

MENDHAM AND WITHERSDALE

PARISH MEETING

20TH MAY 2014

REPORT

1. The chairman of the parish council, Sandra King, welcomed councillors, members of the public and SCD councillor, Marilyn Curran. The parish clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Apologies were received from SC councillor, Guy McGregor and PCSO Long, Suffolk Police. Coffee and biscuits were served.
2. **Open Forum** for Matters of Local Concern – questions were raised about the condition of the footpaths, particularly F34 – for this the clerk stated that Suffolk ROW officer would be clearing it shortly. The FP 13 down Walsham Hall lane had temporary electric fences for horses. Other obstructions were reported on paths from Foxes or Punt's Lane towards Middlegate House. The parish council would look into providing local maps and/or a footpath leaflet.
3. **Minutes/record of 2013** meeting were taken as read and approved and signed.
4. **Report from Mid-Suffolk district councillor, Marilyn Curran** –[attached] - her report covered “A year in Mid-Suffolk” and gives details of linkage with Babergh DC, restructuring, social housing concerns for tenants, financial inclusion, support for re-employment and support for older tenants in their housing choices. She was thanked for attending by Sandra King. The **Suffolk Police** report was read by Peter Lee [attached] – overall Suffolk, and Mendham and Withersdale are good and safe places to live.
5. **Parish Council chairman's** report - the council's work over the past year includes re-surfacing the car park, monitoring planning applications, donations to local community projects including a sum towards housing the defibrillator at the Village Hall, arranging for the fly-tipping on the car park to be tidied for removal; all members of the community are welcome to come to our meetings.
6. **Reports from local organisations** *[please contact clerk for details]*
 - **MUGA** from Tracey Tompkins – an encouraging report and a lot of “outside” use – more residents are urged to make use of the excellent facilities including tennis, netball, football and Get Fit – *details on the village website.*
 - **Withersdale Youth Club** from Tracey Tompkins – this is attended by children from Mendham and many surrounding villages as well and caters for children from 5 - 12ish. CRB checked helpers encourage various activities, crafts, games, sports and the opportunities for interaction are of key value for learning social skills
 - **Mendham Primary School** report from head teacher, Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne, discussed an exceptional year for the school, now federated with St. Edmund's at Hoxne. He detailed the benefits and advantages of the new way forward and paid tribute to all the staff, parents and governors.
 - **Scouts [Fressingfield]** from Denis Pye – a lively and achieving group, increasing in numbers and very involved in both events away and at home gaining vital experience for all members from Beavers and Cubs through to Explorers and Leaders. Members

went to camps in the Peak District and clocked up various and extensive “nights away”.

- **FOMSA** from Vicky Rusby – fundraising events included stalls at local events, draws, Race Night etc. aims – aims to promote school, support learning, play, fun and the nursery.
 - **Waveney Community Bus report from Delise Musgrove** – The benefits of the bus to the community are undoubted but a new vehicle will soon be needed and funding is sought urgently – or a miracle worker.
 - **Mendham and Withersdale Horticultural Assn.** - from Delise Musgrove: reports of Spring Show and plans for Autumn one.
 - **Withersdale Poors Lands Trust** report from Barbara Bailey – 2 acres in the east of the parish is rented out to a local farmer and produces a small amount for disbursement each December. [Charity no.241130]
 - **Community Council** from Kathy Ferrar reported a steady membership but more members are needed!
 - **Mendham and Metfield Women’s Institute** from the president, Jane Williams - covered the past year’s activities and the aims of the W.I.
7. **Village of Year Competition** – report on progress of preparation by Colin Herbert, Kathy Ferrar and Tracey Tompkins – a sample newsletter was passed round. Arrangements were to be made for a clean-up; the clerk agreed to re-furbish the notice boards and generally tidy them up. Judges are due in early June, second round in August; clerk asked to e-mail SCC_re non-functioning speed sign at Withersdale Street.

8. **Any other business** – none

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.