in January 2018.
11. Planning –
- DC/17/05115 - Hylow, Mundy's Lane – councillors noted MSDC permission
 - DC/05000 – Highfields, Foxes Lane, Mendham – councillors fully supported this application for a new extension and demolition of existing.
 - DC/17/05384 – Priors Croft, Withersdale Street – councillors had no comment to make on application for a summerhouse.
 - Clerk to inform MSDC of councillors' views on the above applications
 - Parish Plan, suggested – this was briefly discussed and councillors agreed that it was a good idea and suggested that the current plan, now out of date, might be checked and reviewed next year.
12. Website - John Brownfield and Kathy Ferrar to have more training with Suffolk Cloud.
13. Dog bin – fixing in car park to be checked by chair,
14. Village Sign refurbishment plans – the original Woodbridge firm contacted and estimate to be forthcoming.
15. Correspondence received and discussed
16. Any other business – Kathy Ferrar said the carol singing would be on 14th Dec. and Jimmy Kent raised the question of increasing fly-tipping; it was felt that high charges by re-cycling sites contributed to the problem
17. 2018 meeting dates – 3rd Monday at 7.30; clerk to circulate list.
The meeting closed at 8.50pm