

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 21ST JANUARY 2019

DRAFT MINUTES [not yet approved by councillors]

Public Forum – for comments by members of the public and reports from District and County councillors

- *Three members of the public attended. Mrs. V. Lindsell [Village Hall committee] presented a request to the parish council for financial assistance with regard to necessary improvements and renovations at the hall, and also a request for help with purchasing new pads and battery for the hall defibrillator. Councillors agreed to discuss this later.*
 - *Lavinia Hadingham [Mid Suffolk District councillor] gave a report covering responses to the District councils Housing Strategy and Homelessness surveys., covering relationship between housing and environment.*
1. Welcome and apologies – the chairman, Tony Dawson, welcomed councillors Kathy Ferrar, Thelma Brown, Jimmy Kent and Denis Pye. Apologies were received from Stewart Orr, Mark Shortt, Steve Keeling and Richard Mattocks. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Suffolk County councillor, Guy McGregor and Lavinia Hadingham [MSDC] also attended.
 2. Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – none
 3. Minutes of the previous meeting [19-11-18] were approved and signed as a true record.
 4. Matter arising on minutes not on agenda – Cllr. Mattocks is investigating the possible footpath to Harleston
 5. Finances - **Balance** at Barclays Bank at 28-12-18 – £10,825.49. **Cheques** approved as follows: 220 to Heart2Heart for 23.00 [defib. pads]; 221 to Suffolkbiz for 100.00 [website]; 222 to Consortium Multi Academy Trust for 60.00 [hire of school for 2019]; 223 to C. Cardwell for 350.38 [net sal dec/jan]; Total cheques – £ 533.38
 6. Budget for year April 2019 to March 2020 – this was discussed in detail; it was noted that of the 10,000 reserves approximately 1,000 was ring fenced for specific projects. Councillors agreed to support the Village Hall request for financial assistance [S. 133 LGA 1972]. With forthcoming expenditure in mind, councillors agreed to increase the precept to £6, 500. Forthcoming expenditure would be supporting village amenities and assets. The clerk asked to inform District Council of their decision.
 7. Planning – land at Dennys Hill: councillors received a letter from Durrants, Harleston, on behalf of developer, outlining plans for this site. However they agreed that this was not a subject for discussion until a formal planning application was received. Clerk asked to write to Durrants informing them of this decision.

Guy McGregor [Suffolk County councillor] arrived at 8.10pm – the meeting was closed to allow him to give his report and answer questions at 8.10. He spoke in some detail about the SCC budget and the essential services it had to cover. A new County Surveyor had been appointed and it was hoped that road problems could be addressed more satisfactorily in future. He noted that Hartismere Hospital, in good order, was under utilised. Further comments were made re Sizewell C proposals, mental health services in schools and a possible gas powered energy station on Eye airfield. The chair thanked Guy McGregor for coming. The meeting opened at 8.25pm

8. Asset register – this was reviewed – councillors noted that the defibrillator and cabinet had been added, but the BT kiosk was only covered under public liability. Clerk asked to discover approx.. value of kiosk.
9. Village roads – various comments made with reference to flooding – clerk asked to contact GMcG.. with exact details; there is an eroded bank by the Alfred Munnings causing concern
10. Elections [May 2nd 2019] – clerk gave an update on procedures
11. Reports from councillors – none
12. Correspondence – received and discussed
13. Any other business – none
14. Next meeting – 18th March 2019

The meeting closed at 8.40pm