

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 18-11-19

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 20-01-20]

Public Forum – one member of public attended, and the Mid Suffolk District councillor, Lavinia Hadingham. Flooding outside no. 16, Studio Corner was brought to councillors' notice, along with photographs of the incident. The matter had been reported without any success to Suffolk Highways. LH will contact the County councillor to see if he can progress this with Highways. Lavinia Hadingham then gave a report on District Council affairs; Neighbourhood plans had been adopted in Hawley and Thurston, free swimming at Stradbroke had been extended for holidays; fly tipping is a continuing concern and there are ongoing attempts to check waste. The chair thanked Lavinia Hadingham for attending.

1. Welcome and apologies – the chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Kathy Ferrar, Steve Keeling, Jimmy Kent, Clare Rix, Sally Mackinnon and Thelma Brown. Apologies were accepted from Mark Shortt, and from County councillor, Guy McGregor. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.
2. Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – none
3. Standing Orders [NALC 2019] were reviewed, adopted and signed by chair.
4. Minutes of previous meetings [16-09-19; 3-10-19] were approved and signed as a true record.
5. Matters arising not on agenda – the mandate change papers have again been lost by Barclays Bank.; chair to contact Mandate Team. Work on car park trees postponed until Xmas break; Weed has been cleared in the Waveney up to Mendham Mill. Car park cottage – owner was contacted.
6. Finances - **Balance** at Oct 30 2019 – 7,028.47 [Barclays Bank]

Cheques were approved as follows: 253 – Mendham school – 20.00 [hire]; 254 – void; 255 – Suffolkbiz – 100.00 [website]; 256 – Mend school – 10.00 [hire]; 257 – C. Cardwell – 359.56 [net sal oct/nov]; 258 – HMRC – 134.80 [tax to 5 Jan]; 259 – Speedar – 71.34 [batteries]; 260 – MSDC – 33.60 [extra bin emptying]; 261 – RBL – 35.00 [wreath] - **Total cheques – 764.30**

7. Clerk's contract – this will be updated by the staffing committee – [Denis Pye, Thelma Brown, and Steve Keeling]
8. Budget for year Apr. 2020 to Mar. 2021 – this was discussed and funds allocated; the clerk provided budget comparison figures, with details of expenditure so far this year. The precept to be decided in January.
9. Planning – councillors noted permission for Thorpe Hall staircase [LBC], and outline for 6 houses opposite school.
10. Emergency plan, possible
11. General policies – these two items were taken together. Clerk asked to present details of policies for the following – grants and donations; emergency and website and bring to January meeting.. It was pointed out that policies already in place included STOs, financial regulations, asset register, code of conduct, clerk's contract and GDPR.
12. Speeding in villages – the clerk gave out forms for application to county for hire of SID [speed indicator device] – sub-committee to progress [KF, SK, SMac]

13. Local roads – the appalling condition of local roads was discussed with comments on lack of interest or support from Suffolk Highways. Residents are drawing up a petition for Mundys Lane and Foxes Lane; the chair is going to bring the road conditions to the attention of the press.
14. Website – although very appreciative of the work done by a local volunteer, councillors felt that the website could be more inclusive and interesting. Steve Keeling to assist the present webmaster, John Brownfield.
15. Reports from councillors – SK said that Speedwatch would start again in Feb.
16. Correspondence – received and discussed
17. Any other business – village sign repairs – new post and re-painting needed after sign blown down in high winds – chair to progress, with the intention of re-erecting in the spring. Caravan in school lay-bye – illegal parking to be reported to police by clerk.
18. Next year's meetings – to be held in Village School, on third Monday – next meeting - 20th January 2020.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.