

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING - 16TH November 20th 2015**Minutes [approved by councillors – 18-01-16]**

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Tony Dawson, Kathy Ferrar, Julie Honeybourne, Richard Mattocks, Peter Lee, Jimmy Kent and Mark Shortt. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. He also welcomed Lavinia Hadingham [MSD councillor] and Helen Sims [community youth leader]. Apologies were received from Guy McGregor [SC councillor].
2. **Declarations of interest** – Kathy Ferrar item 6 [funding for Waveney Arts Trail book]; Tony Dawson item 9 [trees in car park]
3. **Public Forum** – Helen Sims gave a short report on the need and plans for a children’s playground at the Mendham and Withersdale Village Hall; councillors looked forward to hearing more on these plans. Councillors also asked Helen to be sure to gain the approval of, and to work closely with the Village Hall Committee. Lavinia Hadingham [MSD councillor] gave a short report covering issues of devolution plans, new council houses, and Community Achievement Awards. She agreed to support the need for street cleaning and tree trimming in the village by contacting relevant officers.
4. **Minutes of the previous meetings** [14-09-15; 31-10-15] were approved and signed as a true record.
5. **Matters arising** – none, all covered under Agenda items.
6. **Finances** –
 - balances – c/acct: £11,075.82; sav/acct: £3,968.56; total: £15,044.38 of which approx.. £1700+ is ring-fenced. This to be used for the boules pitch, (£850), development of the wildflower meadow, (£250), plus there is a sum remaining from the parish plan funding.
 - Cheques were approved as follows: no. 98 to CAS for 205.99 [insurance]; no. 99 to Chris Barnes for 87.50 [maintenance]; no. 100 to Denis Pye for 15.00 [printing]; no. 101 to Heelis & Lodge for 66.00 [audit]; no. 102 to C. Cardwell for 298.44 [net sal. Oct/Nov]; no. 103 to HMRC for 112.00 [tax to 5 Jan 16]; no. 104 to SALC for 22.50 [training]; no. 105 to RBL for 35.00 [wreath]; no. 106 to Waveney Art Trail for 50.00 [donation]
 - External Auditor’s report [BDO LLP] – this was received and all comments noted – there were no outstanding issues; the annual governance statement and the annual return are to go on the website.
7. **Budget and precept** for year Apr. 2016 to Mar. 2017 – this was extensively discussed and a final decision on forthcoming expenditure and the precept will be made in January.
8. **Planning** – councillors noted MSDC permission for 2587/15: Mendham Mill; and Upper Barn, Mundy’s Lane appeal against MSDC refusal; the chair is to write to MSD planners re officer decisions as councillors agreed that contrary advice during the pre-application process was unsatisfactory and unhelpful to both applicants and councillors.
9. **Car Park** - Fly tipping is a continuing problem; Jimmy Kent has offered to remove bags and also to find road planings to fill potholes. Two trees in the car park hedge were becoming overgrown, and had spread over the car park, and also into the garden of Harben House, (Mr and Mrs Dawson). Mrs Dawson had offered to pay for a tree surgeon to trim back the trees on both sides. Members agreed with thanks; the Chairman will meet with Mrs Dawson and the contractor before work begins.

10. **War Memorial** Several members had attended the public meeting at the War Memorial to see the various options available for the required addition of 9 names, (4 new ones, plus 5 added from the Withersdale plaque, also 1 alteration) The quotes and all of the options are set out in the briefing document attached to these minutes. Council now agreed: To use raised lead lettering, painted black, as originally used. To clean the Memorial. To accept the quote from local stonemasons Perfitts, at a total cost of £1775 plus vat. To be completed by 31st October 2016. Justification for the decision again set out on the briefing document. Preliminary application for a grant from the War Memorials Trust had gone in, and would be followed up once eligibility had been established. The Clerk gave details of other sources of grant to Tony Dawson; the council thanked him and Colin Herbert for all the work they had put in to the project.
11. **Village Hall meadow** – councillors recorded their gratitude to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust for a grant of £250 towards seeds and plug plants; the Village Hall committee had agreed in principle to host the wildflower meadow on part of the village field. The council agreed to take on the upkeep and maintenance of the meadow.
11. **Defibrillator plans** – Kathy Ferrar has applied for a grant from the British Heart Foundation. It was noted that the phone box needs cleaning and painting before a defibrillator is installed.
12. **Withersdale speed sign** – clerk asked to contact Guy McGregor with some urgency as the sign is still out of order.
13. **Trees in village** – it was noted that the large chestnut tree opposite the car park needed trimming – MSDC to be asked to include this in their work schedule. At Church Lane, large trees from the piece of land to the west of the lane are overhanging dangerously. No owner of the land has been found. It was agreed that the chairman should approach a local tree surgeon with a view to making the lane safe.
14. **Noticeboards** – maintenance discussed; chairman to approach two local contractors to quote for replacement posts on the car park notice board; the board at Withersdale Street is sound.
- 15a – Correspondence** – received and discussed. A request from Redenhall and Harleston Town Council for a donation towards the provision of free parking in Harleston will be considered in January. The clerk to research suitable powers under which a contribution might be made.
15. **Any other business** – there will be a parish council newsletter after Christmas; the hedges on the S bend in Mundy's Lane need trimming – clerk to contact Suffolk Highways and the cottage owner. Further complaints about potholes opposite Chestnut Farm; complaints re irresponsible parking at Studio Corner to be addressed by the chairman.
16. **2016 meetings** – the clerk suggested that these were arranged for the third Monday of alternate months. The next meeting is 18th January 2016.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.