

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL.

Clerk Mrs M Pennock

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 20th January 2010.

Present:- Cllr. B. Orme Chairman, Cllr. T. Tate Vice Chairman, Cllr. H. Phillips, Cllr. J. Tate, Cllr. M. Gasper, Cllr. M. Dickson, Cllr. R. Ives, Cllr. B. Cousins, Cllr. S. Hayward Rutter, County Cllr. R. Leighton and clerk Mrs M Pennock.

1. The Chairman welcomed the Councillors' and County Cllr. R. Leighton to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr. D. Wilkinson, Cllr. A. Edwards, District Councillor P. Austin and PCSO Newson.
2. There was no declaration of interest.
3. County Councillor R. Leighton reported that he was due to have a meeting with John Goodyear of SCC regarding Star Hill footpath before Christmas, but due to illness this meeting was postponed. An E mail has been received as follows from John Goodyear:-
We had arranged a site meeting with Ray Leighton before Xmas to walk the route, discuss the issues and arrive at a decision on how to proceed, but this had to be cancelled due to illness.
The Common land issues are still as outlined in my e mail dated 16th November and since then I have contacted Adnams about continuing the route through their land. They advised that The Star is currently for sale and although interest has been shown no buyer has yet been confirmed. They are understandably reluctant to enter into any land negotiations at this time. My view is that we should stop all work on this project until the sale of The Star Pub has been completed and the views of the new owner are known. If the new owner is reluctant to provide any land this would mean a route to the pub, bus shelter and beyond would not be possible. Taking this and the Common Land issues into account I am fearful that, despite all our best efforts, the requested new pavement on the west side would not be possible, and as a result it would be removed from our books.
County Cllr. Leighton said this project has been stalled yet again. He would be meeting John Goodyear again soon.
The Parish Council to inform John Goodyear that they were very disappointed, and ask him to wait until the summer before making any final decision.

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In the meantime look at whether the existing path through the woods may be improved with out putting the proposed new path in jeopardy. Agenda item for February Star Hill Footpath.

Cllr. Leighton said that a meeting is to take place on 5th February run by SCC to discuss the 'Big Freeze', to see what lessons may be learnt. The Secretary of State has till 4th February to decide the Boundary Commission proposals. Legislation would have to be in place before the General Election if the recommendations are to be implemented.

Cllr. Gasper asked Cllr. Leighton if he had any information regarding the changes to the local bus services, which are due to come into force at the end of March. He replied that he hadn't. Agenda item for February.

4. Cllr. Austin has given the following report:-

Things seem fairly quiet at SCDC at the moment so I have little to report. The prospect of a General Election, local government reorganization and tightening budgets mean that there is little scope for new initiatives.

5. Proposed by Cllr. H. Philips and seconded by Cllr. M. Gasper that the Minutes of the meeting 16th December 2009 are accepted.

6. Clerk's report.

I have written to Brenda Roberts thanking her for all her efforts in helping to secure the bus service that we enjoy today.

The letter from the WI regarding a seat on Church Common has been passed to the Commons Group.

There is a separate agenda item for Hastoe Housing and Grit/bins.

I had numerous requests from Parishioners to keep the grit bins filled. Would Cllr.

Leighton please pass on my thanks to Highways for keeping the bins filled.

I got in touch with SCDC asking them for an appointment for our Chairman to discuss the Right of Way which is to be transferred to the Parish Council. They informed me that they were not in a position to meet him at this time. They will get in touch when they are ready.

I spoke to Mrs Jelliff asking if the lorries were still coming from the gravel pit along Low Road, she said that the number was much lower than before Christmas.

Mr Tricker has informed me that he has stopped setting mole traps on Well Green as the heavy machinery is setting them off. He will as soon as the work is finished endeavour to clear the moles again.

Report from PCSO Newson said that there have been no reported crimes since the last report 16th December. Also that on Friday 15th January 2010 that he and PCSO Taylor and PCSO Mann visited Wenhaston Primary School as part of the road safety priority called "Kill your speed, not me". This involved talking to the pupils about being safe whilst out and about or near roads. Also they then monitored the traffic speeds outside the school. There were no matters arising from the Clerk's report.

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7. There were no other matters arising from the Minutes.

8. Cllr Gasper gave the following report on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Bookings were looking good at the moment. A contract for the boiler maintenance is being sorted out the cost being about £500. a year. Kevin Townsend the electrician is sorting the various work that needs to be done to get a certificate for the fire alarms. David Smeaton Small has resigned but will be staying on the committee until the March meeting in order to sort out various issues that he has been looking into. No one came forward from the Committee to be the new Chairman. Mr Canham is to paint the Doctors surgery.

