

CHEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th December 2015 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr J Melero (Chairman), Cllr CW Thurston; Cllr A McCormack, Cllr D Doyle Cllr A Job and Mr C Lewis (Clerk/RFO). Apologies were received from B Cllr A Rushen.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr N Melero.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations.

3. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 29th October 2015

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Item: 10(d) Satellite Navigation issues – Ickworth House, the Manager at Ickworth Hotel, who had experienced similar problems elsewhere, advised that the Post Office should be contacted with a view to amending the post code. This was a lengthy process which could take two or three years to complete. The National Trust authorities at Ickworth had still to respond.

Item 10(e) Transparency code - a claim was presented which reflected the cost of the Clerk's training, start up fees and ongoing data collection and publication. The amount to be reclaimed was relatively small as the Parish Council's web pages were provided free of charge through the One Suffolk website. *It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Thurston* that the claim should be forwarded to SALC for authorisation and payment. All agreed

Action: Clerk

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr J Melero expressed her sadness at the recent passing of Cllr Neil Anthony following a long illness. Cllr Anthony had only recently joined the Parish Council following early retirement from St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Cllr Melero confirmed that a letter of condolence had been sent to Cllr Anthony's widow.

Cllr Melero also referred to a local policing review which was looking at how to re-design police services to enable them to remain effective whilst keeping within a reduced budget. These changes were bound to have some impact in the rural areas where crime was relatively low. Full details of the review had been placed in the correspondence file for councillors' information.

6. Borough Councillors Report

B Cllr Rushen's report had previously been circulated. There were no issues arising other than to clarify whether this year's Locality funding had been fully allocated.

7. County Councillors Report

No report was given as C Cllr Clements was not in attendance, and the usual County Council usual activity report had not been received

8. Police Report

There was no police presence at the meeting but a report had been received from PCSO Anthony Welford. This confirmed that whilst crime figures at village level would no longer be provided, the new Athena system would give details on crime trends in the area. Despite the cuts, the police would still try to attend some parish meetings when possible operationally, and this was especially so in locations where there were live crime issues. It was noted that there had been several thefts in the village since the last meeting.

9. Parish Councillor Reports

- (a) Vehicle Activated Signs (Cllr N Melero) – a written report had been received. This confirmed that a VAS had been placed outside the Village Hall for 10 days during November. The data recorded was in line with earlier findings which suggest that motorists' speed is moderate during working hours. However, higher values were being recorded at other times. In other developments, SCC's Area Engineer has now approved a new location for the VAS. This was also in Chedburgh Road, near Furlong Bungalow, and would face traffic coming from Chedburgh direction.
- (b) Re-surfacing the pavement in Church Road (Cllr D Doyle) – this item had been previously reported to Suffolk CC Highways Dept (SCC) during 2014. Works to carry out the required improvement had been agreed but no action had been taken to date. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with SCC. **Action: Clerk**
- (c) Litter pick (Cllr J Melero) - Cllr Melero was conscious that there had been no litter picks in the village for more than two years, and it was agreed a date should be earmarked for this during April 2016. Cllr Doyle, in supporting the proposal, referred to an apparent trend among some motorists to dispose of rubbish in the countryside, and claimed that an area, known locally as the Dyke, was becoming a particular problem. It was agreed to look at this in more detail at the next meeting. Looking ahead to the litter pick, it was also agreed that publicity in the Benefice News could be useful in that in addition to raising awareness it could also encourage volunteers to come forward. **Action: Clerk.**
- (d) Chedburgh, Chevington, Depden and Rede Community Council - AGM. - Cllr McCormack reported that the building was sound including the roof, which was now waterproof. The summer fete had proved a success which had benefited from the involvement of three constituent parishes. The Erskine Centre's next event would be community singing with carols and mince pies on 20 December.

10. Clerk's report

- (a) Tree Pruning: Barnfield - advice from St Edmundsbury Borough Council as to whether they are legally obliged to take maintenance responsibility for the tree which is obscuring a street lamp, is still awaited –Clerk to chase **Action: Clerk**
- (b) Footpath signage it was confirmed that the County Council had provided new finger posts which had been erected near Stonebridge Farm and in Church Road.
- (c) Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations – HM Queen will reach her 90th birthday on 21st April. It was agreed this should be given publicity in the "Benefice News" with parishioners being asked for suggestions as to how this occasion might best be celebrated at village level. **Action: Clerk**
- (d) Suffolk Fit Villages Programme - it was agreed that details of the programme should be published in the Benefice News. Those interested in projects to help people get more active would be asked to get in touch with the Council. If sufficient interest can be generated the Fit Villages coordinator, Maddy Knox, will be invited to along to a later meeting to discuss project ideas. **Action: Clerk**
- (e) Agreed meeting dates 2016 - a list of agreed dates is appended to these minutes.
- (f) Governance Committee – it was agreed that the next meeting would take place during the first week of March. Precise date and venue to be arranged, **Action: Clerk**
- (g) Thefts from Churches- Police Advice - it was agreed that the advice received via the police should be forwarded to Simon Williams (Churchwarden) **Action: Cllr J Melero**

11. Chevington Parish Church

Cllr J Melero indicated that she had yet to receive a written request from the Church seeking financial assistance to help with the cost of urgent repairs following the recent theft of lead from the roof. In view of this, it was agreed that consideration of a possible donation would have to remain on hold pending receipt of a formal written request.

12. Future audit arrangements

It was noted that new arrangements for external audit of the Council's accounts would need to be put in place from 1 April 2017 following the abolition of the Audit Commission. From the start of 2017/18 parish councils can choose to have an auditor appointed to them by a new sector led body or they could decide to procure their own. However, those who decide to go with the sector –led body will be automatically included in the arrangement for five years. Those

authorities wishing to make their own arrangements are required to inform their county association by 31 January 2016 at the latest.

Following a short discussion it was **resolved** that Chevington Parish Council would join those authorities to be audited via the sector led body. *This was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr McCormack – all agreed.*

13. Parish Precept 2016/17

A draft budget was considered at an informal meeting of the Budget Working Group held on 12 November. Following a careful analysis of past expenditure and anticipated liabilities it was considered that a precept (inclusive of grant from St Edmundsbury BC) of £6,550 would be required. Following a short discussion it was resolved that a precept of this amount would be needed in 2016/17. This was proposed by Cllr Job and seconded by Cllr J Melero -all agreed, recognising that when grant is excluded this amount of precept, is £362.00 lower when compared to the previous year.

14. Planning Cases

A Tree Preservation Order Application had been referred for comment. This involved envisaged a 50% reduction to the overall crown of a London Plane tree at **1b Barnfield** (DC/15/2355/TPO). Different opinions were expressed about the need for the extent of the reduction and this was reflected in the Council’s response to the Planning Authority.

15. Parish Council Finances

(a) Payment of the following invoices were authorised by the full Council:-

Ref	Invoice date	Payee	Activity or Service	Cost (£)
28	10/12/2015	Chris Lewis (Clerk/RFO)	Clerical and admin services from 30 Oct 2015 to 10 Dec 2015 including non-taxable expenses.	276.36
29	24/09/2015	HMRC	PAYE income tax on Clerk’s Salary	60.68
30	31/10/2015	McGregor Services	Grasscutting – parish cemetery	300.00

(b) **Lloyds TSB Bank Treasurer’s Account** balance on 01/12/2015 amounted to £27,209.44

16. Correspondence

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

- (i) *Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention Guidance – Church Security advice*
- (ii) *SALC –Community Green Space – funding available –for information*
- (iii) *SALC – Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill*
- (iv) *Suffolk Energy Action - grants to householders for cavity wall/loft insulation*
- (v) *Community Action Suffolk -Newsletter – for information*
- (vi) *G Views Catalogue - street furniture*
- (vii) *Fit Villages – flier – for information*
- (viii) *SALC – Suffolk Family Carers – general interest information*

17. Any other business/ urgent matters

There was no urgent business

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 21st January at 7.00pm

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

Chairman