

CHEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th February 2016 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr J Melero (Chairman), Cllr N Melero, Cllr C Thurston, Cllr D Doyle, Cllr A Job and Mr C Lewis (Clerk/RFO).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr A McCormack. C Cllr T Clements and B Cllr A Rushen also attended to present their reports.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations.

3. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2016

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Item: 9c Overgrown hedge – Chevington Road - although a notice had been issued to Chevington Stud it later transpired that the hedge was actually the responsibility of the Borough Council. The hedge had since been trimmed back and was no longer a hazard to the public.

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr J Melero reported that following a review carried out by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, its Rural Area Working Parties were to be disbanded. This action had been taken to avoid duplication in the discussion of issues within the Borough Council; tiers of local government and partners, at a time of severe financial constraint.

Cllr Melero also referred to the feasibility work that was underway related to the proposed development of Gypsy and Traveller short stay stopping sites in the County. Further work was needed before the public consultation on preferred sites could take place. This would mean the County's target to have three sites open by late 2016 would not now be achieved.

6. Borough Councillors Report

B Cllr Rushen's report had previously been circulated. In relation to the closure of RAF Mildenhall, Cllr Doyle hoped the Borough would give full consideration to infrastructure requirements before large scale re-development commenced and that transport needs for a burgeoning population, would be seen as an urgent priority. B Cllr Rushen concluded by confirming that her Locality Fund for 2015/16 was now fully committed. However, she anticipated that further funding would be available after April, to help support local projects.

7. County Councillors Report

C Cllr Clements report had previously been circulated. This had contained information about budget savings proposed as the County Council continued to plan transformation programmes that would change the way its services were delivered. Progress with Highways remained patchy. Whilst contractors had made good progress with filling pot holes around Chevington

there had been examples of poor quality repairs elsewhere. Cllr Clements also referred to the impersonal responses received from the Highways Dept. He said this had been taken up with C Cllr Noble (Council Leader) who accepted that County Council correspondence should always bear the name of the author.

8. Police Report

There was no police presence at the meeting and no report had been received.

9. Parish Councillor Reports

- (a) Overflow from the sewage pumping station in Church Road - Cllr Doyle advised that in bad weather, there had been instances where sewage was discharged into a nearby stream. He was monitoring the situation and would make video evidence available which the Clerk could send on to the County Council Floods Officer and to Anglian Water.
- (b) Blocked ditch drain opposite no's 2 & 3 Church Road. – Cllr Doyle reported that this drain had become blocked with silt and leaves causing water to spill onto the road. Following discussion, it was agreed that once assessed as easily clearable, the drain could be rodded by Cllr N Melero.

10. Clerk's report

- (a) Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations – the Clerk reported that the WI were still finalising their proposals to mark this event. The Community Council had decided not to hold an event due to the closeness of the annual fete and whilst Chedburgh Parish Council had booked the Erskine Centre for a possible event, little was known of what was being planned or the scale. It was agreed to await the outcome of the WI deliberations to see what form their event would take and to consider in April whether it should be supported from parish funds.
- (b) SALC – launch of new financial regulations – a copy of the new updated regulations had been placed in members' correspondence folder for information. These would be reviewed at the next meeting.
- (c) New pension regulations – the Clerk advised that although he had no wish to opt in to the new arrangements, the Council had a duty to inform new employees of their rights in this regard. This could be achieved by adding a paragraph to the standard recruitment letter. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk**
- (d) Vacancies for Parish Councillors - the procedures for filling the late Cllr Anthony's vacancy were now underway. However, additional vacancies would arise soon as Cllrs J and N Melero stated that it was their intention to step down after the annual meeting in May. **Action: Clerk**

11. Suffolk Fit Villages

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response to the advert in the Benefice News and likewise, parish councillors had not been approached directly by parishioners wishing to engage with the project. It was felt that the initiative may be of interest to community groups already meeting at the Village Hall and agreed that it should be brought to their attention, via the Village Hall Management Group. **Action: Clerk & Cllr McCormack**

12. Village Litter Pick

It was agreed the proposed litter pick of Chevington should be held on 23rd April at 10.00am with all participants meeting at the Village Hall. All the equipment needed for the proposed litter pick would be obtained via the Borough Council. Cllr J Melero confirmed that one volunteer had come forward and it was hoped others would follow. A further notice would be placed in the Benefice News. Cllr Doyle drew attention to a large amount of rubbish that had built up near a field entrance on New Road (just past Chevington Lodge). It was thought this would be too onerous for the litter pickers to deal with and that the Borough Council should be asked to remove it. **Action: Clerk**

13. Planning

Applications for planning permission for a two storey extension at "**The Rambles**" **Old Post Office Road**(DC/16/0136HH) and a change of use from arable to equestrian (to include a menage) at Red Brick Cottage, New Road, (DC/15/2591/FUL) were discussed. Councillors found no reason to object to either application.

14. Requests for grant funding.

Councillors considered a request from the Little Tea Pots ((Pre-school) Group for a donation to help fund their garden play area at the Erskine Centre. In considering this request councillors were mindful that Chevington was one of a number of villages with children who attended the play group. Whilst there were no objections to providing a donation, it was felt more information was needed as to how much funding was needed and the extent of the donations already pledged by other parties. Clerk to enquire. **Action: Clerk**

An application for a grant from St Edmundsbury Newstalk, a magazine for the blind and partially sighted within the Borough, was also considered, Following a short discussion it was agreed to award a donation of £50 under *S137 of the LGA 1972. *This was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr N Melero all agreed.*

15. Parish Council Finances

(a) The following payments had been received:-

Ref	Invoice date	Payee	Activity or Service	Cost (£)
	15/02/2016	HMR&C	Refund of recoverable VAT	284.00

(b) The following invoices were approved for payment:-

Ref	Invoice date	Payee	Activity or Service	Cost (£)
34	25/02/2016	Chris Lewis (Clerk/RFO)	Clerical and admin services from 22 Jan 2016 to 25 Feb 2016 including non-taxable expenses.	218.08
35	25/02/2016	HMRC	PAYE income tax on Clerk's Salary	50.50
36	25/02/2016	Chris Lewis (Clerk/RFO)	Annual compensation payment (non-taxable) for use of Clerk's home as Parish Council Office	160.00

(c) **Lloyds TSB Bank Treasurer's Account** balance on 31/01/2016 amounted to £26,488.46

16. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated for information, after the meeting:-

- (i) Suffolk Association of Local Authorities *Funding for community green space*
- (ii) Suffolk Association of Local Authorities *Finance and subscription update – including new Financial Regulations (for discussion April 2016)*
- (iii) Suffolk Association of Local Authorities *Smaller authorities -audit appointments – for information*
- (iv) Community Action Suffolk *Information about CAS Conference
"Communicate, Collaborate, Celebrate" on 4th March*

17. Any other business/ urgent matters

There was no urgent business

16. Date of next meetings

The Governance Committee will meet on Tuesday 15th March at 2.30pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14th April at 7.00pm

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.

Chairman