

# MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MEETING – 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016

MINUTES [ approved by councillors on 11-05-16 ]

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Tony Dawson, Mark Shortt and Jimmy Kent. Apologies were received from Kathy Ferrar, Richard Mattocks and Julie Honeybourne. Lavinia Hadingham [Mid-Suffolk District councillor] attended. Guy McGregor [Suffolk County councillor] also sent apologies. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell was in attendance.
2. Declarations of interest and dispensations allowed – none
3. Vacancy – it was proposed to co-opt Thelma Brown and all councillors agreed. Thelma Brown signed the acceptance form and the clerk will contact her re her Register of Interests.
4. Public Forum – no members of the public were present.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting [18-01-16] were approved and signed as a true record.
6. Matters arising not on agenda – the War Memorial; application for a grant from WMT has been submitted; a decision is awaited on the wildflower meadow at the Village Hall; the newsletter is ready to deliver.
7. Finances –
  - Balances at 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 - c/acct: £9,983.97; sav/acct: £3,969.05; Total - £13,953.02 [*of which approx.. £1700.00 is ring fenced; 850 to Boules pitch, 250 to wildflower meadow and some remaining from parish plan*]
  - Cheques for approval: 110 to Colin Herbert - 64.99 [website]; 111 to C. Cardwell - 447.86 [net sal. Jan, Feb, Mar]; 112 HMRC – 112.00 [tax to Apr 5<sup>th</sup>]; 113 – Town and Country Printers – 100 [PC newsletter].
  - Financial risk assessment – councillors carried out a review of the measures in place to ensure any financial risks are minimised.
  - Financial regulations – the clerk drew councillors' attention to new regulations on contracts and discipline – these will be added at the review of Financial Regulations at the AGM in May.
8. Parish assets – to be checked next month.
9. Youth Club at Mendham and Withersdale Village Hall – Helen Sims has withdrawn her request to the parish council as she has sourced funding elsewhere, from the County Councillor's Enabling Communities budget.
10. Planning –
  - 0378/16: Rook House, Withersdale Street – councillors had no objection to land use change
  - 0639/16: Ark Hill, Mendham – following a site visit on 18-03-16, councillors discussed the proposals at this meeting and had no objection, but would recommend green cladding, not grey for the extension.

11. VAS [Vehicle Activated Sign] – following a meeting with Josh White [Suffolk Highways], it was suggested that a sign be shared with other villages and we only need pay for our posts [approx. £200/300]; flooding problems were also addressed and it was reported that drains and gullies had been cleared as much as possible to facilitate draining of road surface water after heavy rain.
12. Tree trimming – thanks to Tony Dawson for tidying up car park trees; a contractor is expected to cut back trees in Church Lane shortly
13. Most Active Village completion – councillors were very pleased to note that Mendham had won first prize, with a plaque and sign to go in the village hall. The chairman expressed councillors' congratulations to everyone involved.
14. Queen Elizabeth II – 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations – Co-Co plans to give prizes for decorated gardens and host a village tea, loyal toast etc. on 12<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a Village Photograph; it was suggested that the PC might like to plant a commemorative tree later in the year.
15. Correspondence – received and discussed
16. Reports from County, District and parish councillors – Lavinia Hadingham [Mid Suffolk District councillor] spoke about the adoption by Mid Suffolk and Babergh of CIL [Community Infrastructure Levy] to be required for all developers. Housing needs were for approximately 500/550 in the area; there will be 9 new council houses in Laxfield; Syrian refugees are to be welcomed in Ipswich. She also emphasised the need for the parish to have an emergency plan. Devolution for East Anglia: the process has just started and progress reports will be forthcoming. The chair thanked Lavinia Hadingham for attending. The problems of “blocking” in council houses was briefly considered.
17. Annual Parish Meeting [11<sup>th</sup> May] – plans discussed; clerk to invite all local groups.
18. Any other business – walk leaflets are due soon; the clerk drew councillors' attention to the new edition of the Good Councillor Guide and was asked to order one each for councillors. It is understood that Withersdale Lane will be resurfaced in the summer and potholes near Bluebell Wood are to be filled. Councillors were pleased to hear that the Alfred Munnings Hotel is a finalist in Suffolk Pub of the Year 2016.
19. Next meeting –  
Annual Village Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – starting 7pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.