

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Tuesday 15th May 2012
at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr B Boon Cllr J McEvoy
Cllr J Owen, Chairman Cllr B Gibbon
Cllr M Coney Cllr T Smith
Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk 2 members of the public

10 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.25 pm

1 **APOLOGIES** Cllr J Kerr District Cllr R Snell
County Cllr P Bellfield PCSO Christian Hassler

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

2.1 Cllrs Coney and McEvoy Item 9, Village Hall

3 **MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting dated 13th March were approved and signed as a true record.
Proposed Cllr Boon, seconded Cllr Gibbon

3.2 Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 30th April were approved and signed as a true record following the amendment that the colour of the timber work at Old Osier should be reconsidered. Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Gibbon.

The meeting was closed at 7.35 pm for reports and the public forum

4 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

4.1 Cllr Snell was unable to attend but had sent a written report. As this is his annual report it was agreed to hold this until the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd May.

5 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** None

6 **POLICE REPORT**

6.1 PCSO Hassler had sent a written report stating that since the last meeting, 3 crimes have been reported in the village. In total this year there have been 6 reported crimes against 9 in the previous year.

Crime reduction advice was given in the light of recent burglaries to outbuildings.

No member of the public wished to speak at the stage but asked to do so during the item of the Parish Plan.

The meeting reopened at 7.35 pm

7 **CLERK'S REPORT**

7.1 **Village Spring Clean** 14 people came out to help and the village was litter picked from Dark Lane to Home Farm. In addition the concrete base was laid in readiness for the new bench in the play area and the fencing and wooden play equipment was treated with preservative. A small amount is still to be finished and this to be done a.s.a.p. Play Officer to organise

BG

7.2.1 **Highways Matters** Pavements between Cemetery Lane and Ivy Cottage on both sides of the road have been cleared of plants, etc., by Highways. A new pavement, including kerbing, has been put in between the Kennels and Play Area. Grass seed

has been sown either side of the path to match existing. Unfortunately people have parked on this and a lorry has cracked the tarmac. Council agreed that a suitable solution would be posts with reflectors to stop cars parking. Concerns over health and safety were raised and Clerk was asked to raise the matter with Highways.
Clerk

7.2.2 Clerk still awaiting a response from Highways regarding Pound Corner. Clerk

7.2.3 The SID machine has been in the village on two occasions. Clerk awaiting results. Clerk

7.3 **Planning Decisions**

7.3.1 Work to remove a cypress conifer and thin a Horse Chestnut at Upwey was granted.

7.3.2 Application to erect a single storey dwelling and double garage at Wickenburg has been withdrawn and no further action will be taken.

8 **FINANCE**

8.1 The Financial Statement for the period was agreed and signed. Proposed Cllr Owen, seconded Cllr Smith.

8.2 Actual v Budget for the first period had been circulated.

8.3 Clerk advised that the Investment of reserves agreed at the last minute has not yet taken place. Clerk assured Council this will be done before the next meeting. Clerk

8.4 End of Year Accounts were circulated, discussed and agreed. The internal audit has been completed with no errors found.

8.5 The annual audit return was duly agreed, certified as a true record and signed by the Clerk. The Chairman signed to confirm that the accounts were approved at this meeting. The annual governance statement was considered and approved by Council and duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk. Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr McEvoy.

9 **VILLAGE HALL LETTER**

9.1 A discussion was held on the relationship between Council and the Village Hall following a letter from VHMC Chairman, an informal meeting between Council Chairman and VHMC Chairman and a document produced by the Clerk. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that it is important for the two bodies to have a free flow of information and regular informal meetings would be advantageous to ensure a good understanding in the future and keep Council aware of progress at the Village Hall to assess how and when it may be able to help. Chairman to approach VHMC Chairman.

JO

10 **GRANT POLICY**

10.1 After a lengthy discussion regarding the future of grants given by Parish Council, it was unanimously agreed not to adopt a formal policy but to continue with the current informal process of consideration at the Annual Budget meeting. The amount granted to any organisation in the village will be dependent on Council's financial constraints and other commitments in any given year.

11 **STREET PARTY UPDATE**

11.1 Cllr Gibbon reported that all plans are now in place for the forthcoming festivities. Currently 120 adults and 40 children are due to attend. Work parties have been arranged to set up and break down the site and provision of food has also been organised among residents. Council Chairman was asked to carry out the official opening and to present the commemorative gift to village children with John Newson, Festival Chairman.

12 **PARISH PLAN**

12.1 Clerk advised that all analysis is now complete and it is hoped to circulate the results within the next couple of weeks. It is also hoped to bring results to the APM. The meeting closed for Mrs Pollock to speak as a member of the Parish Plan group. Clerk

12.2 The business questionnaire was approved with the addition of a question on postal services. Clerk to print along with a list of recipients. Cllrs to distribute. Clerk

13. **CLERK VACANCY**

13.1 Chairman advised that only one person has applied to date. Interview will take place after the APM. Interview will be carried out by Chairman and Vice Chairman JO/TS

14 **CORRESPONDENCE**

14.1 E-mails from Brian Boon was read regarding traffic difficulties at School Lane and The Street at the beginning and end of the school day. Other Cllrs agreed that this has become a problem again. It was unanimously agreed that Clerk should write to Police and Highways on this subject with a copy to the Headmistress to stress the safety issues of this situation. Clerk

14.2 Correspondence was received from the Bowls Club regarding ownership of the ditch between the bowls green and cemetery. This has been blocked recently and it has been impossible for the water to drain from the bowls green. Clerk to try to establish ownership and Chairman to speak with Bowls Club to try and find a solution. Clerk/JO

14.3 A letter from Dr Daniel Poulter MP was read out with an update of his work for his area of Suffolk. It was agreed that this letter should be taken to the APM. Clerk

14.4 E-mails and telephone calls had been received regarding the proposed Hacheston Solar Park. The recent consultation was held by Pegasus Planning on behalf of Hive Energy. A member of the public had attended the meeting and reported on the matter. Chairman had spoken with SCDC Planning Department who advised they have no knowledge of the proposal to date. If it is put forward to planning then Parishes would be advised and a consultation would take place before any decisions are made. There was concern not just about the proposal but regarding the volume of traffic on narrow lanes should the project be approved. Clerk was asked to liaise with Hacheston Parish Council to ensure both are fully aware of progress.

15 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

15.1 Those arising from this meeting

16 **MEETING DATES**

Councillors were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting is on 22nd May

Tuesday 10 th July	PC Meeting	7.15 pm
Tuesday 11 th September	PC Meeting	7.15 pm
Tuesday 13 th November	PC Meeting	7.15 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed Date
Chairman