9. Hastoe Housing report.

They stress that the original remit for the houses were that they were to be Eco friendly, timber framed with ground floor heat pumps. Solar panels were requested but they were far too expensive and in their opinion not cost effective. If the land had not been obtained from the Leech family at a very reasonable price then the houses would have been more expensive. At various meetings the prices of the houses were given. An independent value has set the price of the 2 bedroom house at £145,000 and the 3 bedroom at £172,500. They would like to remind the Parish Council that Hastoe are a non profit organisation. The prices of these houses are on par with other developments in the area. They acknowledge that a single person might find it difficult to afford these houses due to the financial problems at the moment. However, the rents are very reasonable the 2 bedroom are £71.89 and the 3 bedroom £78.27 per week. Before the tenants move in the Parish Council will be invited to view these properties.

10. Cllr. Cousins gave the report from the Committee looking into a Village Plan.

She states that a comprehensive village appraisal was conducted in 2000, and the village plan was last reviewed in 2006. Some issues from the original plan have been dealt with. Others have not, and some situations have changed beyond recognition. Perennial things to consider continue to be Education and facilities for young people and families, older people, housing and development, including tourism and economic development, energy and environment (including transport), community – including the village hall as a centre for the community, issues of crime and perceptions of safety.

Cllr. Cousins asked whether before the APM the committee and Parish Councillors' could talk to the Parishioners asking them their views on what they wanted for the Village. Agenda item February.

11. The Chairman has been informed by the Head of Wenhaston Primary School that a couple of extra class rooms, plus a new hall would be required in time for the Schools re organisation. The School would like a formal agreement that the School may use the playing field, also a new playground is required. The Chairman suggested that when the cricket field is finalised, then the corner near the School might be suitable.

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12. A request has been made that grit/salt bins be placed by the telephone box and at the bottom of Coles Hill. The bins cost £167.20 each. Proposed by Cllr. Cousins and seconded by Cllr. Gasper that the Clerk order the bins from SCC High ways.

13. Correspondence.

1. Letter received from War Memorials Trust. Conference at Cambridge 4th March. Copy of letter to be passed to John Levy, Chairman of the Royal Br. Legion. Letter to be put in Circulation.
2. Letter received from The Southwold Railway Trust asking if they may give a presentation at the next meeting.

14. Correspondence for circulation.

1. ESTA Members' Bulletin.
2. Clerks & Councils direct.
3. The Boundary Committee.
4. Suffolk Coastal Resource Network.
5. SCC Minerals & Waste Policy Team draft report. (Thorington Pit is mention in the daft report.)
Agenda item February.

15. Planning.

C09/1973. Oaklea, Narrow Way. Erection of single storey rear extension with balcony on roof.

The Parish Council supports this application, but is concerned about the invasion of the privacy of the next door property.

Planning decisions.

C09/1225,C09/1226. Wenhaston Grange. Erection of single storey laundry room, kitchen, extension and associated internal alterations. Planning permission granted.

C09/1109 New Farm, Blackheath Road. Planning permission granted.

16. Finance.

Balances as at 20th January 2010.

Current account	£362.38
Base Rate tracker	£16,308.55
Total	£16,670.93

Cheques drawn.

101394 SCC Grass cutting Playing field	£305.95	Vat £39.91
101395 Mrs M Pennock Wages expenses	£358.61	
Direct debit Essex Suffolk Water Allotments	£50.62	

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Proposed by Cllr. Ives and seconded by Cllr. J. Tate that these accounts be accepted.

17. Any other matters that the Chairman will allow.

Cllr. Phillips asked if anything could be done like “cats eyes” for the turning off of the Blythburgh A 12 into Wenhaston. This road is dangerous at the best of times, even more so when trying to turn off of the A12.

Cllr. Cousins asked if there was any news regarding the development at Hazel Lane. The clerk has not been informed of any decisions re the enforcement notice.

Cllr. T. Tate said that a Parishioner had complained about the bird scarer near Vicarage Grove. This would be an Environmental Health issue.

Cllr. J. Tate stated that the sign to the entrance of the Playing field “No dogs allowed” is very faint. Clerk to follow this up.

The road has been damaged due to a car fire in Hall road. Clerk has informed SCC.

The surface has been damaged in St. Michaels Way due to the bad weather. Clerk to inform SCC, but County Cllr. Leighton stated much of the Counties roads have been affected, and that Parishioners will have to be patient.

Cllr. Orme has asked if the sign at the end of Hog Lane might be moved to the other side of the road, so that people can see the sign more easily. Clerk to speak to Highways.

Cllr. Orme asked Cllr. Tate the secretary of the Parish Liaison Group Leiston, if there was anything in it for us at Wenhaston. Cllr. Tate said that any social contracts with EDF etc. could include money for Villages along the A12.

18. Meeting closed at 9.05p.m. Next meeting 17th February, 2010.