

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 29th March 2018 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

No declarations of interest received.

3. Suffolk County Councillor

Cllr Storey did not attend; the February and March report's had been received and circulated.

District Councillor

District Cllr Barker attended and reported the merger is still ongoing; Babergh district council has a referendum coming up in regards the merger. Cllr Barker felt the roads were in the worse state he had ever known with not only potholes but street furnishings and white lines disappearing.

Public Forum

The member of public asked why the precept had been increased; the Chair advised last year there had been the unexpected cost of rebinding the millennium book as well as the purchase of the SID which had depleted reserves. The increased precept, as had been detailed in the village newsletter, will replenish general reserves as well as go towards the maintenance of the new equipment. The parish council are also arranging the 2018 Beacon event to celebrate the end of World War One, there are also extra costs involved with implementing the General Data Protection Regulations and carrying out the internal audit. A number of highway issues were highlighted as well as the state of the village; the damaged safety barrier on the corner of School Road and Elmswell Road, Suffolk County Council had advised this was on their schedule of works. The leaning electric pole on Elmswell Road had been reported to UK Power Networks. The resident reported a number of footpath signs were missing they were advised to report these to SCC. The appearance of the village was discussed.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 25th January 2018 were signed as a correct record.

5. Reports

- i. General Highways: A number of potholes in the village had been reported to SCC as well as the flooding issues. The water on the road by Rookery Cottage had been dealt with however there were still further problems in the village with water on the roads. The Chair to write to County Councillor Jane Storey highlighting the outstanding highway issues in the village.
- ii. Clerks Report: The Mid Suffolk Policies Advisory Guidance Note for Parishes which had been circulated to Councillors has been copied and the clerk will bring to meetings for reference if needed.
- iii. Broadband update: Cllr Sadler updated Council including: the main part of the village should be receiving faster broadband speeds by the end of the month however he had been unable to get an update from BT/Openreach so this may slip as had happened for Long Thurlow. Daisy Green progress is less positive with the date for 'most properties' being the summer of 2019. They have been unable to say which properties will not be covered until surveys are done which will be 3 months before the live date. There are options with subsidies available from via the Better Broadband Scheme but having looked at a selection of these EE seems to be the most reasonable priced which is a 4G Home Router service prices range from £25 to £60 per month depending on data usage.
- iv. Community Speed Watch Update: Further to the February report which had been circulated to Councillors, Cllr Stick advised the police have had a box on Long Thurlow Road collecting data they are now going through this and will in all probability take action following this. Next week CSW will be re-starting with the speed gun and there will be six sessions. It was hoped more speed readings will be taken in Great Ashfield similar to that which took place in Long Thurlow. It was asked if anybody can spare an hour a week to join the CSW team and help to log vehicle numbers.
- v. Trees in Village update: Cllr Fitch advised he had bought and planted five trees in the village. Council thanked him for purchasing and planting the trees for the village.

6. To Consider Beacon 2018 event including works to the Roll of Honour

Cllr Stick reported having found 69 men from Great Ashfield taking part in the WW1 and had undertaken research into them and their families. It was suggested a 'walk' round the village could be drawn up tying in with where the families lived and/or a booklet could be produced as well. Cllr Stick showed examples of the information and stories she had researched. Cllr Stick was thanked for all her work. Cllr Barker asked for the Roll of Honour to be placed on the next agenda when he would have further information. Cllr Barker was happy for the bonfire for the beacon 2018 to be placed on land at the airfield. Council briefly discussed whether to apply for grants and agreed a working party of Cllrs: Peake, Stick and Sadler to look at grants available and receive quotes for booklets etc. It was suggested the Millennium book could also be re-produced. To place on next agenda.

7. To Consider Village Spring Clean

Cllr Sadler reported Long Thurlow had already completed a spring clean. Council discussed and it was agreed Cllr Peake to arrange a date for a Saturday morning and the date to be sent out to residents asking for volunteers.

8. To Consider to review procurement values Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Clerk updated Council on the new procurement values; Council discussed and agreed to update Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with the updated values.

9. To Confirm using The DPO Centre to act as Council's Data Protection Officer

Council discussed and agreed to use the DPO Centre to act as the Council's Data Protection Officer under category one at £120 for the first year and £45 for the second year plus VAT. Clerk to attend any necessary sessions to prepare for the new General Data Protection Regulations including the initial impact assessment.

10. Correspondence

- i. Suffolk Remembers Armistice 100:** Council agreed the working party will look at the possibility of incorporating this.
- ii. Electoral Review of Mid Suffolk: New Draft Recommendations:** This had been circulated to Councillors.

To circulate: Thedwastre North February and March Reports, Clerks & Councils Direct and a donation request from East Anglia's Children's Hospice. A poster had been received and placed on notice-board highlighting the Suffolk Walking Festival 2018.

11. Planning

- i. Applications determined by planning authority:** No applications determined by the planning authority had been received.

12. Finance Report and to consider payment of invoices

All in agreement for the payment of invoices.

- i. To review 2018-19 budget:** Cllr Calderbank updated Council a copy to be available for Councillors at the May meeting.
- ii. To consider appointment of internal auditor:** Council discussed and agreed to employ M. Sergeant to carry out the internal audit. The Clerk updated Council on the new audit arrangements.
- iii. Clerks salary and expenses:** a cheque no: 325 was raised for £293.60
- iv. HMRC payment:** a cheque no: 326 was raised for £70
- v. SCC street lighting** £355.36: a cheque no: 329 was raised for £355.36
- vi. The Lord Thurlow Village Hall rent** £120: a cheque no: 328 was raised for £120
- vii. No further invoices** had been received

13. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

Cllr Watts reported a number of overgrown hedges the clerk to supply some generic letters for Councillors to give to landowners at the next meeting. Cllr Stick reported the bridge on footpath 4 through Kiln Wood was very dangerous, the clerk to report to SCC.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 31st May, 2018 in the Lord Thurlow Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.