

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 24th September 2015 at 7.30pm
At the Lord Thurlow Hall**

Mrs. S. Orford – Chairman*

Mr. S. Miles – Vice-Chairman

Mrs. N. Calderbank*

Mr. B. Fitch*

Mr. R. Barker

Mr. A. Peake*

Mr. R. Watts

Present: All marked*

Mrs S. Austin took the minutes.

Two members of the public attended (see attendance book)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Record Councillors' apologies for absence

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Barker and Cllr Miles

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations received

3. County Councillors Report

Cllr Storey did not attend and her September report was circulated.

4. District Councillors Report

Cllr Barker did not attend and no report had been received.

5. Suffolk Constabulary Report

No Officer attended a report had been received and was read to Council which included one reported crime since the beginning of August: on Thursday, 17th September during the late afternoon, unknown offenders have broken into a property along Long Thurlow Road by smashing glass in a window and reaching through has used a key to open the door. Nothing appears to have been stolen from inside the property. The current priority is youth engagement. A letter from the Chief Constable was read to the meeting re local engagement. Clerk to contact SALC to find out whether any pressure could be placed on Suffolk Constabulary for an Officer to attend some parish council meetings.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd September, 2015 had been circulated, and were signed as a correct record of proceedings.

7. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- i. General Highways – The clerk updated Council on the progress of the 'passing place' John Simpson Senior Engineer at SCC expects the 'passing place' to be completed before Christmas.

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- ii. Elmswell Road amenity land – The clerk read out a letter received from MSDC re the transfer of Council owned land in Great Ashfield. Cllr Orford advised a resident who was a tenant had passed on the complaint to the Ombudsman and it had been acknowledged, they will advise the Parish Council of the result. Council discussed the matter, the clerk was asked to ascertain whether following this clarification of the complaints procedure County Councillor Jane Storey will be taking the complaint forward to the Local Government Ombudsman particularly as there is now a planning application relating to this land which the Parish Council believe a decision will be made regarding this by MSDC on 15th October.

8. Clerks Report

The Suffolk Association of Local Councils is administering applications for compensation from Councils for the burden of complying with the new smaller Authorities transparency fund. Claims can be made back to 1 April 2015 and the Council can only claim for the financial year that we are in. The Clerk to obtain an application form and submit any expenses for extra clerk's hours and training. The clerk reminded Council of the need for a budget to be set at the next scheduled meeting in preparation to decide the precept.

9. Correspondence

Clerks and Councils Direct, Gambling Act 2005 local policy (2016-2019) consultation and Thedwastre North September report were circulated.

- i. Email received from resident re path between Gt. Ashfield and Elmswell was read to Council: Council discussed the Clerk was asked to inform the resident their comments would be forwarded to MSDC and to Elmswell Parish Council. Great Ashfield parish council did not have the power to install a footpath. If the resident could clarify if there was specific hedgerow within Great Ashfield overgrowing the pavement the parish council could contact the resident to raise your concerns.
- ii. Email received from resident re village sign 'Long Thurlow' and comments received from SCC Highways were read to Council: Council discussed the matter, the clerk was asked to contact the resident and pass on the comments received from SCC Highways. To put on next agenda.

10. Standing Orders Review

Council discussed and agreed to add the recommended wording to item 1i 'Filming, photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of any meeting of Council or a Committee should be conducted in accordance with the Council's Protocol for Reporting at Meetings. And item 1j 'Any person wishing to report on the proceedings of a meeting as in paragraph (i) above shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.'

11. Review Asset Register

The asset register was reviewed with no changes to be made. Cllr Calderbank RFO advised the

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insurance value of the assets and confirmed the current insurance was adequate to cover all assets. To place village sign on the next agenda as some remedial works may be needed. Cllr Orford to confirm with the village hall committee that the village hall has adequate insurance cover. To place on next agenda.

12. Salt Bins

It was confirmed all salt bins/heaps had been filled.

13. Planning

- i. No planning applications had been received.
- ii. Planning decisions received: Pelewura, Long Thurlow Road – Erection of detached double garage was granted on 3 September.

14. Finance

All Councillors in agreement for the payment of invoices

- i. Insurance premium Came & Co: A cheque no: 271 was raised for £159
- ii. Clerks salary and expenses (£27.64): A cheque no: 272 was raised for £177.84
- iii. HMRC payment: A cheque no: 273 was raised for £50
- iv. Ladywell Accountancy: A cheque no: 274 was raised for £25
- v. No further invoices had been received

Cllr Calderbank RFO advised Council the annual return had been approved. Council thanked Cllr Calderbank for all her work.

15. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

Cllr Fitch advised the footpath had 'raised' on Elmswell Road in front of Church Cottage and was unsafe with a number of residents having tripped, a number of complaints had been received on the matter, the clerk to forward to MSDC. Long Thurlow sign and village hall update to be placed on next agenda. The editor of the newsletter asked if any feedback had been received in regards to the first issue, Council advised they were very happy with the newsletter and would seek the views of residents. The matter of copyright was highlighted, Council discussed and suggested adding to the newsletter 'If anyone wishes to use any articles please contact the editor or the parish clerk.' To place on the next agenda. Council thanked the editor for all her work on the newsletter.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 26th November, 2015 in the Lord Thurlow Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Great Ashfield Parish Council
Signed:

Date:

