

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 31 JANUARY 2011 IN THE HUNTINGFIELD HUT

Present: Julie Collett (Chair)
Esther Munns
Sara Back
David Collett
Stephen Harrison
Sue Tyler
Edward Watson
Clerk : Sue Brewer

Also present: Stephen Burroughes, Suffolk Coastal District Councillor, Peasenhall Ward

Two members of the village were also in attendance.

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

- 001.11 Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 002.11 There was no declaration of personal and/or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda from Councillors.
- 003.11 **Minutes**
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 20.09.10 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.
- 004.11 **Progress report**
Clerk: Sue B. said that: (i) She had attended a Clerks' Election Briefing run by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils in preparation for the Local Council Elections on 5 May 2011. (ii) She had attended a Transport Issues meeting convened for Councillors and Clerks by Richard Woolnough, Halesworth Town Plan Coordinator at which was discussed:
(a) Funding for the Beccles loop, meaning an hourly train service from Lowestoft to Ipswich will be possible. (Later: This has now been agreed by the Suffolk County Council Capital Programme Committee.)
(b) Parking at Halesworth station and cycle/pedestrian links should be enhanced.
(c) That further information is to follow from SCC about changes to the bus routes serving Halesworth as some of the information circulated is incorrect.
(d) That pressure will be brought to bear to address the timetabling problems faced by students travelling by bus to Ipswich and Norwich because the morning buses are too late and the afternoon buses are too early.
- 005.11 **Correspondence**
The following correspondence was noted:
a. From Suffolk County Council, email on Residential Care Homes with consultation document for those who are connected to a care home.
b. From SCC: The New Strategic Direction Explained.
c. From SCC, details of Budget cuts and service information, as reported in the local newspapers. This includes proposals for budget cuts to youth clubs, country parks, school crossing patrols and subsidised bus routes.
d. From SCC, Technical Meetings concerning the New Strategic Direction.
e. From SCDC on the Local Development Framework Reviewed Core Strategy and leaflets.
f. From SCC re grants available for Open Weekend events on 22-24 July. Julie will pursue this.
- 006.11 **Planning matters**
a. Planning Application C10/3032 : Low Farm, Cratfield Road, Huntingfield – Erection of agricultural workers dwelling (submission of details under Outline Planning Permission C09/1518). This was considered and approved.

b. Planning Application C11/0033 : Huntingfield Village Hall, Brick Kiln Lane, Huntingfield IP19 0PR – Demolition of existing Village Hall and the construction of a new Village Hall with associated external works. This was noted.

007.11 **Finance**

- a. The following payments were approved: £64.00 to P. Cleveland for mower repair and service; £62.55 to Sue Lucas for Hare expenses, Oct/Nov issue and £74.80 for Hare expenses, Dec 2010/Jan 2011 issue; £105.63 to Dave Collett for the urgent purchase of a grit spreader for the village; £18.00 to SALC for Clerk's Election Briefing on 13.1.11.
- b. The following receipts were noted: £15.91 bottle bank receipt; £32.00 share of mower costs from Millennium Green Trust, and £215.00 receipts for Hare advertising.
- c. Clerk's financial report: Sue B. told the meeting that the balance of PC funds in the bank at 24.12.10 was £5033.83 credit and that her projection to financial year end is £3112.83 in credit.
- d. After discussion, it was agreed that the 2011/12 Precept would increase by 3.7%, the sum of £146, from £3906 to £4052 per annum. When the 2010/11 increase was discussed (Minute 007.10 of the meeting held on 25.01.10) it was anticipated that a rise of approx 8% would be necessary in 2011/12 in order to meet spending obligations. However after some discussion, Councillors agreed that it would be better to restrict the increase to 3.7% and in order to achieve this, Grants should be removed from the 2011/12 budget.

008.11 **Grants** After some further discussion, Councillors agreed that no Grants would be donated this financial year.

009.11 **New Village Hall**

- a. Cllr. Watson said that the decision on the Planning Application would be known by 8 March.
- b. Councillors agreed that the appointment of a New Village Hall Committee would be considered at the next meeting.

010.11 **Affordable Housing** Cllr. Harrison said there are two options: (i) To pursue the policy in the Huntingfield Village Plan of building 10 or so affordable homes over the next 10 years and to find ways forward, or (ii) To abandon/alter the policy in the light of changing circumstances, ie the economic climate, reduced public transport, no nearby school. Councillors agreed that further discussion should be postponed until after the Parish Council elections in May.

011.11 **The Town Estate Charity** Councillors heard with regret that Maureen Cain is unable to continue in her role as Representative Trustee and the appointment of Sue Brewer as Representative Trustee in her place was approved.

012.11 **Parish Council Elections** on 5 May 2011. Councillors again noted that there will be 3 vacancies on the Parish Council.

013.11 **Village Green** Councillors discussed feelings in the parish that the village green needs tidying and smartening. It was agreed that the rotting wooden flower containers by the village hut should be removed; the seat round the oak tree should be painted black, the weeds underneath it removed and a mat and bark put down; the village pump should be painted black; the tables should be smartened up, and the Clerk to write to Essex and Suffolk Water asking them to remove the unsightly concrete slab.

014.11 **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda**

- a. It was suggested that a second grit spreader should be purchased for use in the Causeway, particularly in the street outside St. Mary's Church. For the next agenda.
- b. Drainage in Brick Kiln Lane was raised. The Clerk to write to SCC Highways re the blockage in the ditch opposite Collingwood House causing water to flow down the road, and to BT re the manhole on the road between Lark Rise and the village green which overflows when there is heavy rain.

- 015.11 Date of future meetings were agreed as follows:
- a. Next Parish Council meeting 7 March 2011.
 - b. Annual Parish Meeting 18 April.
 - c. Parish Council Annual General Meeting 16 May.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm

Signed:

Date: 7 March 2011

Julie Collett
Chair, Huntingfield Parish Council

For further information about consultations please go to:
www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Consultations
www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk