

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 15TH JULY 2019

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 16-09-19]

Public Forum – for reports from County and District councillors – 7.35pm

Lavinia Hadingham [Mid Suffolk District councillor] attended and gave a report covering various aspects of the DC's work. This included information on changes to the Waste and Recycling facilities; council meetings will be live streamed for public viewing. A joint draft Local Plan is now out for consultation until Sept and communities may apply for Locality Awards until Dec 2019. There will be free swimming at Stradbroke for the school holidays and she urged us to respond to the consultation on the Ipswich Northern Bypass. The chairman thanked LH for attending.

1. Welcome and apologies – the chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Clare Rix, Steve Keeling, Jimmy Kent, Thelma Brown and Kathy Ferrar. Apologies were received and accepted from Mark Shortt and Richard Mattocks and Guy Mc Gregor [SC councillor].
2. Vacancies – Sally Mackinnon applied to join the council and was unanimously elected. She signed the acceptance form.
3. Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – Thelma Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 – donation to Mendham PCC.
4. Minutes of previous meeting [13-05-19] were approved and signed as a true record.
5. Matters arising – councillors asked if the minutes could be more detailed, as in the past; the clerk replied that the purpose of the minutes was to record the decisions of the council, not to give a detailed account of contributions from each speaker.
There was no information from Barclays Bank re adding Steve Keeling as a signatory – The chairman to chase up.
6. Finances -
 - **Balance** at Barclays Bank – 28-06-19 - £9,411.72.
 - **Cheques** were approved as follows: 239 – C. Cardwell – 359.56 [net sal jun/jul]; 240 – SALC – 55.20 [training at Hoxne]; 241 – Withersdale PCC – 500.00; 242 – Mendham PCC – 500.00 [grants S. 137]; 244 – Chris Barnes – 157.50 [maintenance]; Redenhall and Harleston Town Council – 200.00 [S. 137 grant towards free parking] - **Total cheques £1,772.26**
 - **Donations** discussed and agreed. When allocating grants the point was raised that the amount should be matched to perceived need.
 - **Village hall** - concerns had been raised by the village hall that they had not had the usual level of grant assistance in the past year – this will be looked into.
7. Policies and procedures – the chairman pointed out that there were a number of policies in place ie – STOs, Financial Regulations, GDPR etc. It was agreed that these should be on the website, after review by the council. Councillors agreed to set up a Human Resources sub-committee to consist of the chair, vice-chair and one other. Discussion of an Emergency Policy is to be on agenda for Sept.
8. New councillors' briefing session [SALC] – this was attended by Clare Rix and Steve Keeling – both found it very useful and SK raised points on planning meetings, use of term any other business, need for emergency and complaints policies etc; it was considered that inviting members of the

public to attend site meetings was satisfactory in most instances and that AOB served a useful purpose for urgent points to be raised or for items for agenda to be pin pointed.

9. Community Speed Watch – a new group had been formed and approved by the police. The chair thanked Steve Keeling for his help in this matter.
10. Planning – DC/19/02014/5: Walsham Hall, Mendham – MSDC approval of extension plan.
DC/19/03169 Upper Barn, Mundys Lane, Mendham – councillors had no objection to the planned barn extension. The clerk to inform MSDC planners.
11. Car Park, Mendham –
 - the large ash tree in the car park next to the Old Spinney is causing concern. Chairman to seek advice from tree surgeon – other ash trees in car park have overhanging branches that will be lopped.
 - Cottage in Car Park – an enquiry from a member of the public was received and the clerk asked to reply that councillors did not consider it to be of sufficient interest to try for registration in spite of the Munnings connection; it is privately owned.
12. Clerk's contract – annual appraisal plans – the clerk to liaise with the chair to agree a suitable date.
13. Correspondence – received and discussed
14. Any other business - it was noted that some footpath signs are missing and paths are overgrown - the ROW officers need to be informed.
15. The meeting closed at 9.20pm