

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 20TH MARCH 2017

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 17-05-17].

1. The chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Kathy Ferrar, Jimmy Kent, Tony Dawson, Thelma Brown, Julie Honeybourne and Stewart Orr. Apologies were received from Mark Shortt and Richard Mattocks. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.

Also attending were Lavinia Hadingham [Mid Suffolk District councillor] and Guy McGregor [Suffolk County councillor]

2. **Declarations of interest** and any dispensations allowed – none
3. **Standing Orders** were reviewed and approved.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM** – no members of public present.
5. **Minutes of previous meeting** [23-01-17] - were approved and signed as a true record.
6. **Matters arising** not on agenda – the clerk was asked to circulate details of the budget figures and S. 137 payments.
7. **Finances** –
 - Balances - c/acct: 9,971.98; sav/acct: 3,971.02; Total reserves - £ 13,943.00.
 - Cheques were approved as follows: no. 148 to Royal British Legion for 35.00 [wreath in Nov]; **no.** 149 to HMRC for 113.20 [tax to 5 apr]; no. 150 to C. Cardwell for 302.34 [net sal feb/mar]; no.151 to Mendham primary school for 10.00 [hire of room]. Total cheques - £460.54.
 - Financial regulations were reviewed and approved
 - A financial risk assessment was carried out and councillors agreed that the financial procedures of the council were correct and satisfactory.
 - Pay scales [NALC] – the clerk drew councillors’ attention to the revised scales from April 2017 and councillors agreed to the clerk now receiving SCP 15 at £8.873 per hour, currently 5 hrs per week.
8. **Parish assets** – these would be assessed in May;
9. **Planning** – 0672/17 and 0674/17: Church Cottage, Mendham: retrospective application for boat store and children’s play houses – councillors had no objection as long as the boat store was built in weatherboarding in keeping with original cottage.
10. **War memorial** – no progress yet.
11. **Website** - training on management to be held on 28th March; Kathy Ferrar, Vicky Rusby to attend.

- 12. Transparency Fund** – councillors would like to apply; clerk to print off application form.
- 13. Village Plan** [Parish Plan, Community Plan] – councillors agreed that updating was needed. It is hoped to have a display at the Annual Village Meeting in May.
- 14. Village of Year** competition – not being held.
- 15. Annual Village Meeting** – need publicity in May issue of Six Sense, clerk to do flyer. Clerk to contact local organisations; refreshments to be served.

3/17

16. Reports from County, District and parish councillors –

- Lavinia Hadingham [MSD councillor] presented a report covering district council finances; the chair thanked her for attending.
- Guy McGregor [SC councillor] spoke briefly on closures of magistrates' courts and the problems ensuing from this; concerns over funding of Fire and Rescue Services and future organisation. He also mentioned the new funding for schools and feared it would have serious effects on Suffolk schools; he urged councillors to involve with this. G. McG. Also commented on the Broads Authority and the EDF proposals for Sizewell C; the SCC response to the latter consultation raised many points of great concern over lack of detail. The chair thanked Guy McGregor for attending.
- Cllr. Jimmy Kent – raised the question of fly-tipping and also whether the use of wind powered turbines might not be preferable to Sizewell C.

17. Any other business – the chairman drew councillors' attention to the change of the village hall's deed of government. Denis Pye also said he would be retiring as chair in May. Councillors agreed to share the speed watch camera with Weybread. Clerk asked to write about the overgrown hedge at Rook House. It was also noted that the Friday Fun Club had been wound up and all funds remaining would be shared with schools after the bank accounts had been closed. Donations were being returned.

18. The next meeting is 17th May 2017.