

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 21st March 2019 at 7.30pm
The Lord Thurlow Village Hall**

Mr. A Peake – Chairman*

Mr. R. Barker – Vice-Chairman*

Mrs. N. Calderbank*

Mr. B. Fitch*

Mr. I. Sadler*

Mrs D. Stick*

Mr. R. Watts*

Present: All marked*

Mrs S. Austin took the minutes.

One member of the public attended

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Record Councillors' apologies for absence

All in attendance.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Suffolk County Councillor

Cllr Storey sent her apologies a report had been received and circulated to Councillors which included: County Council consultation on Northern Relief Road, County Council budget 2019/20 approved, Important information for School Travel users, the future of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and Citizens Advice Bureau funding.

District Councillor

District Cllr Barker reported Mid Suffolk District Council have a 5year land supply which will give more weight to planning decisions.

Public Forum

Concern was expressed in regards the safety of dog walkers on the minor road going towards Long Thurlow not only is the road narrow, but the hedge is encroaching from one side and on the other side is a ditch. The Chair advised he had measured the road at 2.75m at its narrowest point with the verge uneven in width. Council discussed it was felt the hedge needed cutting on a regular basis, but SCC only carry out one cut per year. The Chair to take photographs and highlight the problem to SCC and see what they suggest and how we can go forward. Footpaths were briefly discussed, it was also highlighted there was a problem on Hantons Corner with overgrown grass, the Chair to also report this. It was suggested the Parish, if it was needed, could pay for the hedging to be cut back.

4. To Sign the Minutes of the Previous Meeting as a True Record

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12th February 2019 were signed as a correct record.

5. Reports

- i. General Highways/Footpath update: The outstanding highways list was updated. The Clerk advised Anglian Water had reported the water on Elmswell Road was coming from Ashfield House and is therefore a private matter. The lump in the road in Daisy Green had been rectified. Cllr Calderbank to report the pot holes on Elmswell Road to SCC.
- ii. Community Speed Watch Report: Cllr Stick updated Council reporting the police had visited the village to carry out speed checks on one occasion. It was highlighted there was a problem currently on Long Thurlow Road in Great Ashfield particularly in the early evening with speeding and finding a suitable place to stand with adequate vision this was briefly discussed. There was still a need for volunteers from Great Ashfield for approximately 1 hour a month.
- iii. Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Stick updated Council they had recently reported an incident to the Community Engagement Officer and there was a need to encourage residents to report incidents to the Neighbourhood Watch team who would report them to the Police who are very grateful for this information. An article to be placed in the Newsletter.
- iv. Clerks Report: The nomination papers had been delivered to MSDC at the nominated appointment and all had been correctly completed. The internal audit had been arranged and should be completed in time for the May meeting.

6. To consider Spring Clean 2019

Council discussed all in agreement to complete a Spring Clean on the footway through the village and to clean the 30mph road signs on a Saturday morning. Cllr Barker will arrange a loader to come at the end of the morning to clear the debris away. Cllr Barker to inform Cllr Peake of a date he is available to put a notice in the Newsletter, to send out on the village email and put up posters advertising the event.

7. To consider applying for Blue Plaque

Cllr Stick had spoken to the home owners who were happy to have a blue plaque. It was advised a parish council blue plaque could be purchased for £34 this would be a 30cm aluminium blue plaque with white writing of Violet Jessop survivor of three maritime disasters. Council discussed and all in agreement to purchase a plaque however if the residents wished to donate any monies towards the cost this would be very welcome. It was agreed the plaque would become part of the fabric of the building and the Parish Council would not be responsible for its maintenance. A letter to go to the householders explaining the plaque would not be the Parish Councils responsibility, the Clerk to send this to Cllr Stick.

8. To consider War Memorial

The Chair reported he had attended a Community Funding Event and advised it would be difficult to get funding for a war memorial the Parish Council would probably have to fund it. Council discussed the matter including a remembrance garden in front of the village hall or correcting/amending the memorial in the Church. The Chair highlighted the options: - to do nothing, update the Church plaque via a possible war memorial renovation grant or polling the village to consider a new memorial (but recognise that funding may be a challenge). It was agreed the Chair to confirm

whether the church memorial is an official war memorial, also check if a renovation grant still applies. To look at polling the village to place on the next agenda.

9. To consider role of Editor of Newsletter

Cllr Stick to ask a resident if they would be interested in taking on the role of Editor, to place on next agenda.

10. Correspondence

To circulate: Clerks & Councils Direct

- i. Grant request from SARS: Council discussed this had already been supported at a village event
- ii. Grant request from Suffolk Age UK: Council discussed and felt Suffolk Age UK could give a talk to the W.I. to help raise funds.

11. Planning

- i. **Appeal Reference: APP/W3520/W/18/3217366 Tudor Lodge, Elmswell Road – Outline planning application (Access to be considered) Erection of detached dwelling - Noted**
- ii. **Applications decided by planning authority:**
Application DC/18/04506 Land to the South of Lea Lane – Granted 15.3.2019

No further planning applications had been received.

12. Finance Report and to consider the payment of invoices

The deposit account held £801.49 at 28.2.19 the current account had a cleared balance at 28.2.19 of £2,735.78 and an uncleared balance after the invoices on the agenda had been paid of £2093.43. A copy of the income and expenditure for the year was circulated to Councillors.

All Councillors in agreement for the payment of invoices below:

- i. Clerks salary and expenses to 31.3.19: a cheque no: 351 was raised for £298.80
- ii. HMRC payment: a cheque no: 352 was raised for £70
- iii. SCC Street Lighting Maintenance inv: 9223383 £413.55: a cheque no: 353 was raised for £413.55
- iv. Newsletter printing costs: No invoice had been received all in agreement to pay invoice if received between meetings.
- v. No further invoices had been received

13. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

Cllr Stick updated Council on some new information on previous residents of the village. It was felt a CPR course would be useful for residents. The Clerk to contact First Responders if they would be available to carry out some training, if possible, to obtain some dates. To place Peace Day and co-option on the next agenda.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 16th May 2019 in the Lord Thurlow Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.